



## Extreme Weather Policy

<b>Effective Date (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	<b>April 1<sup>st</sup> 2026</b>
<b>Date Approved (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	<b>March 30<sup>th</sup> 2026</b>
<b>Replaces</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Archived</b>	
<b>Original Language</b>	English

### Scope

This policy applies to all Shooting Federation of Canada (SFC) sanctioned events and activities, including national championships, and any events operating under SFC authority.

This policy applies to all individuals involved in SFC events, including athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, staff, contractors, event organizers, and spectators where applicable.

Where SFC-sanctioned competitions are conducted under International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) rules, this policy operates in conjunction with and does not supersede applicable ISSF Technical Rules. In the event of any conflict, ISSF rules shall prevail.

### Definitions

“Cancellation” - means a determination that competition cannot safely resume that day or that the affected phase of competition cannot be completed.

“Delay” - means a short interruption of competition, typically 15 to 30 minutes, after which competition may resume if conditions improve.

“Extreme Weather” - means any weather condition that may have an immediate or cumulative impact on participant safety, event operations, or venue integrity. This includes, but is not limited to, excessive heat, lightning, high winds, heavy rain, flooding, and poor air quality in outdoor venues.

“Postponement” – means a longer suspension of competition, typically two hours or more, after which competition may resume if conditions improve.

### Policy

SFC is committed to providing a safe, respectful, equitable, and well-managed competition environment. Health and safety shall take priority over competitive outcomes.



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Extreme weather conditions may create unacceptable risks to athletes, officials, volunteers, staff, and spectators. When weather conditions pose an immediate or cumulative safety risk, authorized officials have the responsibility to modify, delay, postpone, or cancel competition.

At competitions conducted under ISSF rules, the Jury, Chief Range Officer, or other designated official under ISSF Technical Rules, retains final authority to suspend, delay, or cancel competition.

Decisions must be made transparently and consistently, with particular care given to junior athletes, Para athletes, and individuals whose disabilities or age may create increased vulnerability. Competition shall not resume unless conditions allow for safe participation and fair, consistent scoring across all relays.

### **Operational Procedures**

#### Pre-Event Planning

Prior to the start of competition, organizers should review weather forecasts for the event location and identify potential weather-related risks. Shelter locations, hydration access, cooling resources, and communication methods may be confirmed in advance. Where extreme weather is forecast, additional monitoring personnel or safety resources should be assigned.

#### General Weather Monitoring

Weather conditions should be monitored prior to and throughout competition. Organizers are recommended to track real-time temperature and humidity at all competition sites. Weather forecasts, warnings, and advisories issued by Environment Canada should be reviewed regularly. Environment Canada weather forecasts, warnings, watches, and advisories are the primary sources for official weather information. On-site observations and real-time conditions may override forecasts if conditions deteriorate more rapidly than predicted.

The Jury may make use of an approved radar speed gun system to check the targets randomly if due to bad weather or other reasons.

#### Excessive Heat



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The following thresholds establish required responses based on environmental conditions and are intended to guide consistent decision-making across all SFC events. These thresholds should be considered whether the event is located inside or outside.

Heat Index (°C)	Risk Level	Recommended Actions
< 27	Safe Zone	Unlimited activity with water breaks every 30 minutes. Encourage shade use and hydration.
27-32	Caution	Rest and water breaks every 25 minutes. Shade required. Cold water available. Monitor participants closely.
32-41	Extreme Caution	Rest and water every 20 minutes. Limit exertion. Modify schedules as needed.
>41	Danger Zone	Cancel or postpone all competition until temperatures fall. Health risk is unacceptable.

1. A designated on-site Heat Safety Officer is advised to monitor conditions, enforce rest and hydration schedules, and advise on delays or cancellations. When the Heat Index reaches 32°C or higher, organizers should consider delaying or rescheduling events. When the Heat Index reaches 41°C or higher, all competition should stop until conditions improve.
2. Event adjustments may include modifying or shortening events, scheduling physically demanding activities during early morning or late evening hours, or postponing if temperatures exceed 32–35°C.
3. Mitigation strategies for heat may include the provision of shade and cooling infrastructure at all outdoor venues, including spectator zones, warm-up areas, and officials' stations. Misting fans or portable cooling units can be provided in waiting areas. Athletes are encouraged to use ice towels and cooling vests.



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4. Hydration access is mandatory. Multiple hydration stations are supposed to be available, providing cool water between 10 and 15°C. Water should be available at every field-of-play station, particularly at outdoor firing points.
5. In addition to prevention measures, organizers should be prepared to respond to heat-related medical emergencies. Medical preparedness for heat can include trained first aid personnel capable of recognizing and treating heat illness and heat stroke. Thermometers should be available for temperature assessment when possible.

### Excessive Cold

When temperatures drop below a comfortable temperature concerns about an athlete's ability to pull a trigger with control arise.

Temperatures need to be considered given the required clothing for athletes as they are not in a position in some cases to add extra layers or protect from the cold.

Consideration to the variables related to the discipline should be accounted for such as impact of wind on the temperature and event type such as prone.

### Lightning

1. Lightning poses a serious and immediate risk at outdoor shooting events. If lightning is observed, or lightning is detected within the area, all competition should stop immediately. The field of play should be cleared without delay.
2. Participants are urged to seek safe shelter in substantial buildings with wiring and plumbing. If buildings are unavailable, hard-topped vehicles with windows closed may be used. Open structures, tents, and trees are not considered safe shelters.
3. Competition may not resume until at least 30 minutes have passed since the last thunder was heard or lightning was observed. If lightning detection tools are used and indicate lightning within the vicinity, competition should remain suspended even if thunder is not audible.
4. Organizers are advised to communicate lightning procedures clearly before the start of competition, including shelter locations and restart procedures. Medical personnel should be prepared to respond to lightning-related injuries. Lightning strike victims do not carry an electrical charge and may be treated immediately once it is safe to do so.



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5. Lightning may be identified through visual observation, audible thunder, or lightning detection tools where available. If thunder is heard, lightning is within striking distance and competition should stop immediately.

### Excessive Wind

1. High winds can create dangerous conditions by causing targets, signage, and other equipment to tip, collapse, or become airborne. Competition may be delayed or suspended when wind conditions compromise safety or the stability of equipment.
1. If wind speeds or gusts create a risk to participants, officials, or spectators, competition should stop until conditions improve. Equipment should be secured or removed as necessary. Events are not recommended to continue until winds subside to safe levels.
2. If tornado watches or warnings are issued for the area, competition may be postponed until the watch or warning has been lifted. If signs of tornado activity are observed, all participants should immediately seek appropriate shelter.
3. Wind conditions should be continuously assessed based on their impact on participant safety and equipment stability. Competition may be delayed or suspended if winds cause targets, shelters, signage, or other equipment to shift, tip, or become unstable, or if wind conditions pose a risk to participants, officials, or spectators.

### Excessive Rain

1. Heavy rain, flooding, or water accumulation that affects footing, visibility, scoring integrity, or electrical safety should be assessed continuously. Competition may be delayed, modified, or cancelled if conditions create unacceptable risk.
2. Field and outdoor course layouts are planned to be assessed for slip, trip, and fall hazards. In cold and wet conditions, organizers should also monitor for hypothermia risk. Electrical hazards related to water exposure should be addressed immediately.
3. Decisions regarding continuation of competition during heavy rain should consider footing safety, visibility, scoring integrity, electrical hazards, and the risk of hypothermia. Competition may be delayed or cancelled if these factors compromise participant safety or the ability to conduct fair competition.

### Air Quality



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1. Air quality should be assessed using the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) for all outdoor Shooting Federation of Canada events. Air quality should be monitored prior to and throughout competition, particularly during wildfire season or periods of visible smoke.
2. Organizers have the authority to modify schedules, delay, postpone, or cancel competition when AQHI index indicates “High” or “Very High” health risk. Decisions should prioritize the health and safety of athletes, officials, volunteers, and spectators.
3. Mitigation strategies may include shortening events, extending rest periods, rescheduling competition to times of improved air quality, or delaying events until conditions improve.
4. Organizers should communicate air quality conditions and associated risks to participants prior to and during competition. Information should include current AQHI levels, expected health impacts, and any required event modifications.
5. Officials and medical personnel should monitor participants for symptoms related to poor air quality, including coughing, throat irritation, shortness of breath, chest discomfort, dizziness, or unusual fatigue. Participants experiencing symptoms should be removed from activity and assessed as required.
6. Special consideration should be given to junior athletes, volunteers, officials, and individuals with known respiratory conditions. More conservative thresholds or earlier suspension of activity may be applied at the discretion of event officials.

### **Event Modifications**

Organizers in conjunction with the Jury and CEO (or designation) may modify competition formats, shorten events, extend rest periods, or reschedule activities to reduce exposure to extreme weather. These adjustments should be communicated clearly to all participants.

### **Communication**

Clear communication is essential during extreme weather. Participants, officials, volunteers, and spectators should be informed of weather risks and procedures prior to the start of competition. Updates may be communicated using clear announcements, bulletins, or colour-coded alert systems.

Shelter locations should be identified in advance and communicated to participants, officials, volunteers, and spectators prior to the start of competition. Instructions for seeking shelter and resuming competition should be clearly explained. The area used by athletes, officials and spectators on Rifle and Pistol ranges must be covered to provide protection from sun, wind and



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rain. This protection must not give a significant advantage to any firing point or part of the range.

Signage should be posted in athlete and official areas explaining current weather risk levels, symptoms of heat stress, and the location of hydration, cooling, and shelter areas. Colour-coded systems may be used to signal expected behaviour, such as green for normal activity, yellow for caution and modified activity, and red for cancellation or postponement.

Significant weather-related disruptions, delays, postponements, or cancellations should be documented by event organizers.

*Last reviewed: March 31<sup>st</sup> 2026*

*Operational procedures are not approved by the Board of Directors. Operational procedures are approved by the CEO.*