



Extreme Weather Guidelines:

effective from April 2016

The Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for its members in all Club events. As such, the Club recognises that planned activities may have the potential to expose members to harm due to extreme weather events or conditions.

The Club recognises that the risks associated with overexposure to UV or heat, and exposure to dangers resulting from extreme weather conditions such as flood, fire, strong wind events, snow/ice or electrical storms, can be minimised through the implementation of preventative approaches, such as changes to or cancellation of programs and events.

Cancellation

The decision to cancel or postpone an event due to extreme weather should be initiated by the event organiser, after consultation with the Club President (or, if unavailable, the Vice President/Chapter Captain/Club Captain – Motor Sport). Due consideration is given to the advice provided by the various authorities such as:

- Bureau of Meteorology, Australia <www.bom.gov.au>. This site has a drill-down to State sites and further to official weather warnings.
- Road authorities:

Victoria	VicRoads	www.vicroads.vic.gov.au
Tasmania	Transport Dept	http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/road/closures_delays
Southern NSW	Live Traffic NSW	http://m.livetraffic.rta.nsw.gov.au/Default.aspx?r=REG_SOUTH

- Fire authorities:

Victoria	Country Fire Authority	< www.cfa.vic.gov.au >
Tasmania	Tasmania Fire Service	< www.fire.tas.gov.au >
NSW	NSW Rural Fire Service	< www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me >

It is acknowledged that the event organiser will have more detailed knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the event and may wish to cancel – or proceed with – an event in light of that knowledge and the extreme weather conditions. Contact with the Club President (or, if unavailable, the Vice President/Chapter Captain/Club Captain – Motor Sport) is important so that the Club's communication procedure is enacted and all members are advised of the change or cancellation.



Changes

If extreme conditions occur during an event, the event organiser should seek immediate shelter/protection and encourage all participants to seek a safe environment. The event should be discontinued. The event organiser does this with the full support of the Club Committee, in alignment with this policy.

The communication procedure

The communication procedure for cancellation detailed below is to be followed.

Careful consideration is given as to whether to cancel or postpone a Club event. Should it be deemed necessary under this policy to cancel an event, the Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria & Tasmania will endeavour to notify all affected participants. The Club will communicate any changes in the following way:

- An item will be posted on the Club's website advising of the cancellation or postponement of an event.
- Notification will be provided through the Club's Facebook page.
- An email will be sent to all participants who have advised of their attendance at the event.
- A general email/SMS will be sent to ALL members in the relevant State.

Extreme Weather Events & Conditions

Cancellation of events should occur when extreme or high-risk conditions are forecast.

Extreme weather conditions are defined as those which pose danger or hazards to those who are exposed to them. In the car club, these can relate to driving conditions (road conditions) as well as the weather. Event organisers may initially be alerted to the possibility of extreme weather conditions through various forms of the media.

Fire

Event organisers should be aware of the possibility of a wild fire and not take members into any area with a bush fire warning. If the day or area of a planned event is announced as a total fire ban or "Red Alert" day or area, the event organiser should consider cancelling the event and consult the President (or, if unavailable, the Vice President/Chapter Captain/Club Captain – Motor Sport).

Information is available through radio and the CFA bush fire app for a mobile phone. Links to current fire warnings:

Victoria	Country Fire Authority	< www.cfa.vic.gov.au >
Tasmania	Tasmania Fire Service	< www.fire.tas.gov.au >
NSW	NSW Rural Fire Service	< www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me >



Weather

Extreme conditions include, but are not limited to, snow, black ice, strong or gale force winds, torrential rain, hail, flash flooding, electrical storms, dust storms, extreme cold or extreme heat.

The Bureau of Meteorology <www.bom.gov.au> is useful for checking weather conditions.

For road conditions, check:

Victoria:	VicRoads	www.vicroads.vic.gov.au
Tasmania:	Transport Dept	http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/road/closures_delays
Southern NSW:	Live Traffic NSW	http://m.livetraffic.rta.nsw.gov.au/Default.aspx?r=REG_SOUTH

Further information is available from CAMS: CAMS National Competition Rules, rule 59 (<http://docs.cams.com.au/Manual/NCR/NC01-NCR-2014-1.pdf>). This reads:

59. POSTPONEMENT, ABANDONMENT OR CANCELLATION OF A COMPETITION

A meeting or a competition forming part of a meeting shall not be postponed, abandoned or cancelled unless provision for doing so has been made in the Supplementary Regulations, or unless the Stewards of the Meeting have decided to postpone or abandon it for reasons of *force majeure* or safety.

In case of cancellation, postponement for more than 24 hours or abandonment, entry fees shall be returned within 30 days of the date of cancellation unless the competitor states his intention of competing in a postponed competition.

In the case of any Road Event or Off Road Event having been cancelled due to *force majeure*, the body issuing the permit may, upon application by the Organiser, permit such Organiser to retain up to 25 per cent of the entry fees.

Also, refer to <www.smartplay.com.au>.

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UV and Heat

Where possible, events are scheduled to minimise exposure to UV levels and avoid high temperatures. Where it is not possible to avoid peak UV and heat periods, the following interim steps are to be taken to minimise the risk of overexposure to UV and heat:

- The duration of the activity is reduced.
- Rest breaks and opportunities to seek shade and rehydrate are increased.
- Members are encouraged to apply sunscreen and wear a sun hat.
- Members are encouraged to have 'tops up' on the car
- All those involved are aware that they need to be well hydrated throughout the event. The "Beat the Heat" fact sheet and hot weather guidelines are useful sources of good advice on this topic. (See <http://sma.org.au/resources-advice/policies-guidelines/hot-weather/>.)

Storm

The Club should take all precautions to prevent an event from running in an electrical, dust or thunder storm or other hazardous conditions such as predicted very strong winds. The cancellation of an event is advisable when high-risk conditions are forecast.

Snow

Similar to above, the cancellation of an event is advisable when the following high-risk conditions are prevalent or expected during the course of the proposed event: a snow storm, very strong winds, blizzard conditions or unsafe road conditions (ice or black ice) due to heavy snow falls.

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