

# BFA Adverse Weather Checklist for Tournament Organisers

## HEAT PROTOCOLS

Trigger: Forecast or observed temperature  $\geq 24^{\circ}\text{C}$

- Monitor UK Met Office forecasts and real-time conditions
- Implement shade structures and hydration stations
- Communicate heat alerts to competitors and officials
- Reference *Rule D.1.1* and Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Exclude dogs showing signs of heat stroke (*Rule D.2.1*)

## LIGHTNING & THUNDERSTORM PROTOCOL

Trigger: Lightning within 15 km radius

- Suspend racing immediately
- Resume only after 30 minutes with no strikes
- Document delays per *Rules B.2.2.2* and *A.3.2*
- Consult BFA Judges Board if escalation is needed

## HIGH WIND, RAIN, OR HAIL

Trigger: Unsafe ring or equipment conditions

- Assess risk to dogs, handlers, and equipment
- Suspend or delay racing as needed
- Invoke Withdrawal from Competition (*Rule A.3.12*) if conditions persist

## SNOW & ICE PROTOCOL

Trigger: Accumulation of snow or ice on surfaces or unsafe travel conditions

- Cancel or suspend racing if footing is compromised
- Ensure safe access routes for vehicles and participants before proceeding
- Clear and treat competition areas with pet-safe de-icing products
- Include snow/ice hazards in risk assessment and document actions taken (*Appendix A*)

## DOG WELFARE MONITORING

- Watch for signs of heat stress, exhaustion, or dehydration
- Ensure access to cool water and shaded rest areas
- Enforce exclusion if welfare is compromised (*Rule D.2.1*)

## SUN PROTECTION & HYDRATION

- Provide SPF 30+ sunscreen access
- Ensure water stations are stocked and accessible
- Include these provisions in your risk assessment (*Appendix A*)

## RISK ASSESSMENT & DOCUMENTATION

- Complete weather-related risk matrix before event
- Use BFA templates for hazard identification
- Include mitigation actions for all extreme weather scenarios

## British Flyball Association (BFA) Risk Assessment Template

Event Details Field	Entry (type directly below each field)
Event Name	
Date of Tournament	
Location	
Head Judge(s)	

### General Event Risk Assessment

Hazard	Who Might Be Harmed	Risk Level	Control Measures	Further Action Needed
Slips, trips, and falls	Handlers, dogs, officials	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	Clear walkways, secure cables, dry surfaces	
Equipment malfunction	Dogs, handlers, judges, light co-ordinators	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	Pre-event inspection, backup equipment available	
Dog aggression	Other dogs, handlers	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	Separation protocols, handler briefings	

### Adverse Weather Risk Assessment

Weather Condition	Risk Level	Control Measures	Decision Thresholds
Heat and sun	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	Shade structures, water refill points/dog hydration areas, SPF 30+ sunscreen, cooling pools for dogs	Suspend if Met Office Red Zone forecast
Cold Weather	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	Warm-up areas, protective gear, shortened ring time	Postpone if freezing conditions persist
Lightning	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	Monitor flash-to-bang timing, suspend play if thunder/lightning within 15 km	Resume after 30 minutes without activity
Hailstorms	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	Immediate suspension, seek shelter in vehicles or buildings	Resume after storm passes and safety confirmed
High Wind	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	Secure tents and equipment, suspend judging during gusts	Cancel if sustained unsafe conditions persist
Heavy Rain	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	Modify ring layout, monitor ground conditions	Suspend if flooding or visibility compromised
Ice/Snow	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High	Immediate suspension, should temperatures fall below -5° seek shelter in warm vehicles or buildings. Surfaces become too slippery.	Resume if temperatures significantly rise and safety confirmed

### Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Tournament Manager	Oversee implementation of safety protocols, communicate decisions to participants
Judge(s)	Monitor weather, enforce suspensions, assess ring safety
Handlers	Monitor dogs for stress, comply with weather-related instructions
Club Officials	Provide shelter, hydration, and emergency support

**Emergency Contacts**

Contact Type	Details (type below each field)
Local Emergency Services	
Nearest Hospital/Vet	
Met Office Alerts	<a href="http://www.metoffice.gov.uk">www.metoffice.gov.uk</a>
BFA Governance Contact	

**Review and Sign-Off**

Role	Name	Signature (type name or insert digital signature)	Date
Tournament Organiser			
Judge Authorised by BFA			