

VICSWIM Summer Kidz Weather Management Policy

VICSWIM strives to create a safe and positive environment for all participants, parents, and guardians. This policy aims to guide the delivery of outdoor VICSWIM programs regarding hot, cold, and extreme weather conditions, considering the occupational health and safety, public safety, and facility preparation, and applies to all VICSWIM participants, Lifeguards, Teachers, and Regional Coordinators.

1. Modified Programs

In extreme weather, VICSWIM aims to offer modified programs before cancellation. Options include land-based lessons, shoulder-level water activities, and participant breaks in high temperatures.

VICSWIM Regional Coordinators and teachers will assess suitability for land-based water safety activities before cancelling classes.

2. Facility Closures Cancellations

a. Cold Weather

- Outdoor pool management will decide closures based on the evening forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology Melbourne for the following day. Should facility management decide not to open for VICSWIM they will notify VICSWIM administration. VICSWIM administration will then notify Teachers, Regional Coordinators and the enrolling Parent or Guardian via email.
- On cold days forecast below 23 degrees many outdoor pools close, particularly those which are solar heated or not heated.

b. Extreme Weather Conditions

- Pools may close for safety due to storms, hail, lightning, bushfires, or high winds.
- VICSWIM follows venue decisions, conducting dry aquatic activities if safe to do so before actioning cancellation.

3. Open and Inland Waterway Cancellation

a. Cold Weather

- Open and Inland water venues will move to a modified program when the temperature is below 23 degrees, if safe to do so.

b. Extreme Weather Conditions

- Open and Inland waterway program areas may be evacuated, and program cancelled for weather conditions, such as storms, hail, lightning, bush fires and high winds.
- At patrolled beaches the Surf Lifesaving Club may close the beach for any reason, the VICSWIM program must adhere to the closure and cancel the lessons for the duration of beach closure.

c. Hot weather

- Where sand temperatures are too high for students to walk on or if there is no shade available VICSWIM may cancel programs to ensure the safety of VICSWIM families and staff.
- This cancellation may be decided and actioned when VICSWIM staff arrive at the venue. VICSWIM administration will endeavour to contact families as soon as possible to notify cancellation.

4. Monitoring of Weather Forecasts

a. Open and Inland Water ways

- Regional Coordinators of the inland and open water locations will monitor the Bureau of Meteorology Melbourne weather forecast daily and for several days in advance to assist with forward planning for extreme weather response. This information will then be used to advise VICSWIM administration of adaptation or cancellation of the program if necessary. Any cancellations will be notified by the VICSWIM administration via email.

b. Outdoor Pools

- Centre Managers and Duty Managers of the host facilities will monitor the daily forecasts for hot and cold weather planning.
- This information will be communicated to the VICSWIM Regional coordinators and administration team, who will in turn notify VICSWIM families and staff as required.

5. Definitions

Extreme Weather - When the weather is significantly different from the usual weather pattern.

Examples of extreme weather in the VICSWIM program include but are not limited to:

- Low temperatures – below 23°C
- High temperatures – above 40°C
- Bush fires
- Thunder or Dust Storms
- Poor air or water quality
- High winds
- Floods

Reviewed: November 2023.

Next Review: November 2025.

Responsible: VICSWIM Program Manager

Approved by: K.Parton, CEO ARV.