

LTA COMPETITIONS: EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

Where extreme weather conditions are forecast, the LTA expect players and parents to put their own safety first. Our priority must be the safety of players, parents, coaches, organisers and officials. Organisers and officials will consider the weather conditions, forecasted for the competition period, to decide whether any tournaments will need to be cancelled.

The decision to cancel any tournament is not one that is taken lightly and the decision will be made based on all the information available to us. If tournaments go ahead, but the situation worsens, the Tournament Organiser, Tournament Referee and the venue reserve the right to cancel the tournament in the interest of public safety.

This policy applies to LTA Staged and LTA Approved tournaments.

ORGANISER & REFEREE GUIDANCE

- The **Tournament Organiser** should contact the hosting venue and confirm conditions with the venue the day before the tournament.
- Where the tournament is staged by the LTA, the **Tournament Organiser** will inform the LTA of venue conditions. The **LTA** will consider the situation and make a decision and will then inform the Tournament Organiser.
- The **Tournament Organiser** will inform the Tournament Referee and any other tournament officials of the situation i.e. if tournament is to be cancelled or not, inform the Tournament Referee of the adverse weather FAQs.
- The **Tournament Organiser** will inform the venue if tournament is to be cancelled.
- If tournament is to be cancelled, the **Tournament Organiser** will add a message to the LTA Competitions Portal via TTP to inform players of the decision as well as emailing/phoning them.
- If on the day the weather worsens and affects the number of players who appear the **Tournament Referee** should ensure the draw remains balanced in line with 4.5 of the LTA Competition Regulations.
- After the tournament has been handed over to the Tournament Referee, the **Tournament Referee** is responsible for any decisions however the Tournament Organiser should be consulted where possible.
- The **Tournament Referee** reserves the right to move matches indoors where indoor courts are available, and it is reasonable, safe and practicable to do so.
- If conditions deteriorate, the **Tournament Referee** should check in with the venue to reassess the position. If the Tournament Referee determines it too dangerous to travel the Tournament Referee has the authority to cancel the tournament.
- If the tournament is expected to last for multiple days, the **Tournament Referee** may suspend play for the day and reassess the situation the following day.
- For LTA Staged Competitions, referees who are still in place when the tournament is cancelled will receive their admin fee, their referee fee, and any non-refundable expenses they may have paid out for already (proof required).

Where there the Tournament Organiser is also the Tournament Referee all references to either role will be covered by this individual.

Here are answers to the most frequently asked questions:

1. When will the decision be made as to whether a tournament is cancelled and how will players be notified?

The decision to cancel will be made by the Tournament Organiser as soon as reasonably practicable the day preceding the competition, and will be based on the forecast and/or weather conditions in the local area of the venue.

A player will be notified via email or telephone. Players should look on the LTA Competitions Portal for any up to date messages.

2. If I withdraw after the withdrawal deadline due to adverse weather conditions will I receive penalty points?

Yes, however players can challenge the penalty points by submitting a challenge in the Disciplinary Points area of the LTA Competitions Portal, which can be accessed via the link in the email notification that you will receive once the competition is finished and the results have been submitted.

For such challenges you must make it clear that adverse weather is the reason for the withdrawal. These points will be removed.

3. Will I get a refund if I withdraw after the withdrawal deadline because of adverse weather conditions?

A player will only get a refund if the event has been cancelled and the player had not withdrawn prior to the decision to cancel the event (LTA Competition Regulations 3.23(d)). Should the event go ahead, but a player withdraws after the withdrawal deadline due to adverse weather that player will not receive a refund.

4. Will cancelled tournaments be rearranged?

No. The tournament calendar is already full and finding a suitable date for all the players to be available and an available venue at short notice is not feasible.

5. Who do I contact if I have a question regarding a tournament and I'm worried it might be affected by the weather?

Contact the Tournament Referee. Contact details for each tournament are available on the LTA Competitions Portal.

6. If a tournament is cancelled due to extreme weather conditions do players who were accepted earn any ranking points?

No player will be awarded ranking points.

7. In the situation where one player gets to the event, but the opponent does not, what happens to ranking points?

The match will be treated as a 'walkover' and ranking points awarded accordingly. However, in order for a player to gain any rankings points they must win at least one match (excluding walkovers) in an event.

8. What happens if the event is abandoned before the end of the tournament, but matches have been played?

Players will receive ranking points according to the round reached. However, in order for a player to gain any rankings points they must win at least one match (excluding walkovers) in an event.

9. If there is a link from the cancelled tournament what happens to that linked space in the WCT/WRT/WNT event?

The link space will no longer exist and will be allocated to the first reserve in the higher graded tournament.