



# TIN ALLEY NETBALL

WET WEATHER GUIDELINES



# TIN ALLEY NETBALL WET WEATHER GUIDELINES

amended June 2026 by MU Sport

Netball has been played on outdoor surfaces for many decades, with the surface used improving significantly over the years.

While games will not be called off solely because it is raining, player and umpire safety is paramount and if the courts at Melbourne University are deemed to be unsafe, matches will be cancelled.

It is important that correct footwear is worn to endure wet weather conditions. Players may also wear a rain jacket of any colour under their playing bibs without being penalised.

Umpires have been trained to adjust their umpiring in wet weather conditions by slowing the game down if necessary. They will continue to endeavor to umpire within the rules and spirit of the game. Players are expected to adjust accordingly.

When evaluating whether it is safe to play in wet weather, the coordinator and umpires will consider many factors, including:

- Amount and intensity of rain, sleet and hail;
- Visibility;
- Thunderstorm activity with lightning
- Water volume on the court;
- Lack of grip on the court

When assessing a thunderstorm and lightning the following will be considered:

- A safe distance from lightning is considered more than 10km, appropriate shelter should be sought when strikes are within a 10km radius.
- Where a specialised lightning warning device or specific information from a weather radar such as BOM, the 30/30 safety guideline will be applied
  - o Light travels faster than sound, assuming that the light reaches the observer instantaneously, and knowing that sounds take approximately 3 seconds to travel 1 kilometer, the distance can be determined using  $\text{distance (km)} = \text{Time from observing the flash to hearing the thunder (3 seconds)}$
  - o This means that as the interval between the flash and hearing thunder approaches 30 seconds, all those in exposed areas should be seeking or already inside safe shelter.
  - o It is recommended to wait 30 minutes after the last sight of lightning to resume play.

Melbourne University Sport will notify team captains/primary contacts when a game is deemed unsafe to play and subsequently cancelled. Additionally, if conditions worsen throughout the game and become unsafe, the game may be called off.

Should a match be called off, points will be allocated based on the following:

- If the match is called off at or after half time, the current score stands and points awarded accordingly
- If the match is called off prior to half time, the match will be noted as a draw and each team will receive two points
- If the match is cancelled prior to the start time, the match will be noted as a draw and each team will receive two points.