

Summary of Thresholds and Actions

Condition	Action	
1. Heat.	21–24°C with sun and low wind	Increase shade, hydration, and rest breaks. Encourage handlers to monitor dogs closely, especially brachycephalic breeds.
	25–27°C with moderate humidity or still air	Activate cooling stations (e.g. fans, misting tents), reduce race frequency, and extend recovery periods. Consider early morning or evening scheduling.
	28–30°C sustained, breeze and humidity should be taken into consideration and temperature should be taken both in the sun and in the shade for consideration	Suspend racing temporarily. Reassess hourly based on forecast and on-site conditions. Prioritise welfare over schedule.
	30°C+ with humidity >60% or strong sun exposure	Immediate suspension. Activate emergency protocols including veterinary standby, shaded evacuation zones, and hydration alerts.
2. Rain.	If there are safety concerns: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the competition/event may be discontinued for a period of up to half an hour 2. conditions are then reassessed to determine whether the competition/event should resume or be cancelled. 	
3. Hail	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cease all activities 2. Seek protective cover 3. Assess conditions when hailstorm ceases 	
4. Lightening	All outdoor activities should stop once thunder is heard. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the event of weather tracking devices, the storm is 15 km away regardless of the timing of the thunder and lightning. 2. Once Thunder is heard and activities have ceased, Judges must wait at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder or observation of lightning and ensure conditions are safe before leaving shelter to resume activities. The Head Judge and Judges must concur that the 30-minute Resumption rule is applicable prior to resuming competition activities and advising members to leave shelter. 3. Each time thunder is heard the 30-minute clock should be restarted. Follow the criteria for suspension and resumption of activities without exception	
5. High Wind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Head Judges should suspend activities during severe wind gusts but may resume when conditions settle. Tents and event shelters etc: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Should be appropriately erected and tethered. ● Should be lowered or dismantled in high wind. 	
6. Snow & Freezing Conditions	Snow Accumulation	If snow depth exceeds safe footing for dogs or handlers, suspend or cancel competition. Ensure paths and competition areas are cleared and treated with pet-safe de-icing products
	Ice Formation	Cancel events if ice is present on competition surfaces or walkways to prevent slips and injuries (pet-safe de-icing products are unavailable)
	Emergency Preparedness	Keep snow shovels, salt alternatives, and blankets readily available for a quick response. Ensure roads to and from the venue are safe for participants before allowing the event to proceed.
	Temperatures below 0°C	Provide sheltered warm-up areas, limit outdoor exposure, offer warm beverages for handlers.

7. Cold weather	Temperatures below 0°C with wind chill	Consider delaying or suspending competition. Ensure adequate heated indoor facilities are available for dogs (racing and non-racing).
	Sustained and continuous temperatures of 0°C over 3 or more days could lead to frozen ground	Competitions should be cancelled; ground thawing can take several days to a week once temperatures rise above 0°C
	Winter Storm Warning	Competition is likely to be suspended or cancelled. Focus on dog welfare and first aid for hypothermia.
8. Vehicles	Dogs in cars	<p>Heat: During periods of hot weather, vehicles should have plenty of ventilation to prevent overheating. Ensure dogs have an adequate supply of fresh water at all times. Park vehicles out of direct sunlight whenever possible. Use sunblock sheeting to cover the vehicle and reduce heat buildup.</p> <p>Cold: Care should be taken when leaving dogs in cars in excessively cold weather. Ensure dogs have good air circulation but are not left in a draft. Ensure dogs have access to plenty of warm blankets. Monitor the temperature carefully, as cars can become dangerously cold even with blankets. Avoid leaving dogs for prolonged periods and limit their time in the car to just a few minutes if possible. Check for condensation to ensure proper ventilation without creating drafts. Make sure dogs stay hydrated, as cold weather can still cause dehydration. If you'll be away for more than a few minutes, consider alternatives such as bringing your dog inside or arranging a warm space.</p>

BFA Adverse Weather Policy

Summary for Tournament Organisers

Purpose: To ensure the safety of all participants and dogs during extreme weather at BFA-sanctioned Tournaments be they indoors or outdoors.

Key Responsibilities: Tournament Organisers must assess weather risks during planning and monitor conditions throughout the event.

Judges authorised by BFA must suspend play if lightning or hail is observed, or if heat thresholds are exceeded.

Handlers must ensure dogs are protected from heat, cold, and other weather extremes.

Weather Thresholds:

Heat: If UK Met Office forecasts fall into the Extreme (Red) Zone for temperature/humidity, the tournament must be suspended.

Lightning: Suspend racing if thunder is heard or lightning is observed within 15 km. Resume only after 30 minutes without further activity.

Hail/High Wind: Cease activities immediately and reassess safety.

Snow/Ice: Suspend or cancel if surfaces are unsafe and cannot be made safe. Cancel event if travel conditions pose a risk. Ensure roads to and from the venue are safe for participants before allowing the event to proceed.

Required Provisions:

- Shade and hydration for dogs and officials
- Access to shelter during storms
- Ventilation and air conditioning (where possible) in hot conditions
- Heated areas during cold weather

Escalation Protocol:

- Decisions made jointly by Head Judges and Judges
- Notify participants promptly of delays or cancellations
- Document all decisions and weather-related incidents

Resources:

- UK Met Office: www.metoffice.gov.uk
- UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE): www.hse.gov.uk