

FIH Operating Procedure

Procedure Name:	Inclement Weather Related Incidents	No: FIH4
Personnel		Impacted
	Athletes	✓
	Broadcast	✓
	Event Director	✓
	Host LOC	✓
	Media	✓
	Medical Officer	✓
	Sport Manager	✓
	Spectators	✓
	Sponsors	✓
	Technical Delegate	✓
Technical Officials	✓	
Procedure application	Event Period	

Procedure Statement / Rationale

To provide an agreed baseline to assist decision making in relation to impact of extreme weather, specifically thunder and lightning, intense rainfall and extreme heat at an FIH hockey event.

Procedure

The Host LOC must provide regular weather reports to FIH in the case of suspected inclement weather. These reports should be provided from the time FIH staff arrive at the venue until the end of the event. Where incidents such as extreme rainfall and thunder and lightning are predicted these should be provided on a more frequent basis, the timing of which will be agreed by the Sport Operations Manager and Technical Delegate

Lightning and Thunder

FIH procedure is to halt activity on field of play if timing between lightning strike and thunderclap is less than 20 seconds

Thunderstorm Risk:

- High Risk: When a thunderstorm is occurring, or is expected to occur at the venue within the hour
- Moderate Risk: When thunderstorms are developing in the vicinity but are not expected to affect the venue within the next hour.
- Low risk: When thunderstorms are developing in the vicinity but are not expected to affect the venue within two hours

Procedure Implementation

On determination that lightning and thunder is a moderate risk the following actions should be taken:

- Half hourly updates on weather position provided by Host LOC. Host LOC to prepare for spectator safety, including evacuation, if necessary, as outlined in the event Health & Safety plan as prepared by Host LOC.
- FIH Sport Operations Manager to advise on likely course of action in relation to field of play and any affected related facilities, e.g. video tower
- Agreement between FIH Sport Operations Manager, Technical Delegate, and Host LOC to reconvene to update discussion at appropriate timescale in relation to onset of weather. FIH Broadcast and FIH Event Director to be kept up to date.

On determination that thunder and lightning is high risk the following actions should be taken:

- Quarter hourly updates on weather position provided by Host LOC.
- Agreement on evacuation plan for spectators to be outlined by Host LOC.
- FIH Sport Operations Manager and Technical Delegate to agree the timescale for taking decision in respect of field of play.
- Technical Delegate to take decision on halting play and to notify all parties.
- If dope testing is being carried out at this time, ensure special transport to move athletes, facility and samples to the main hotel.
- Implementation of the FIH delay, postponement and cancellation procedure.

Post Incident Procedure

- Play should not recommence until at least 20 minutes after the timing between thunder and lightning has extended to more than 20 seconds.
- If the match has to be rescheduled for completion, FIH will decide on the timing of the rescheduling having followed the FIH Delay, Postponement and Cancellation procedure.

Intense Rainfall

Both the Rules of Hockey and FIH Tournament Regulations are silent about how to and who determines when a pitch is unfit for play. There is no definition at which point that a pitch is too filled with water to make it unplayable.

Procedure Implementation

When heavy rainfall is forecast, the Technical Delegate will stay at the Technical Table and be in contact with the match umpires via the reserve umpire. If the umpires are of the view that the pitch has become unplayable, they will stop the match and consult with the Technical Delegate.

If the Technical Delegate deems the pitch unplayable, the match umpires will be contacted via the reserve umpire and instructed to stop the match.

The Technical Delegate should inform FIH's Sport Operations Manager and Event Director as soon as possible if this situation is likely to occur or immediately following this decision if it is not foreseen in advance.

Post Incident Procedure

- The FIH delay, postponement and cancelation procedure should be followed.
- Play will recommence when the Technical Delegate decides that the pitch has become playable. This may be possible when it is still raining.

High Temperatures

The provisions of this aspect of the policy will apply when the temperature in the team bench area (where the players are most readily able to reduce body temperature) is at 35°C, ten minutes before the start of a match or the third period of a match. However, the threshold figure may be reviewed and lowered in locations where high relative humidity (more than 65%) prevails.

A measurement device should be stationed at the technical table as this has same conditions with team benches and does not interfere with the teams. The FIH Sport Operations Managers and if available, the FIH Medical Officer will evaluate the measurements at half time/between quarters.

Hosts shall provide two fans for each team bench and one for the Technical Table.

Where waterless turf is present, infrastructure to irrigate the pitch turf surfaces will be required to have been installed for use on the pitches in order to reduce Field of Play temperatures for athletes in the event of extreme heat as described above.

Procedure Implementation

- Team Managers will be advised before the start of the first or third period as appropriate that the policy is being implemented.
- Procedure 1 - Breaks at the end of the first and third period will be extended to four minutes in order to allow players to rehydrate.
- Procedure 2 – In case of extreme weather condition with humidity above or at 75 % and / or temperatures in excess of 42°C as measured on the Field of Play, a break of 1 minute to be provided at an appropriate break in play around 7 minutes and 30 seconds of the 1st and 2nd quarters. Any decision to apply these break times for 3rd and 4th quarters will be decided based on the weather condition assessed by the FIH Medical Officer. Also, breaks at the end of the first and third period will be extended to four minutes in order to allow players to rehydrate.
- Rehydration should take place in team changing room. If this is not possible because of the layout of the venue, rehydration should take place in an appropriately located place in the shade.

Ice, Snow and Low Temperatures

As with the above section on Intense Rainfall, both the Rules of Hockey and FIH Tournament Regulations are silent about how to and who determines when a pitch is unfit for play. There is no definition at which point that a pitch is too filled with ice or snow to make it unplayable.

Ice starts to form when water reaches a temperature of 4°C. Host Organising Committees are encouraged to seek advice from the relevant turf supplier about playing in these conditions as there may be warranty restrictions.

Procedure Implementation

- A thermometer shall be stationed at the Technical Table.
- The Host National Association shall provide the FIH Sport Operations Manager updates on the weather position at least every 15 minutes.
- When ice and snow are forecast, the FIH Sport Operations Manager and Technical Delegate will stay at the Technical Table and be in contact with the match umpires via the reserve umpire. If the umpires are of the view that the pitch has become unplayable, indications of this will be players slipping on water that is starting to freeze and that water is ponding due to drainage pathways becoming blocked by the formation of ice, or if snowfall should make the outline of the pitch markings and / or ball difficult to distinguish, they will stop the match and consult with the Technical Delegate.
- If the ambient air temperatures drops to 3°C, the match should be stopped and a pitch inspection take place to determine whether the match should be suspended until the ambient air temperature reaches 4°C.
- If the Technical Delegate deems the pitch unplayable, the match umpires will be contacted via the reserve umpire and instructed to stop the Match.
- The FIH Sport Operations Manager shall inform the Host National Association as soon as this situation is likely to occur or immediately following this decision if it is not foreseen in advance. The FIH Sport Operations Manager will regularly update the FIH Event Director and Host LOC of the developing situation.
- The FIH delay, cancellation and postponement procedure should then be followed.

Original Procedure Approval

Name	Position		Date
David Luckes	Sport & Development Director	<i>D Luckes</i>	12 October 2015
Sarah Massey	Events and Marketing Director	<i>S Massey</i>	12 October 2015

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