



Maitland & District Cricket Association – Air Quality Policy

Maitland & District Cricket Association Incorporated

31 August 2020

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1. DEFINITIONS

In this Policy:

AQI means Air Quality Index

Board means the Board of Management (Executive) of the MDCA.

BOM means the Australian Bureau of Meteorology.

District Club or Club means the following cricket clubs:

Bowthorne Cricket Club, City United Cricket Club, Eastern Suburbs Cricket Club, Fred Harvey Memorial Cricket Club, Hinton Cricket Club, Kurri Kurri Kookaburras Cricket Club, Kurri Weston, Lakeside Village Panthers, Lochinvar Cricket Club, Northern Suburbs Cricket Club, Old Victoria Cricket Club, Paterson Cricket Club, Port Stephens Cricket Club, Raworth Rabbitohs Cricket Club, Raymond Terrace District Cricket Club, Rutherford Hotel Cricket Club, Seaham District Cricket Club, South Maitland Railway Cricket Club, Tarro Cricket Club, Tenambit Morpeth Cricket Club, The Belmore Hotel Cricket Club, Thornton Park District Cricket Club, Thornton Park District Cricket Club, Tilligerry Cricket Club, Western Suburbs Cricket Club.

District Cricket means cricket matches and competitions played under the control and jurisdiction of the association.

DPIE means the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment.

MDCA is the Maitland and District Cricket Association Incorporated.

Official Umpire is an umpire officially appointed to the match by the Umpire's association.

Participant means any player, umpire, scorer, coach, manager or other person involved in the club/team.

Player means an individual who is registered by a club with the association to play district cricket.

Policy in this document means the Maitland and District Cricket Association Air Quality Policy.

Umpires' Association is the Maitland District Cricket Umpires' Association.

2. THE POLICY

This Policy relates to air quality, including smoke conditions, during cricket matches, and training sessions, and forms part of the Maitland and District Cricket Association By-Laws.

3. PURPOSE

- 3.1. With the onset of bushfire smoke significantly affecting our games and grounds, and posing a health risk to players and officials, Maitland and District Cricket Association has developed the following policy to assist in managing the risks associated with physical exercise in poor air quality and smoke haze.
- 3.2. The MDCA considers it important to pursue best practice in prevention and management of air quality issues whilst participating in MDCA sanctioned competitions and training sessions.
- 3.3. The aims of the MDCA Air Quality Policy are to:
 - a) ensure that there is a protocol that can be implemented when poor air quality conditions are expected; and
 - b) introduce and implement straightforward and unambiguous guidelines in respect to poor air quality events and the impact on matches and training.

4. SCOPE

The MDCA Air Quality Policy applies to all Players, Player Support Personnel and Match Officials (collectively known as Participants) involved in any MDCA sanctioned competitions, including matches or training for such competitions.

5. RELATED DOCUMENTS

This policy has been adapted from the Cricket Australia guidelines for Community Cricket, Cricket Australia and International Cricket Council guidelines used for elite cricket together with the Australian Institute of Sport guidelines and Government recommendations.

6. KEY AIR QUALITY MEASUREMENT

The key air quality measurement used in deciding if it is safe to play, or train, in this policy is a Particle Matter measure (PM2.5). The Air Quality Measurement:

- Is typically published every hour, but as a 24-hour rolling average.
- The PM2.5 rating is a measure of the Particle Matters that are smaller than 2.5 micrometres in diameter (this is approximately 3% of the diameter of a human hair).
- PM2.5 particles are considered most hazardous because they bypass the protective mechanisms in the nose and throat that normally trap particles, travelling into the lungs.

7. AIR QUALITY DATA

- 7.1. The MDCA will be utilising official data provided through the BOM shall be the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment – Air Quality Index: <https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/air-quality/current-air-quality>
- 7.2. Weather data from the closest possible BOM location to the match or training venue should be obtained. If localised BOM data is not available, for example the ground is more than 10 km from the nearest BOM weather station, then an alternate reputable weather site is acceptable.
- 7.3. Despite there being numerous AQI sites in the Upper Hunter area, the number of AQI sites for the Lower Hunter are limited, with three in the Newcastle area, and one in the Maitland area.
 - 7.3.1. Therefore, for the purpose of this policy the main location site of the AQI, for grounds utilised by MDCA, will be the **Beresfield site**.
 - 7.3.2. Whilst it is acknowledged that the number and locations of grounds utilised by MDCA is widespread, a duty of care rests with the MDCA for all participants and therefore a holistic approach will be adopted in relation to the AQI.
 - 7.3.3. Participants safety is the MDCA's number one priority and a conservative approach should be taken when deciding if it is safe to play or train.
- 7.4. Noting how quickly weather conditions can change and smoke pollution can become significantly worse or significantly improve in the space of hours, the decision to play or train should ideally be considered in the same way as other weather events (rain, poor light) and be made on the day.
- 7.5. Examples of alternative Air Quality data source that can be used if the NSW DPIE data is not available are:
 - World Air Quality Index website: <https://aqicn.org/map/world/>;

8. AIR QUALITY PROTOCOL

- 8.1. No match shall commence if the Air Quality (AQI) at Beresfield is 150 or more.
- 8.2. When a PM2.5 reading is 150+ for the Beresfield AQI Site play must be suspended.
- 8.3. It is the responsibility of the scorers (batting side if no scorers) and Official Umpires to check the air quality levels during the match. Checks should occur 25 minutes past each hour if conditions are hazy. Play must stop on the half-hour if the PM2.5 reading reaches or exceeds 150. Players should go inside a pavilion, and if no pavilion is conveniently accessible, play must be abandoned. If the next reading taken does not drop below 150, play must be abandoned. Captains can agree to abandon the match earlier.
- 8.4. If the reading at 9.30am on match-day is above 200, play will be abandoned for the day and communicated to all club administrators and players.

- 8.4.1. The ultimate decision as to whether matches can proceed will be vested with the MDCA.

9. LOSS OF PLAYING TIME (due to poor air quality)

- 9.1. As per other interruptions (i.e. rain, lightning, heat, etc.), overs will be reduced, and Duckworth/Lewis Calculator may be required to determine a target score or result if the match is interrupted.

10. ADVANCE CANCELLATION OF AN ENTIRE DAY'S PLAY

The MDCA may determine to cancel a day's play in the event that the forecast for air quality, at 4:00pm on the day prior to a scheduled match, is 150 or more.

11. REVIEW OF AIR QUALITY POLICY

- 11.1. This MDCA Air Quality Policy will be reviewed annually.
- 11.2. This review will be conducted by the Maitland and District Cricket Association Board.

12. HEALTH ISSUES

The risk of health issues due to poor air quality is related to:

1. Concentration of pollutants in the air (air quality measurement)
2. Exposure
 - how long you are exposed to the pollutants
 - how much you are breathing in (e.g. exercising v stationary)
3. Individual risk factors like
 - Asthma or other respiratory conditions
 - Pregnancy
 - Older or very young people
 - Cardiovascular disease

13. INDEMNITY

In all matters relating to the conduct of the sport of cricket as conducted by affiliated clubs the Board shall be the Final arbiter and the Boards decision shall be Final. This shall include but not be limited to the conduct of competitions, the determining of rules, the maintaining of discipline and the determination of actions offensive to the sport of cricket, and in this regard it shall be bound only by the rules of natural justice and act in the best interests of the Sport of Cricket.

The MDCA, is indemnified from and against all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, suits and expenses which may be incurred by or asserted against their capacity, provided that such indemnity shall not extend to those liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, suits and expenses which have been incurred as a result of any negligence, fraud or wilful misconduct.

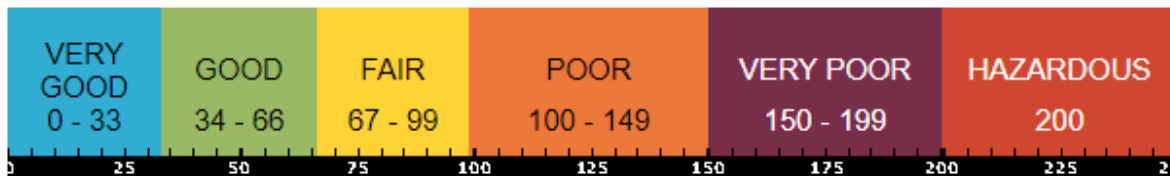
COMMUNITY CRICKET AIR QUALITY SCALE

The table below is adapted from the Australian Institute of Sport and NSW Public Health Unit recommendations and can be used as a guide on how to interpret the impact of air quality measures on community (including Premier Cricket) cricket.

Community Cricket	
Air quality measure	Action
VERY GOOD (0-33)	Enjoy activities
GOOD (34 -66)	Enjoy activities
FAIR (67-99)	Asthmatic athletes: Should have medical review prior to performing high intensity extended training outdoors
VERY POOR (100-149)	AIR POLLUTION HEALTH ALERT Asthmatics or symptomatic non-asthmatics should not compete or train outdoors. Minimise asymptomatic athlete exposure
HAZARDOUS (150+)	AIR POLLUTION HEALTH ALERT Outdoor training should be rescheduled indoors, and exposure should be minimised for everyone. Serious consideration should be given to delaying or cancelling play.

14. AIR QUALITY INDEX

14.1. Air Quality Index (AQI) levels are displayed with colours representing each level.



14.2. Air Quality Index (AQI) data – updated hourly. The ‘Site AQI’ will display the hourly reading and the colour will represent the condition as per the about scale in Section 15.1. The Beresfield site is displayed within the Lower Hunter zone of monitoring stations. Further detailed data can be obtained from the Lower Hunter live air quality data as detailed in Section 15.3.

Pollutants		Ozone O3	Ozone O3	Nitrogen dioxide NO2	Visibility NEPH	Carbon monoxide CO	Sulfur dioxide SO2	Particles PM10	Particles PM2.5	Site AQI highest level at the site	Regional AQI highest level for the region
Averaging Periods		1-hour average	rolling 4-hour average	1-hour average	1-hour average	rolling 8-hour average	1-hour average	1-hour average	1-hour average		
Sydney East	Cook And Phillip	11	7	16	3	2	0	0	0	16	27
	Chullora	19	24	7	6	0	0	7	1	24	
	Earlwood	23	24	5	1			4	4	24	
	Macquarie Park	21	27	6	1	2	0	7	3	27	
	Randwick	24	24	5	5		1	6	10	24	
	Rozelle	20	23	6	1		0	7	1	23	
Sydney North-west	Parramatta North	22	28	4	0	2	0	3	4	28	38
	Prospect	25	31	3	1	0	0	8	1	31	
	Richmond	30	38	0	0		0	3	0	38	
	Rouse Hill	27	34	2	1	2	0	6	0	34	
	St Marys	28	36	0	0			3	2	36	
Sydney South-west	Bargo	28	35	1	1		0	2	4	35	39
	Bringelly	25	32		1		0	2		32	
	Camden	28	35	1	0	1		2	0	35	
	Campbelltown West	23	30	3	1	2	0	2	0	30	
	Liverpool	24	30	5	1	0	0	0	23	30	
	Oakdale	30	39	0	1			3	3	39	
Illawarra	Wollongong	26	32	5	1	1	0	0	4	32	36
	Kembla Grange	30	36	1	0			0	10	36	
	Albion Park Sth			0	0		0	1	5	5	
Lower Hunter	Newcastle	16	21	4	1	2	0	2	0	21	23
	Beresfield	17	20	5	1		3	5	0	20	
	Wallsend	18	23	4	1		1	4	4	23	
Central Coast	Wyong	22	30	9	0	1	0	5	0	30	30
Central Tablelands	Bathurst							6	2	6	6
	Orange				1			2	3	3	
Mid-north Coast	Coffs Harbour	24	23	2	1	3		1	0	24	24
	Port Macquarie	16		2	1		0	1	0	16	
Northern Tablelands	Armidale				2			2	2	2	2
North-west Slopes	Gunnedah	18	21	1				3	3	21	21
	Narrabri							8	7	8	
	Tamworth							5	0	5	
Southern Tablelands	Goulburn	31	39	1	1			6	7	39	39
South-west Slopes	Albury							16	16	16	16
	Wagga Wagga Nth							9	3	9	
Muswellbrook	Muswellbrook			1			0	6	2	6	6
Singleton	Singleton							6	3	6	6

14.3. Lower Hunter live air quality data

