



Weather & Air Quality Safety Guidelines

Pickleball Canada Tournaments & Events

Weather - Safety

The Tournament Director or Club Coordinator will ensure the following safety conditions are maintained:

Weather Conditions

Extreme weather conditions (lightning, wind, rain, weather warnings) may be declared before the start of matches or may be put into effect at any time on all courts. Once notified that extreme weather conditions have been declared, officials will inform players immediately and play shall be suspended.

- When the weather is no longer considered extreme, matches can continue.
- Generally, heat conditions are considered to be extreme when the Heat Index (a combination of air temperature and relative humidity) meets or exceeds 34.0 °C (93.2 °F), as indicated by the chart below.
- When the Heat Index meets or exceeds 40.1 °C (104.2 °F), all play shall be suspended.
- However, the tournament director may use his/her judgment and declare that extreme weather conditions are in effect at a lower Heat Index if he/she feels that the safety of the players justifies doing so.

Air Quality Safety Guidelines

Player health and safety is a high priority, thus it is recommended to err on the side of caution if ever in doubt in any situation regarding the health and safety of players, volunteers, spectators and officials.

1. Serve as guidance for member organizations and participants
2. Suggests what participants and organizers should consider in assessing air quality at Pickleball Canada events and awareness of potential health impacts, and
3. Provide additional information about the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) and where the AQHI can be found online.

Steps to ensure Air Quality Safety:

Step 1 – Individuals should head to the [Local Air Quality Health Index Chart](#) as found on the Government of Canada.

Note: use the appropriate provincial website and links to cities.

Step 2 – Find the location; note the station, time, and date, and index calculation. Note: index is normally updated hourly (at the top of the hour) and suggested to use the index calculation that is within one hour of the scheduled match time.

Step 3 – Games and Tournaments: As found on the [Government of Canada](#) webpage, surrounding information around Wildfires - If the AQHI is high (7 to 10), an air quality alert has been issued, and the event involves at-risk populations participating in strenuous physical exertion. It is only when the AQHI is very high 10+ at the start time of matches that Tournament Directors should consider delaying or cancelling the match(es) affected.



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Important note: the Tournament Director reserves the final right to cancel the match if the conditions are considered dangerous, in their opinion. If air quality changes dramatically during a match (e.g. sudden smoke event caused by wind direction and Tournament Directors are advised to use their discretion.

Be aware of weather and other conditions:

- Current forest fires and their locations in the province.
- Local burning of stubble on fields or agricultural fields – these can increase particulate matter in the air without impacting the AQHI for a city.
- Sudden and dramatic changes in wind strength and direction.

For more information, please contact tournaments@pickleballcanada.org