

**NORTHERN NSW FOOTBALL AIR QUALITY POLICY**

**APPLICABLE TO ALL NORTHERN NSW FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS INCLUDING NPL NSW, WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE, FFA CUP (NNSW Preliminary involving Premier Clubs), NORTHERN LEAGUE ONE, AND ALL OTHER SANCTIONED NNSWF EVENTS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SAP, STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS, CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS AND ALL SANCTIONED ACTIVITIES AT LAKE MACQUARIE REGIONAL FOOTBALL FACILITY (LMRFF)**

With the frequent occurrence of bush fires and poor air quality now occurring more frequently consideration must be given to the effects of air quality on football participants, and children.

Northern NSW Football (NNSWF) has considered several factors in the development of this policy including year-round High-Performance Programs, the ongoing popularity of summer football and the recent increase in the temperatures resulting in bush fires experienced at the beginning of the traditional football season.

The following direction is provided in accordance with information provided by [Sports Medicine Australia](#).

<b>AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI) FOR ABANDONMENT OR POSTPONEMENT OF GAMES, TRAINING and other football events including trial games, selection trials, clinics, gala days or any other football activity involving physical exertion.</b>		
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Matches</b>	<b>Training</b>
Teams up to and including 12's	Abandon or postpone matches ???	Abandon or postpone training ???
13's to 17's inclusive	Abandon or postpone matches ???	Abandon or postpone traditional training ???
		Abandon or postpone modified training ???
18's to Open inclusive	Abandon or postpone matches ???	Abandon or postpone training ???
<p><b>CAUTION:</b> These are the maximum cancellation parameters. Cancellation of games, training or events at lower parameter may be necessary depending on local conditions, player wellbeing and acclimatisation. All participants have a responsibility to carefully consider their physical capacity to participate. Participants who are on medication and/or recovering from a viral illness should exclude themselves from participating in fixtures when air quality approaches the stated thresholds. For the purpose of this policy a child is a person aged up to and including 16 years of age.</p>		

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Any measurements being taken whilst a match is in progress should be taken at a height of 1.2m, 1m from the halfway line.

**NNSWF Premier Competition Guidelines**

Please see the below table for a quick guide on which Leagues abide by which AIQ INDEX and who is responsible for the abandonment or postponement of activities:

The following direction is provided in accordance with information provided by [Sports Medicine Australia](https://www.sportsmedicineaustralia.com.au)

<b>League</b>	<b>Responsibility to Postpone / Abandon</b>	<b>Air Quality Index Threshold</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPL 1<sup>st</sup> Grade</li> <li>• WPL 1<sup>st</sup> Grade</li> <li>• NL1 1<sup>st</sup> Grade</li> </ul>	Home Club Official & Match Official	???
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPL 20's and 18's</li> <li>• WPL 20's</li> <li>• NL1 19's and 23's</li> </ul>	Home Club Official	???
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPL 13's, 14's, 15's, and 16's</li> <li>• WPL 14's and 17's*</li> <li>• NL1 13s, 14's, 15's and 17's*</li> </ul>	Home Club Official	???

**\*This League has been included at the lower AQI INDEX threshold due to the heavy reliance on players up to and including 16 years.**

**For the avoidance of doubt, any player aged up to and including 16 years of age who is part of a senior squad (Under 18's and above) must not play in ANY fixture when the AQI threshold is reached ???**

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### Procedure for Abandonment/Postponement of matches based on the index below

#### What the air quality index means

When you go to the AQI website and look at your nearest suburb or region, you will see a colour and number displayed which indicates the air quality measured, as per the table below. The AQI will help you understand the current level of air quality and provide information on how to reduce your risk of exposure to air pollution if necessary.

0-33 Very good	Enjoy normal activities.
34-65 Good	Enjoy normal activities.
67-99 Fair	People unusually sensitive to air pollution should reduce or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities. Others are not likely to be affected when the AQI is in this range.
100-149 Poor	Sensitive groups should reduce strenuous outdoor activities. Other adults are not likely to be affected. Anyone who experiences symptoms should reduce outdoor activities.
150-199 Very poor	Sensitive groups should avoid strenuous outdoor activities Other adults should reduce or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities.
200+ Hazardous	Sensitive groups should avoid all outdoor activities. Other adults should avoid strenuous outdoor activities.

In the event of poor air quality, as outlined above, it is the responsibility of the home club to monitor the air quality and local conditions and inform the match official of current conditions.

**In the event that the football activity that is at Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility (LMRFF) the Venue Manager , Duty Manager , Match Day Coordinator or staff member will make the final decision to postpone or abandon football activity if the AQI has reached ???**

Clubs are required to utilize <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/air-quality/current-air-quality> .

Matches must be abandonment/postponed only in the following circumstances:

Prior to teams arriving:

- If the AQI is at or above the Maximum threshold at any point during the day of the fixture. The Home Club Official is responsible for abandoning or postponing matches. Clubs are required to validate their readings with the Away Club Official (If present) and the Match Official (if present).



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After teams arriving (approx. 90min prior to kick off):

- If the measured AQI is at or above the Maximum **AQI threshold 30 minutes** prior to kick off the match must be postponed by the Home Club Official. Clubs are required to validate their reading with both the Match Official & Away Club Official.
- If the measured temperature rises to or above the Maximum AQI threshold after kick off, the identified Home Club Official must advise the Match Officials at the next stoppage of play, and the match to be abandoned. Clubs are required to validate their readings with the Away Club Official and the Match Official.

For all matches postponed due to heat, clubs are required to follow the [Northern NSW Football Wet Weather Policy](#) regarding communication to opposition, referees and relevant websites.

Northern NSW Football reserves the right to postpone matches due to poor air quality at its sole and absolute discretion.

### **Advice for all clubs**

During summer and warmer months clubs and competition organisers are required to regularly:

- Refer to the <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/air/Pages/aqi.aspx>
- Provide a copy of the AQI Index *Fact Sheet* to players, parents and team officials.
- Closely monitor weather forecasts and local weather conditions.
- Monitor the wellbeing of players, officials, volunteers and staff.

The following is also provided for information and reference:

- [Bureau of Meteorology](#) - BOM website for all weather forecasts and information