

GENERAL INFORMATION

Lead Area:	RUGBY SERVICES
Lead Policy Title:	HOT WEATHER POLICY
Date last modified:	February 2024

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

This procedure is to be followed by all Clubs and Rugby Union SA (RUSA)

RELATED DOCUMENTS

This policy is provided as a summary guide, and should be read in conjunction with the following overarching guidelines/policies:

1. [World Rugby Heat Guidelines](#)
2. [South Australian Sports Medicine Association \(SASMA\) Sports Hot Weather Guidelines](#)

SUMMARY STEPS for MATCH DAY or RUSA TRAINING SESSION

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
1	<p>Where the maximum forecast temperature is predicted by the Bureau of Meteorology to exceed 35 degrees on a day scheduled for a match or a RUSA facilitated training session, the match or RUSA training session may be postponed to cooler conditions (or a cooler part of the day) or cancelled. http://www.bom.gov.au/</p> <p>The decision to postpone a match or RUSA training session will be made by RUSA. The decision will be posted on the RUSA facebook page and each Club secretary (or Representative Team Manager) will be contacted by <u>10am</u> on the day of scheduled match or training session <u>only</u> if postponement or cancellation will occur. Any matches scheduled before 10am will be notified by 7am the day of the match, <u>only</u> if postponement or cancellation will occur.</p>	Referee/ Rugby Union SA
2	<p>Where the maximum forecast temperature is predicted by the Bureau of Meteorology to be between 30-35 degrees on a day scheduled for a match or RUSA facilitated training session, the match will commence with no more than two halves of 30 minutes (including injury time) and there will be water breaks after approximately 15 minutes in each half. Training sessions will consist of no longer than 60 minutes of intensive activity with water breaks every 15 minutes.</p> <p>The decision to implement hot weather protocol to alter game times and training duration will be made by RUSA. The decision will be posted on the RUSA facebook page and each Club secretary (or Representative Team Manager) will be contacted by 10am, on the day of the scheduled match or training session <u>only</u> if hot weather protocol will occur. Any matches scheduled before 10am will be notified by 7am <u>only</u> if the hot weather protocol will occur.</p>	Referee/ Team Manager/ Coach/ Rugby Union SA

OTHER INFORMATION

- Should the Referee at any time feel uncomfortable with the match proceeding due to the temperature they may call a break in play and refer to the Game Abandonment Policy & Procedure.
- There are several guides available to modify training sessions if proceeding, including (but not limited to), providing regular breaks in shade, provide cool water and have ice available, modify training to reduce the likelihood of heat illness, having qualified first aid personnel who can monitor for signs of heat stress/illness etc.
- Player safety and wellbeing is of utmost importance and must take precedence over all other factors.

* This procedure has the effect of a Rule under the Competition Rules issued by the Union and terms used in this procedure and defined in the Competition Rules have the same meaning in this procedure and the rule of interpretation set out in the Competition Rules also apply to this procedure.