



# Adverse Weather Policy

## 1. Introduction

The Port Kembla Golf Club Adverse Weather Policy has been created to assist in providing a safe environment for staff, contractors, members and visitors. All members and guests are responsible for using sound judgment when golfing in adverse weather conditions, including lightning, high winds, or extreme temperature. Members and visitors must consider the weather conditions prior to commencing their round of golf and shall play at their own risk. Your safety is your responsibility at all times.

## 2. Personal Responsibility

- Players must decide for themselves whether to leave the course or take cover.
- The Club's siren **must not be expected or relied upon** to signal adverse weather.
- As a condition of entry, you acknowledge that you **do not rely on the Club or Golf Shop** to ensure your safety during lightning, high winds, extreme temperature, or other hazardous weather.

## 3. Rules of Golf

Under Rule 5.7a:

- A player may stop play if they reasonably believe there is danger from lightning.
- The player must report to the Golf Shop as soon as possible.
- If the Golf Shop considers the player's reasons satisfactory, there is no penalty; otherwise, the player is disqualified.

The Club strongly encourages all players to monitor conditions and act promptly if they feel unsafe.



## 4. Weather Awareness and Prevention

To reduce the risk of injury:

- Check weather forecasts before play (e.g., official meteorological sites).
- Advise the Pro Shop when you are on the course.
- Monitor the sky for signs of storm development—rapidly growing clouds, darkening skies, or sudden wind increases.
- Avoid playing in temperatures beyond your personal comfort or safety level.

## 5. Possible Types of Adverse Weather

### Lightning

A player will often be aware of lightning before the Club is, and should act accordingly. Audible lightning at the extreme ends of the course may not be audible at the Club and a player should not delay taking action if they believe they are at risk.

#### Using the 30/30 “Flash-to-Bang” Rule

- Count the seconds between a lightning flash and the sound of thunder.
- A **3-second delay ≈ 1 km distance**. Storms within **10 km** are considered dangerous.
- Other warning signs include static electricity (hair standing on end) or buzzing sounds from metal objects or fences.

### High Winds

- High winds can be isolated, wide spread, sustained or gusts.
- High winds may be experienced at one end of the course and not the other.
- The player is the best person to determine whether the winds they are experiencing are a risk and should act accordingly.



## **Safe and Unsafe Places During Storm Activity**

### **Safe Places**

- Large, enclosed buildings such as the **Clubhouse** or **Machinery Shed**.

### **Unsafe Places**

- Open fields and elevated areas
- Umbrellas, poles, and metal objects
- Isolated trees
- Small shelters or gazebos
- Water hazards
- Metal fences
- Golf carts

## **Extreme Temperature**

- Extreme temperatures impact everybody differently due to variables outside the Club's control (age, health conditions, medications etc.) and what is acceptable for one player may be a risk for another both with heat and cold.
- It is the players' responsibility to assess whether the temperature is going to be of concern to them and act accordingly. This could include but not be limited to.
  - Dressing appropriately for the heat/cold.
  - Taking adequate hydration on course.
  - Hiring a cart when temperatures exceed a threshold you feel comfortable with.

## **6. First Aid**

Provide any First Aid you are capable of and seek professional medical assistance immediately in the event of injury.

## **7. Rain Checks and Temporary Suspension of Play**

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On member and public social round days:

- Visitors may request a rain check from the Golf Shop.
- If play is expected to resume shortly, players should be prepared to return to their position on the course.
- If leaving the course due to lightning concerns, the Club recommends remaining under safe cover for **at least 30 minutes** after the last observed lightning or thunder.