



NEW SOUTH WALES
GOLF CLUB

Lightning Policy

See Rule 5.7 which covers discontinuance and resumption of play. The relevant part of Rule 5.7 includes the following:

a. When Permitted

The player must not discontinue play unless:

- (i) the *Committee* has suspended play;
- (ii) s/he believes there is a danger from lightning;

Bad weather is not of itself a good reason for discontinuing play.

If the player discontinues play without specific permission from the *Committee*, s/he must report to the *Committee* as soon as practicable. If s/he does so and the *Committee* considers the reason satisfactory, there is no penalty.

- Anytime there is lightning activity there is a significant risk of being struck by lightning when outside. Due to the unpredictability of lightning strikes, it is not possible to determine when members and guests are at risk or to forecast it and no alarm or warning will be sounded if lightning occurs.
- It is the responsibility of all members, guests and other persons to check weather forecast and to ensure their own safety with regards to lightning before using entering the outdoor facilities at the Club.
- It is a condition of entry to the Club's grounds that members and guests acknowledge they do not rely on the Club to ensure their safety from lightning and the Club will not be liable for death or injury to players or other persons caused by lightning.

Match Committee

February 2024



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Recommendations for Lightning Protection

The "30/30" rule is recommended for lightning safety and serves as a guide for the suspension and subsequent resumption of activity. The first part of this rule (a flash-to-bang count of 30 seconds) is a guide to the suspension of activity. The flash-to-bang count is one of the most practical techniques for estimating the distance to lightning activity. Given that sound travels at a speed of about one kilometre every three seconds, the time that elapses between the flash of lightning and clap of thunder can be divided by three to give a measure of how far away the storm is in kilometres. For example, if the time elapsed between the flash of lightning and clap of thunder is 6 seconds then the lightning is approximately 2 kms away.

The second part of the "30/30" rules provides the criteria for resumption of play. Here it is recommended that people wait 30 minutes after the last sight of lightning or sound of thunder. This figure is based on the observation that a typical storm moves at about 40 km/h. Thus, waiting 30 minutes allows the thunderstorm to be about 20 kms away, minimizing the probability of a nearby strike. It is important to emphasize that blue skies and lack of rainfall are not adequate reasons to breach the 30-minute return-to-play rule.

The Match Committee is confident that understanding the relevant Rules of Golf and the proximity of lightning will help provide direction to Members should lightning be in the area.

Match Committee

February 2024