



Policy 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 Umpires, Team Captains, Players and Team Management

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 game which requires lighting
 - 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, 75% 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.

3. The Process: The decision for delayed start/ suspension of play is made by the umpires appointed to the match in consultation with the Competitions manager and/or both team captains.

Pre game Judge the conditions (pitch & weather) if the above criteria are not satisfactory then either delay the start until the conditions meet at least the minimum standard or the game will be cancelled.

During The match needs to be suspended immediately (safely and fairly) with the match 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 for example- squeegee the turfs, turn on 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 fully suspended and completed at another time
- If the affected match is suspended for less than 30 minutes, then the game can be completed in full
- Subsequent matches will either start on time (subject to same conditions) or 5 minutes following a delayed match being completed

4. Delayed/Suspended/Cancelled Matches:

If the Competitions Manager and/or Umpires decide to interrupt or suspend a match (e.g. because of weather conditions), the Otago Hockey Competitions Manager in conjunction with both teams will work through the following options with the final decision being made by Otago Hockey:

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 a team chooses not to play when conditions have been deemed suitable for play, the other team will be declared the winner by default and normal default rules apply.

If the Competitions Manager and/or Umpires 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

If possible, the match must be rescheduled as soon as practical (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.

- If the cancelled game is a final, then this game will be played the following weekend in which teams must be prepared to play

No Rescheduling of Match

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

- The match must never have been commenced.
- Lack of turf availability
- Both teams agree not to play the match
- The match will be deemed a draw (2-2) and one point awarded to each team
- If the game is a semi-final and is cancelled and rescheduling of the match is not possible, the 'winner' of the game shall be the higher placed team from the round robin competition

Notification

The Competitions Manager will attempt, where possible, to contact affected teams by email and/or phone call 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.

For matters not covered in this policy or any variations, OHA has the rights to make a governing decision in the best interest of the competition.