



WARC ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

Purpose

The safety and welfare of riders, horses, volunteers, and officials is our highest priority. This policy outlines how Wallangarra Adult Riders will manage activities in the event of adverse weather, including extreme heat, storms, heavy rain, wind, or poor air quality.

General principles

- Decisions will be made with reference to Equestrian Australia's Hot Weather and Air Quality Guidelines, Equestrian WA policies, and advice from relevant authorities (e.g., Bureau of Meteorology, DFES).
- Activities will be cancelled, postponed, or modified where conditions pose a risk to health and safety.
- Safety will always take precedence over competition or rallies.

Weather conditions

Events or rallies **may** be cancelled, postponed, or modified if any of the following conditions apply:

- Temperature exceeds 35°C (ambient or forecast) during rally hours.
- Apparent temperature ("feels like") exceeds 38°C.
- Severe weather warnings are issued for the local area (e.g., storms, lightning, damaging winds).
- Heavy rainfall causes the grounds to become unsafe or unrideable.
- Air quality is rated "Very Poor" or worse (based on the Air Quality Index).
- Bushfire warnings are in effect for the local area.

Extreme heat management

- If the forecast temperature is 35°C or higher at 6pm the evening before a rally or event (using the Bureau of Meteorology forecast), the event will be modified.
- Shortened rally sessions, increased water breaks, earlier start times, or reduced workloads may be considered if safe.

Storms, lightning and wind

- Activities will be immediately suspended if lightning is observed within a 10-kilometre radius ("30/30 Rule").
- Events will not resume until 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder.
- High wind warnings may lead to the cancellation or postponement of activities for safety.

Please note: Thunder cannot occur without lightning, as thunder is the sound produced by the rapid expansion of air heated by a lightning strike.



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Air quality and smoke

- If the air quality index (AQI) is rated “Very Poor” or worse, or there is visible smoke haze impacting breathing, events will be cancelled.
- Riders with respiratory conditions are advised to monitor air quality forecasts closely.

Communication

- Notification of cancellation, postponement, or modification will be made via Facebook and email as early as possible.
- In the case of rapidly changing conditions, on-ground decisions will be made by the Committee in consultation with the Coaches.

Responsibilities

- The Committee are responsible for monitoring weather forecasts and conditions.
- All members are responsible for making decisions in the best interests of their own health and their horse’s welfare. If in doubt, members are encouraged not to ride.

Weather related cancellation

- In the event of a rally cancellation due to adverse weather, a theory class may be provided instead; as coaches are booked in advance, no refunds or credits will be issued.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years and in line with Equestrian Australia and Equestrian WA guidelines.