

UniSport Australia Guideline

Abandonment of sporting competitions

Introduction

UniSport manages several sporting competitions across a calendar year. It is recognised that various factors may prevent these sporting competitions from being completed in their entirety. This guideline outlines what process will be undertaken should a game or competition be abandoned for any reason.

When to use this guideline

This guideline should be used if a single game or sporting competition is abandoned by inclement weather or circumstances such as venue evacuation, venue issues, serious injury, lack of officials or other unforeseen events.

1. Abandonment due to inclement weather

1.1. Single game

- a) In the event that inclement weather results in the inability to complete a single game, the following process will be implemented:
 - i. If play has ceased in the first half of the match the game will be deemed a draw.
 - ii. If play has ceased in the second half of the match, the team which was in the lead at the time of the game being stopped, will be declared the winner.
 - iii. If play has ceased in the second half of the match and the two teams are drawn, the match will be deemed a draw.

1.2. Partial days play

- a) In the event that inclement weather results in the inability to complete a portion of the games scheduled in a day's play, where possible, these games will be rescheduled. If rescheduling of games is not possible, the following options will be reviewed by competition managers in conjunction with UniSport event managers:
 - i. Game times of those matches affected will be shortened to fit with the time left in the competition.

1.3. Full day of competition

- a) In the event that inclement weather results in the inability to complete a full day play of a competition, the following process will be implemented by event managers:
 - i. If the number of games abandoned equal a full round of competition, that round will not be played, and no results will be recorded for any team for that round of play.

1.4. Abandonment affecting finals

- a) In the case that inclement weather affects the ability to play quarter finals, semi-finals or final placing matches, UniSport will implement the following process:
 - i. If games cannot be rescheduled at all or be moved to another venue for completion, the priority will be to play games that need to be played to assist in determining a final ranking outcome for the top four placings only.
 - ii. If round of 16, quarter-final, semi-final or other progression matches cannot take place, the higher ranked team from the round-robin stage will progress as winners
 - iii. Games or matches that determine fifth place or lower will be deemed a draw and teams will share the equal placing for the final ranking.
 - iv. Games or matches that determine fourth place or above will also be deemed a draw and teams will share the equal placing for the final ranking if all avenues to play these fixtures have been exhausted.

2. Abandonment due to other issues

2.1. Venue issue or venue evacuation

- a) If a game is abandoned due to a venue issue or venue evacuation, the following process will apply:
 - i. If play has ceased in the first half of the match, the game will be deemed a draw.
 - ii. If play has ceased in the second half of the match, the team in the lead at the time of the game being stopped, will be declared the winner.
 - iii. If play has ceased in the second half of the match and the two teams are drawn, the match will be deemed a draw.

2.2. Venue evacuation due to venue fire drill

- a) If a fire drill is held at a venue and the venue needs to be evacuated and this evacuation results in games having to be stopped, the following process will occur:
 - i. Games will stop at the allotted time and all participants will take part in the fire drill as directed by venue staff.
 - ii. Upon return to the venue, games will recommence where they left off providing that no more than 20 minutes has elapsed since the initial stoppage.
 - iii. If more than 20 minutes has elapsed since the stoppage for the fire drill:
 - If the game was in the first half or within the first two quarters of a match, the first half or first two quarters will be deemed complete and the game will recommence immediately with the second half of the game (or at the start of the third quarter).
 - If the game was in the second half or within the third or fourth quarter, the game will be deemed complete and the team in the lead will be declared the winner. If teams are drawn, the game will be deemed a draw.

2.3. Serious injury

- a) UniSport recognises that serious injuries can take place on the field of play and some injuries require the injured person to be immobilised until such time as they can be safely removed from the field of play by appropriate medical personnel.
- b) If a player is injured and cannot be moved from the field, the game will stop until such time that person is removed safely by approved medical personnel. Upon removal of the injured player, the game will recommence provided there is still official time left in the match.
- c) If there is no official time left in the match and the game was stopped in the first half or within the first two quarters of a match, the game will be declared a draw.
- d) If there is no official time left in the match and the game was stopped in the second half or within the third or fourth quarter of the match, the team that was in the lead at the time that the game was stopped, will be declared the winner.

3. Sport specific abandonment/match delay guidelines

In a general sense, most sports will have specific abandonment or match delay guidelines in place for their sport. These are to be considered in the context of this overall UniSport guideline by the competition manager in conjunction with the UniSport event manager when implementing their decision.

4. Prioritisation for completion of competition

UniSport reserves the right to abandon and/or re-schedule fixtures to prioritise the competition being completed with impending inclement weather. Weather forecast information released by the Bureau of Metereology may be considered to make informed decisions around re-scheduling and/or abandonment in this regard. This may or may not include abandonment of a round of progression matches to move to the next stage of the tournament.

Previous amendments

January 2016 | June 2017 | October 2017 | March 2018 | March 2024