

Malpas Seniors League. Guidance Note for procedure during hot weather.

There is a standing presumption that all matches will be played in accordance with the published fixture list on the time and date indicated therein. HOWEVER, this is a seniors league where players might be especially vulnerable to extreme weather and the following guidance should be followed.

During hot weather:

1. Home teams/host clubs should provide cold drinks to both teams throughout the duration of the match, not just at the designated “tea time” and do their best to provide additional shade.
2. Players should be given “rest breaks” during a game should they need and request it.

If a hot weather warning has been issued by the Met Office:

Generally, the Met Office will give at least a day’s notice of probable extreme conditions. In those circumstances the following procedure should apply:

1. Every player has a duty of care **to themselves**. Any player who is concerned about the possible effect on them of the hot weather should contact their captain and request to be left out of the team for that match.
2. Captains who know particular players may be vulnerable should encourage that player not to play and should select a replacement where possible. **If this is not possible, it may be that the team has to go short.** This is preferable to risking someone’s health. – It’s just a game of bowls!
3. If any captain is concerned about the health or wellbeing of their team generally, they should contact the opposing captain, and host club where applicable, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE with a view to re-arranging the match. Choices for re-arranged matches could be
 - a. Earlier the same day.
 - b. Later the same day (eg if the green is free in the evening it will generally be cooler then).
 - c. On another date and time within 28 days of the original fixture. – Leaving the match until the end of the season would be risky and a big backlog of matches could accumulate if we have another hot summer.

If the above procedures are followed, it should NOT be necessary to start and then abandon a match part way through.

4. In the event of a match starting and conditions deteriorating and one team wants to abandon and postpone and the other one doesn’t, captains should ALWAYS err on the side of safety and postpone the match to a later date. In accordance with Rule 10, scores will stand to the carried forward match both on completed games and part completed games.

The Malpas Seniors League has always prided itself on being a friendly league and the Management Team would expect all captains to be sympathetic to the concerns of other captains and in particular be mindful of the health and wellbeing of ALL players.

Please advise the Secretary by messaging app or email of any matches rearranged to a different date.