



AIR QUALITY POLICY – ACC SPORT

Implementation Date: December 2022

THE RATIONALE

The Associated Catholic Colleges (ACC) aims to ensure that school sport and interschool activities undertaken by its member schools are conducted in a safe environment. This policy aims to provide guidelines relating to Air Quality Index (AQI) for the safe levels of Fine Particle Matter (PM2.5) for ACC sporting competitions.

ASSUMPTIONS

An understanding of the extent to which some or all of these assumptions apply to each member school is delegated to each school to establish in its own context.

1. Many ACC sporting competitions are played outdoors;
2. Policies around Air Quality and sporting competitions may vary according to age and level of competition;
3. Air Quality Index is measured daily;
4. The AQI is the data value expressed as a percentage of the level specified by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria standard;
5. Children (including teenagers) are identified as a sensitive group relating to the AQI;
6. Air Quality Index data can be accessed via a number of apps and websites;
7. Air Quality Index Levels vary slightly between organisations. For this policy, they are based on EPA measurements:
 - Level 1 – Good conditions for outdoor exercise (<27 PM2.5)
 - Level 2 – Moderate conditions for outdoor exercise (27-62 PM2.5)
 - Level 3 – Poor conditions for outdoor exercise (62-97 PM2.5)
 - Level 4 – Very poor conditions for outdoor exercise (97-370 PM2.5)
 - Level 5 – Hazardous conditions for outdoor exercise (>370 PM2.5)

THE POLICY

By agreement of the ACC Principals, the following principles have been established for implementation.

1. Coaches and Officials to determine Air Quality reading from the EPA website Air Watch page before outdoor competition commences. Link: <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/airwatch>
2. Coaches/Officials to monitor all outdoor sport when AQI reaches Level 3 – Poor conditions for outdoor exercise (62-97 PM2.5): Play may be suspended, with the safety of students, staff and officials always a priority.
3. Coaches/Officials to abandon all outdoor sport when AQI reaches Level 4 – Very poor conditions for outdoor exercise (97-370 PM2.5).
4. On days of widespread and ongoing air quality issues, the Executive Officer will notify schools before 10:30am that all ACC sport has been abandoned.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. All schools will be notified of this policy and it will be placed on the ACC website.
2. All Directors of Sport will be informed of this policy via email with details provided for distribution to their coaching staff.

ENDORSEMENT

This policy was endorsed by the ACC Principals' Committee in November 2022.

REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed every two (2) years.

Next review date: December 2024

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/monitoring-your-environment/about-epa-airwatch/air-quality-categories>

<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/monitoring-your-environment/about-epa-airwatch/calculate-air-quality-categories>

https://ais.gov.au/position_statements#smoke_pollution_and_exercise