



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY & PROCEDURE

8 January 2024

Purpose

The safety of golfers, staff, and visitors is of paramount importance at Southport Golf Club.

For the purposes of this policy, weather is extreme if it threatens the health and/or safety of players, caddies, officials and/or spectators. It includes rain, lightning, heat and weather causing poor visibility.

In the case of extreme weather, the Club will use information sourced from the [Bureau of Meteorology](#) and then-current conditions to assess if it will modify, postpone or cancel any golf event at the Club.

All members, guests and visitors must comply with this policy.

This policy is advisory and general in nature and should not be relied upon to meet individual or specific requirements. It is not binding on the Club and has no legal force. This guidance will not cover every circumstance nor can it, when adhered to, eliminate the risk or possibility of loss or injury.

The Club is not rendering professional advice to any person and, to the maximum extent permitted by law, the Club disclaims all liability and responsibility for any direct or indirect loss, damage or liability which may be suffered or incurred by any person because of reliance upon anything contained in or omitted from this policy.

SUSPENSION AND RESUMPTION OF PLAY SIGNALS

- 1 Burst of Siren – Play is Immediately Suspended – Immediate Suspension (Rule 5.7b(1))
- 2 Bursts of Siren – Play is suspended – Normal Suspension (Rule 5.7b(2))
- 3 Bursts of Siren – Play is Recommended (Rule 5.7c)

Any refusal to comply will result in disqualification (see penalty for breach of Rule 5.7b).

If the course is closed due to extreme weather conditions, the Golf Shop will place signage on the first tee and at the breezeway entrances to the professional shop and the bar indicating that the course is closed. Also, a notice will be placed on the tee sheet and a notification through the Club's mobile application.

The decision to close the course and/or to suspend play must be communicated to the professional shop, the Course Superintendent, the bar staff and the front office staff.

Any decision to resume or commence play after a suspension of play must be made by two of the authorised persons referred to below.



POLICY & PROCEDURES

1. RAIN

If rain results in the course being unplayable, two of the authorised persons referred to may suspend play.

2. LIGHTNING

This Thunderstorm Policy is designed to provide guidelines for the prompt and effective removal of players from the golf course in the event of thunderstorms to minimise the risk of lightning-related incidents.

Monitoring Weather Conditions:

- A staff member in the Golf Shop shall monitor weather conditions regularly, especially during peak golfing hours and predicted bad weather.
- A reliable weather monitoring service shall be utilised to track thunderstorms and lightning in the vicinity. (BOM and Real Time Lightning Map)

Immediate Suspension of Play:

- When lightning is detected within a 10km radius, the Golf Shop staff will consider the risk and if the situation is considered dangerous will, in the interests of the health and safety of the members, suspend play.
- All play on the golf course shall be immediately suspended and all players to return to the clubhouse immediately. Golf balls can be left in position and also be marked and be played when play resumes.
- 1-2 staff will proceed on course to make sure all players heard the siren and are making their way off the course.
- Golfers will be instructed to seek shelter in designated safe areas however should have the time to return to the clubhouse until an official "all-clear" signal is given.

Communication Protocol:

- The Golf Shop shall be responsible for monitoring weather updates and communicating warnings to golfers on the course.
- Golfers shall be informed through various channels, including a 5 second horn, announcements over the public address system, and mobile notifications.

**Safe Areas:**

- Designated safe areas, such as the clubhouse, pro shop, or other well-constructed buildings are the designated areas. Should a cell that quickly develops and there is no safe way to return please seek shelter using the oncourse toilet blocks on the 5th tee / 7th green and 14th green / 15th tee.
- Golfers are required to proceed to these safe areas during thunderstorms however a priority should be the clubhouse.

Communication of All-Clear Signal:

- An all-clear signal shall be communicated through the same channels used for warnings once the threat of lightning has passed. (3 short bursts of horn), announcements over the public address system and mobile notifications.
- It is deemed safe once there hasn't been a lightning strike within the 10km radius half hour after the most recent strike within the radius.
- Play may resume only after receiving an official all-clear signal.

Education and Awareness:

- The Golf Club shall provide educational materials and signage to inform golfers about the thunderstorm policy and the importance of adhering to safety protocols.

Enforcement:

- Golfers who fail to comply with the thunderstorm policy may be subject to penalties, including temporary suspension of playing privileges.

3. VISIBILITY

If fog or darkness descends to a degree where the landing zone for all shots is not visible to players, players should seek confirmation of the lack of visibility from their playing partners and seek approval from the Committee to suspend play in the interests of player and staff safety. Players may mark their balls and resume play when approved by the authorised persons.

Upon resumption of play, players must ensure the group in front is not within hitting range before playing their balls.



4. EXTREME TEMPERATURE (HEAT)

The Club does not consider it prudent for golf to be played in high temperatures or on days of combined high humidity and high temperatures.

Sports Medicine Australia released a relevant report in February 2021 which can be found at <https://sma.org.au/sma-site-content/uploads/2021/02/SMA-Extreme-Heat-Policy-2021-Final.pdf>

If the maximum temperature at Southport Seaway forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology for any day as at 4.30pm on the day immediately prior is or exceeds 38.0°C, or if the temperature at Southport Seaway reported by the Bureau of Meteorology is or exceeds 38.0°C on any day (regardless of the forecast):

- all competitions (including ball competitions) on that day will be cancelled.
- all golf activities (including play on the course, using practice facilities, lessons and clinics) will be cancelled for anyone aged under 18 years old.

If the temperature at Southport Seaway reported by the Bureau of Meteorology is or exceeds 42.0°C on any day (regardless of the forecast), the course and all practice facilities will be closed, including the suspension of play. The course and all practice facilities will reopen when the temperature at Southport Seaway reported by the Bureau of Meteorology is or is below 38.0°C.

AUTHORISED PERSONS

The following Club personnel are deemed to be authorised persons for the purposes of this policy: General Manager, Golf Operations Manager, all professional shop staff members, Course Superintendent, and all members of the Committee.

By implementing and adhering to this Thunderstorm Policy, Southport Golf Club aims to create a safe and secure environment for all golfers, staff, and visitors during adverse weather conditions.