NATAL INLAND
BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to Bowls South Africa
Founded 1997

Cell: 083 231 0381
Website: www.nibabowling.co.za
E-mail: admin@nibabowling.co.za
Physical Address: 381 Boshoff Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201

CIRCULAR 49 OF 2026:
INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES & PLAYER SAFETY

In the interests of player safety, all clubs are reminded of the procedures to be followed when inclement weather poses a risk to participants. Club committees, tournament organisers, umpires and players are requested to familiarise themselves with the applicable Bowls South Africa (BSA) requirements relating to lightning, rain, heat, humidity and excessive wind.

INTERRUPTION OF PLAY
In the event of adverse weather conditions, including lightning, excessive heat and humidity, or any other valid reason, the Club Tournament Official (CTO) shall temporarily suspend play where necessary.

Play must stop immediately and may only resume when authorised by the CTO. Only the Controlling Body, in conjunction with the CTO on duty, may abandon play or curtail the number of rounds or ends required to achieve a result.

Umpires are not responsible for independently calling off play due to adverse weather conditions. Any player concerns or appeals must be referred to the CTO or, in the CTO's absence, the umpire on duty, who must remain vigilant to changing weather conditions. Once suspension is confirmed, all players must vacate the green in accordance with the applicable procedures and proceed to safe shelter.

1. LIGHTNING
Lightning presents a serious risk to players and officials. The following procedures must be observed:

- **Immediate suspension:** When lightning is detected within 15 km of the venue, play must be suspended immediately.
- **If an end is in progress:** Players must leave the green immediately, unless they are busy scoring the end.
- **If the end has been completed but measuring has not yet taken place:** Players must complete the scoring of that end and then leave the green immediately.
- **Incomplete ends:** Any ends that have not been completed when play is suspended must be replayed.
- **Safe shelter:** Players must not remain on the green or in exposed areas while waiting for the all-clear.
- **Waiting period:** Play may only resume once lightning has remained outside the 15 km safety radius for at least **20 consecutive minutes**, subject to authorisation by the CTO. If lightning is detected within the radius during the waiting period, the 20-minute period must restart.
- **Warning systems:** Where a club has a lightning warning system, all players and officials must comply with its alerts and instructions. The **Lightning Alarm app**, referenced in the BSA policy, may also be used to monitor lightning activity.

Important clarification: The BSA Inclement Weather Conditions Policy and the BSA Conditions of Play differ regarding lightning procedures. As confirmed by Bobby Donnelly, BSA Chief Operations Officer, the **Conditions of Play is the correct reference document for lightning procedures**. Clubs must consult and apply the requirements according to that document as per above.

President: Tara Janse van Rensburg, Vice President: Calvin Hollis, Secretary: Janet Bevis, Competition Secretary: Mark Taylor, Treasurer: Gary Wessels
Executive Members: Andre Naude (Zone Clubs), Brad Robinson, Karen Vahey, Rose Varty

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2. RAIN AND GREEN CONDITIONS

- The club's greenkeeper, or designated proxy, is the authority responsible for determining whether play must be suspended or stopped due to rain and green conditions.
- This decision may be made before play commences or while play is in progress.
- The greenkeeper or designated proxy will determine when conditions are suitable for play to resume.
- A bowl creating a plume of water as it travels along the green may indicate excessive surface water and can be used as a guideline.
- Player discomfort alone is not a reason to suspend play under the rain provisions.

3. HEAT AND HUMIDITY

Extreme heat and high humidity can place players at risk of heat-related illness. Clubs and Tournament Officials must monitor conditions carefully and prioritise player safety.

- Clubs and their Tournament Officials are required to download either the **Africa Weather app** or the **Heat Index Calculator app by VnMobileSolutions Inc.**, available from the Google Play Store.
- Use the apps to monitor local temperature and humidity and consult the BSA Heat Index chart to determine the applicable risk category.
- The chart provides guidance on potentially unsafe conditions and must be applied in accordance with the procedures below.
- The CTO and tournament officials must remain alert to signs of heat-related illness and take appropriate action to protect players.

The following procedures apply according to the Heat Index score:

- Orange (33–40): A compulsory water break of 10–15 minutes must be taken during each match, approximately halfway through play.
- Red (41–53): Play must be suspended until the Heat Index score drops below 40. Once play resumes, the compulsory water-break requirements for the Orange category must be observed.
- Purple (54 and above): Play must be abandoned. Play must be suspended if conditions reach the *Extreme Danger* category. Play may only resume when conditions have improved sufficiently and the CTO authorises the resumption, or the Controlling Body decides to abandon play.

Tournament Officials must monitor the Heat Index throughout play and ensure that the prescribed breaks, suspensions and abandonment procedures are implemented whenever the relevant thresholds are reached.

4. EXCESSIVE WIND

Although excessive winds are more common in coastal areas, they can also affect inland venues. The following circumstances may indicate excessive wind that prevents fair participation or creates a safety risk:

- The jack cannot be placed on the designated position without being moved by the wind.
- Equipment, including scoreboards positioned near the greens, presents a danger to players or officials.
- The CTO and relevant officials must assess the conditions and take appropriate action where play can no longer continue safely or fairly.

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5. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

All clubs are requested to:

- Display the attached **Inclement Weather Procedures poster** prominently at the club.
- Ensure that players, markers, umpires and tournament officials understand the applicable procedures.
- Include weather monitoring and clear communication in tournament preparation.
- Ensure that players know where to seek safe shelter when play is suspended.
- Prioritise player safety when assessing conditions and applying the relevant BSA requirements.

Please circulate this information to your members and ensure that these procedures are observed during club competitions, district events and tournaments hosted at your venue.

The full BSA Inclement Weather Conditions Policy, particularly Chapter 7 and pages 56–60 of the attached document, should be consulted for further guidance. For lightning procedures, clubs must refer to the Conditions of Play, as clarified above.

Your cooperation in ensuring a safe playing environment for all bowlers is appreciated.

Kind regards,

Tara Janse van Rensburg
President
Natal Inland Bowling Association

16 October 2026
cc Executive, Clubs

Attachments: ***Bowls South Africa Policies & Regulations***
NIBA Inclement Weather Poster

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