



# **Ballarat Little Athletics**

## **Adverse Weather Policy**

**Effective: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020**

**Version 2.0**



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## Policy Administration

Policy Owner	Ballarat Little Athletics Committee
Date of Last Review	6th September, 2023
Next Scheduled Review	September 2024
Related Policies	Nil
Supporting Procedures or Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– BLAC Handbook</li> <li>– LAVic – Extreme Weather Policy</li> <li>– Sports Medicine Australia – Hot Weather Guidelines for Sporting Clubs and Associations and the Physically Active</li> </ul>

## Document Control

Version Number	Changes and Updates	Approved by:
0.1	Draft policy	30/09/2020 – BLAC Committee
1.0	Implementation of Policy	02/10/2020 – J. Collins Secretary
1.1	Policy Reviewed -Update of logo and formatting -Communication & notification times updated.	06/09/2023 – Linda Fraser
2.0	Acceptance of updated Version	10/09/2023 – BLAC Committee



### Definitions

LAVic	Little Athletics Victoria
BLAC	Ballarat Little Athletics Centre

### Purpose

To provide the minimum direction when managing adverse weather conditions at Ballarat Little Athletics Centre Incorporated (BLAC) events, competitions and training sessions.

This policy is designed to:

- Protect the health, safety and wellbeing of all who participate in and attend BLAC events.
- Ensure BLAC venues are a safe place to compete, spectate and officiate as far as is reasonably practicable.

### Authority

The Adverse Weather Policy was approved by the BLAC Committee 30th September 2020.

### Effective Date

The Adverse Weather Policy is effective from 02 October 2020.

### Amendments

Any amendments to this policy are to be recorded in the Document Control Sheet stating the date of adaptation and the effective date upon which any amendment is to take effect.

### Alignment with Little Athletics Victoria

This Adverse Weather Policy has been adopted from and aligns to the Little Athletics Association of Victoria ("LAVic") Extreme Weather Policy.

The LAVic Extreme Weather Policy can be accessed [here](#).

### Publication

All sections of the Adverse Weather Policy are to be published on the BLAC website.

All amendments to this policy are to be reflected on the BLAC website in a timely manner.

## Introduction

The BLAC Committee has a duty of care to regularly monitor environmental conditions and to take action to minimise the risk of illness or injury to athletes and attendees as a result of adverse weather conditions.

This policy applies to BLAC competition and training events.

This policy does not apply to Little Athletics Association of Victoria (LAVic) events e.g., Region/State Relay Championships, Region/State Track & Field Championships etc.

## Cancellation, Suspension or Modification of Events

The BLAC Committee has the authority to cancel, suspend or modify a competition or training event when adverse weather conditions pose an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of athletes, officials, spectators, volunteers or other participants.

Conditions which might cause an event to be canceled, suspended or modified include:

- hot weather
- wet weather
- high winds
- thunderstorm (lightning)
- fog
- frost, hail and ice
- flooding
- smoke and dust
- snow

A suspended or modified event might relate to an entire program or elements thereof. For example;

- altering start time of competition or training
- removal of hurdles; jumps; throwing events; distance events



### Total Fire Ban

A 'Total Fire Ban' restriction should act as the mechanism to review an event.

If a 'Total Fire Ban' has been forecast on the day of the event, members of the BLAC Committee will check prevailing weather conditions one hour prior to the event to ascertain whether the event should be cancelled, suspended or modified.

### Hot Weather

If the temperature is forecast to reach or exceed 38°C on the day of a scheduled event, members of the BLAC Committee will consult the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website to ascertain additional details including the expected time of temperature peak. In this instance the event may be canceled, suspended or modified including altered start time or length of program.

If the temperature is predicted to reach 35°C during an event, the Chief of Officials or an alternately nominated person shall consult the BOM app every 15 minutes. Should the ambient temperature exceed 38°C at two (2) successive recordings the event shall be ceased immediately.

### Wet Weather

The BLAC competition venue, Llanberris Reserve, is by definition an all-weather track. However, in the event of heavy rain some areas of the facility may, by decision of the BLAC Committee, become unsuitable for use. The track and associated facilities will be inspected at least 1 hour and 15 minutes prior to planned competition by at least two individuals of the following categories:

- BLAC Committee member
- Chief of Officials
- other suitably qualified official

If the track or any part of the facility is deemed unsuitable for use the event may be canceled, suspended or modified including altered start time or length of program.

### Thunderstorm

The following guidelines form the Criteria for Suspension and Resumption of Activities

- The first sound of thunder or observation of lightning will serve as cause for activity to be suspended. By the time flash-to bang count approaches 30 seconds all individuals should be inside a safe shelter.
- Wait at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder or observation of lightning before resuming activities.
- If thunder and/or lightning activity continues for longer than 30 minutes the event will be canceled and not resume.

The BLAC Committee will promote lightning safety to athletes, officials and spectators. In the case of thunderstorms being forecast, protocol will be put in place and lightning safety messages will be announced via the PA system including criteria for suspension and resumption of activities & location of safe shelters and the best way to access them



### Making the Decision

In the lead up to each BLAC event, members of the BLAC Committee will monitor the weather forecast to assess the likelihood of adverse weather impacting the program.

The decision to cancel, suspend or modify events will be the responsibility of the BLAC Committee.

Weighing up all relevant factors, decisions should be made and communicated at the earliest possible opportunity.

### Communication/Notification

Where adverse weather threatens the start of a BLAC event, a decision as to whether the program will proceed should be made by the BLAC Committee a minimum of 1 hour prior to scheduled commencement time.

Notices will be posted via the BLAC Facebook page and BLAC TeamApp or current communication channels stating any known changes to the program or alternative start times.

Where events are suspended or modified during the course of competition or training, officials should immediately broadcast information and advise athletes, officials, spectators, volunteers or other participants as soon as practically possible.

## Responsibilities

The BLAC Committee endeavors to act reasonably at all times and in good faith for the overall health and safety of athletes, officials, spectators, volunteers or other participants.

### BLAC Committee

- Ensure this policy reflects current recommendations for reducing and managing risks associated with adverse weather conditions.
- Exercise the authority to cancel, suspend or modify BLAC events if conditions pose an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of athletes, officials, spectators, volunteers or other participants.
- Ensure sufficient sunscreen, water and shade is provided.
- Make regular announcements reminding everyone at the event keep drinking water, apply sunscreen and remain in the shade wherever possible.
- Ensure a copy of this Policy is accessible to all Members. Further, the Policy will be available online at: <http://www.ballaratlittleathletics.com.au/policies.html>

### Team Managers / Officials

- Familiarise themselves with this policy and be aware of prevailing weather conditions and how they may affect athletes, officials, spectators, volunteers or other participants.

### Athletes / Other Participants

- Alert officials, team managers or BLAC Committee members of any safety concerns.
- Follow the directions of officials, team managers or BLAC Committee members.
- Wear sun safe attire whilst exposed to the sun.