

## Extreme Weather Field Trial Policy

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The welfare of dogs competing in Retrieving Ability Tests, Retrieving Trials and Field Trials is paramount to our sport. This policy defines the guidelines for the safety of dogs, their handlers and the public.

The affiliate club and its trial management running the trial is accountable for the implementation of this policy.

### **Hot Weather**

If the forecast temperature for the district where the trial is to be held is 30 degrees or higher then:

- (a) The trial is to be cancelled if the forecast temperature is to exceed 36°C:
- (b) Where the forecast temperature is between 30° C and 36°C trial management should start the event at 7.00am and ensure in conjunction with the Judge and competitors that
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  - all dogs have access to shade when not competing.
  - all dogs have access to water for drinking and swimming when not competing.
  - closely monitor dogs in the field and withdraw dogs from competition if there are signs of heat stress.
  - If there is not adequate access to shade and water trial management must consider relocating the event to a more suitable site.

### **Fire Danger**

If the CFA fire danger rating for the district where the trial is to be held is Extreme or Code Red then the trial must be cancelled.

### **Gale Force Winds and Thunderstorms**

If gale force winds, lightening or thunderstorms are forecast for the district where the trial is to be conducted then:

- The trial may be cancelled or
- A wait and see approach be adopted and if the trial proceeds judging must stop prior to the onset of the thunder and lightning over the trial site.
- If the Trial Committee deem the conduct of the trial to be unsafe once it has commenced, the trial must be cancelled.

### **Flooding**

Where moderate or severe flooding is forecast for the district where the trial is to be conducted the trial is to be cancelled.

### **Extreme Cold and Ice**

Where extreme cold occurs over the site where a retrieving trial is being conducted dogs are not to be expected to break ice on more than two retrieves of the trial.

### **Procedure for Affiliates and Exhibitors to Follow to Identify Extreme Weather**

- (1) The forecast temperature for the district where the retrieving trial is to be held will be obtained from the Elders Weather Website ([www.eldersweather.com.au](http://www.eldersweather.com.au)) at 10.00am two days prior to the trial.

The Fire Danger Rating for the district where the trial is to be held will be obtained from CFA website ([www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)) at 10.00am two days prior to the trial. In the event of an official declaration by the CFA the day prior to the trial of Extreme or Code Red the trial must be cancelled.

- (2) The gale force winds, thunderstorm or flood predictions for the district where the trial is to be held will be obtained from the Elders Weather website at 10.00am two days prior to the trial.
- (3) Where multiple trials are scheduled over a number of days, then only those day(s), where the temperature is 36° C or higher, or the fire danger rating is Extreme or Code Red, or moderate to severe flooding are predicted, will be affected.
- (4) It is the responsibility of the Trial Secretary to check the forecast weather, the fire danger rating, or gale force winds, thunderstorms and flood predictions, for the district where the trial is to be held as described in points (1) and (2) above.
- (5) The Club Secretary must notify the Chief Executive of Dogs Victoria by telephone when a decision had been made to cancel or reschedule a trial.

### **Completed Events**

Should any stake be completed by ALL eligible competitors prior to a trial being suspended then the qualifying scores/placings for that stake will still stand.