

OPERATIONAL POLICY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area:	2025-26 Competition Rules
Procedure Title:	Wet Weather & Lightning Guidelines
Date Last Modified:	8 September 2025

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The sound of thunder should serve as an immediate warning of lightening danger. The Club Official / Ground Marshall is responsible for monitoring weather and should notify all team management and referees prior to any fixture if a weather enforced stoppage is likely. In the event of lightening and storms the Match Manager is to notify the referee to halt games by sounding an air horn with 3 blasts before moving all persons to shelter (players, staff, and spectators).

PROCEDURE

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
1	In the event of a Severe Weather or Cyclone Warning being issued by the Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.gov.au/nt , games will be cancelled. Notification will be made via the NTRU Facebook Page and NTRU General Manager shall phone Club Presidents	NTRU General Manager
2	If prior to or during games, lightning is visible, apply the; "30 - 30 Rule" ie Count the time from seeing lightning to when accompanying thunder clap is heard. If less than 30 seconds (storm is less than 10kms away) go immediately to a safer place. Wait 30 minutes after the last thunder clap before continuing play.	Match Day Manager Ground Marshall
3	In the event of thunderstorm/lightning, without official warning in place, where player/officials/spectator welfare is deemed unsafe by either team coach (or referee), play should be suspended.	Match Day Manager Ground Marshall
4	If the conditions improve (abiding by 30-30 rule) i.e. rain stops or eases to what is considered a safe level by coaches/referees and the playing surface can be cleared or has drained sufficiently to enable play to safely re-commence, games should then be completed. Modification to the duration of the game may be required. A Referee retains the right to stop play at any time should they deem playing conditions unsafe.	Match Day Manager Ground Marshall Referee
5	If weather prevents play from resuming, then the current score will stand and competition points scoring should apply. If the time elapsed hasn't reach half time, the fixture is to be rescheduled. If rescheduling cannot take place prior to the final round, the match will result in a draw (2 points) with no points awarded on For/Against.	Match Day Manager Ground Marshall

OTHER INFORMATION

- [See World Rugby Lightning Guidelines](#)
- This document supports the 2025-26 Darwin Club Competition Rules
- Where this document and the Competition Rules do not align, the Competition Rules document will take precedence