



## Protocols for managing games affected by weather & unforeseen circumstances

### Objectives

- To protect participant safety and enjoyment and maintain a fair competition
- To provide a guideline for duty managers, umpires and team captains

### Key questions

1. When should a game be delayed and or suspended
2. What constitutes a game as having been played?
3. What is the process when a game has been affected by weather or other unforeseen circumstances?
4. What is the resulting action?

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1. A game should be suspended (or start delayed) if any of the following situations occur
    - The pitch is more than 75% underwater
    - 75% of either or both circles are under water
    - If less than 75% of lights are not functioning during a night game
    - If less than 50% of lights are not functioning when lighting is required to due dark clouds (eg dark clouds /early afternoon)
    - Hail shower lasting more than 10 minutes
    - Lightning (10 second rule)
    - Excessive high winds, threatening structures around the turf
    - Serious injury to a player or umpire, whereby that party cannot be moved from playing area
  2. For a match to be completed, 70 minutes of normal time needs to have been played.

Rationale: Any shortfall in time could unfairly disadvantage either (or both) teams on the points table

Exception: When both team captains agree to the result at the time of suspension being the final result.

### The Process:

The decision for delayed start / suspension of play is made by the umpires appointed to the match in consultation with the duty manager and team captains.

*Pre game:* Judge the conditions (pitch & weather) if the above criteria are not satisfactory then delay the start until the conditions meet at least the minimum standard.

*During the match:* The match needs to be suspended immediately (safely and fairly) with the umpires recording the score and time of suspension including how the game should be restarted and any player penalties

**Key considerations:**

- To minimise the disruption to game schedule
- What are the current conditions and the prospect for improvement?
- Possible actions to improve conditions eg squeegees the turfs, turn on and/or fix the lights
- Rescheduling games
- Common sense

**Suggestions**

- If match is delayed or suspended for a total of 30 minutes or more then that match needs to be suspended fully – to be completed at another time
- If the affected match is suspended for less than 30 minutes then the game shall be completed in full
- Subsequent matches will either start on time (subject to same conditions) or 5 minutes following a delayed match being completed
- Exception being if new start time is over 30 mins later than the scheduled time. Then that game is to be rescheduled – minimising the ‘snowball’ effect.

**Delayed/Suspended/Cancelled Matches**

If the umpires and/or duty manager decide to interrupt or suspend a match (e.g. because of weather conditions), the following options are available for consideration and agreement by both teams:

Resuming Match

The match must be resumed as soon as possible (not necessarily on the same field of play or on the same day) under the following conditions:

- The match resumes with the same amount of time left on the clock as there was when the match was interrupted.
- The score and any personal penalties are the same as when the match was interrupted.
- Only the players named on the original match card may take part in the resumed match.

Abandoning Match

The Captains from both teams can make the decision to abandon the match at the time of the interruption:

- The match does not have to be completed up to the agreed regulation full time.
- The score on abandonment will stand as the final score for that match
- The match will not be rescheduled at any time

If the umpires and/or duty manager decide to cancel scheduled matches (e.g. because of weather conditions), the following options are available for consideration and agreement by both teams:

Rescheduling Match

The match must be rescheduled as soon as possible (not necessarily on the same field of play or on the same day) under the following conditions:

- The match must never have been commenced.
- Three dates will be suggested to each team to agree upon as to when the rescheduled game will take place.
- Games may be played during practice times, at reduced halves, due to turf restrictions.
- Games may be played on a Sunday evening due to turf restrictions

*No Rescheduling of Match*

The match is not rescheduled or played under the following conditions:

- The match must never have been commenced.
- Both teams are in agreement not to play the match
- The match will be deemed a tie and one point awarded to each team

**Notification**

The Duty Manager will attempt, where possible, to contact affected teams by email and/or phonecall to club contacts. Notices will also be announced via publication on Otago Hockey Association website and Facebook page as soon as possible.

The Otago Hockey Competitions Manager will contact teams directly to organise the rescheduling of matches.