Adverse and Extreme Weather Policy

Issue: 5
Issue Date: November 2026
Review Date: November 2027
Responsible: Hitchin Netball Club Committee

The Committee is collectively responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented, reviewed, and updated as required.

Approval

This document was approved by the Hitchin Netball Club Committee at its meeting on 7 November 2026 and the approval is recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

Purpose

Hitchin Netball Club is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable environment for all players, coaches, officials, and volunteers. This policy sets out the procedures for ensuring safety during adverse and extreme weather conditions, in line with England Netball's Extreme Weather Guidance.

Scope

This policy applies to all HNC activities, including:

- Training sessions
- Matches and competitions
- Club events and trips

It applies to all players, coaches, officials, volunteers, and committee members.

Policy Statement

The safety of all participants is the highest priority. Training or events may be cancelled, postponed, or adapted if adverse or extreme weather conditions pose a risk. All decisions will follow England Netball guidance and be made in a timely and clear manner.

The safety of players, coaches, and volunteers will always take priority over play or schedules.

Procedures / Implementation

Weather Monitoring

The Coaching Team will monitor weather forecasts and make decisions on cancellations or adaptations where necessary.

Cancellation / Postponement Criteria

Training will be cancelled if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- Heavy rain or flooding, snow, hail, lightning, or high winds.
- The temperature is expected to feel below 3°C, in accordance with the Club's agreed cold-weather threshold.
- The Heat Stress Index meets or exceeds 34°C (session reviewed or adapted) or 40.1°C (session cancelled).
- The court conditions are considered dangerous, and the safety of players and coaches cannot be guaranteed.
- Conditions are, or are anticipated to become, too hazardous to travel.
- A Met Office weather warning is in force that may affect the safety of the activity or travel to and from it.

Communication

The Coach for each year group will communicate cancellations via the relevant year WhatsApp group. Cancellations will be issued around 3.30pm for training sessions or as early as possible for weekend matches, to avoid unnecessary or unsafe journeys where possible.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the HNC Committee, or sooner if England Netball updates its Extreme Weather Guidance. All changes will be documented and communicated to members.

References / Supporting Documents

Hitchin Netball Club Policies

- HNC Risk Assessment Checklist Training
- Safeguarding Policy Statement Issue 3

External References:

- EN Extreme Weather Guidance
- EN Risk Assessment Checklist
- EN Safe Practice Guidance for Coaches
- EN Safeguarding Children and Young People in Netball Policy