

# Extreme Heat Protocols

## INTRODUCTION

The Australian Open Extreme Heat Protocol (AO-EHP) was developed to provide fair and consistent playing conditions for all players while also ensuring those conditions minimise the risk of heat-related illness in players. The AO-EHP takes into account the 4 environmental parameters that contribute to heat stress (air temperature, radiant heat, humidity & wind speed). It also takes into account the extent to which a person can control the rise in their body temperature and the physiological cost of doing so. These complex equations are expressed as a Heat Stress Scale (HSS) with stratified thresholds for cooling interventions.

In the event of extreme heat, the Referee has the right to suspend play or order a cooling break in accordance with this Australian Open Extreme Heat Protocol (EHP). The EHP applies to both the outdoor courts and the Arena Courts (Rod Laver Arena, Margaret Court Arena and John Cain Arena) as outlined below.

The EHP is based on the Australian Open Heat Stress Scale (AO-HSS) which has a scale of 1 to 5. AO-HSS readings are continually made throughout each day of the Australian Open, including Qualifying.

## SUSPENSION OF PLAY- OUTDOOR COURTS

Any matches in progress on outdoor courts at the time the AO-HSS reaches:

- a) for Women's and Men' Singles and Doubles: 5;
- b) for Junior Singles and Doubles: 4.9;
- c) for Wheelchair Singles and Doubles: 4.6;

will continue until the end of an even number of games in that set (or completion of a tie break, if applicable). At the completion of the even number of games in that set (or completion of the tie break, if applicable), play will be suspended. In these circumstances the referee will also suspend all outdoor practice sessions.

## SUSPENSION OF PLAY- ARENA COURTS

Any matches in progress in an Arena Court at the time the AO-HSS reaches:

- a) for Women's and Men' Singles and Doubles: 5;
- b) for Junior Singles and Doubles: 4.9;
- c) for Wheelchair Singles and Doubles: 4.6,

will continue until an even number of games in that set (or completion of the tie break, if applicable). At the end of the even number of games in that set (or completion of the tie break, if applicable), the roof will close for the remainder of the match.

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## UPCOMING MATCHES ON BOTH OUTDOOR COURTS AND ARENA COURTS

At the time the AO-HSS reaches the thresholds noted above as relevant, the Referee may suspend the calling of any upcoming matches on outdoor courts. If matches on the outdoor courts have been suspended, the Referee may make the decision to close the roof or to keep the roof closed (as applicable) for any upcoming matches on the Arena Courts.

## RESUMPTION OF PLAY

- a) During a suspension of play pursuant to this EHP, the Referee will continually review the conditions and the AO-HSS to determine when play can be resumed.
- b) Once the Referee has decided to resume play, each player will be given at least 30 minutes' notice prior to the resumption of play. Announcements will be made via the public address system.

## COOLING BREAKS

- a) Unless any of the circumstances in 4(b) apply, the following cooling breaks will be allowed during play:
  - i. **Women's Singles:** A 10-minute break in play will be allowed between the 2nd and 3rd sets when an AO-HSS of 4 has been recorded at any time during the first 2 sets of the match.
  - ii. **Men's Singles:** A 10-minute break in play will be allowed between the 3rd and 4th sets when an AO-HSS of 4 has been recorded at any time during the first 3 sets of the match.
  - iii. **Junior Singles:** A 10-minute break in play will be allowed between the 2nd and 3rd sets, when an AO-HSS of 3.9 has been recorded during the first 2 sets of the match.
  - iv. **Wheelchair Singles:** A 15-minute break in play will be allowed between the 2nd and 3rd sets, when an AO-HSS of 3.6 has been recorded during the first 2 sets of the match.
  - v. **Doubles:** No break in play will be allowed.
- b) During a cooling break players may stay on court and use approved cooling measures and/or attend designated cooling rooms/showers. For the avoidance of doubt, all other Grand Slam Rules apply.
- c) No cooling breaks will apply:
  - i. A match that resumes after a suspension of play, for any reason, where, before the

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suspension one set was completed for Women's, Junior & Wheelchair Singles or two sets were completed for Men's Singles (Main Draw), the 10-minute break will no longer apply, unless otherwise decided by the Referee.

- ii. In an Arena Court match if the roof is closed before the conclusion of the first set in a best of 3 set match or before the conclusion on the second set in a best of 5 set match.

## THRESHOLD TABLE (FOR REFERENCE)

Threshold	Event	Action
3.6	Wheelchair Singles	15-minute cooling break offered
3.9	Junior Singles	10-minute cooling break offered
4	Women's & Men's Singles	
4.6	All Wheelchair Matches (Including Practice)	Suspension of Play
4.9	All Junior Matches (Including Practice)	
5	All Remaining Matches (Including Practice)	