

Everton Park Sharks - Storm & Lightning Safety Plan

Purpose of the Plan

To ensure the safety of swimmers, volunteers, officials, and spectators during storms, rain, thunder, and lightning at all swim club meets held at Everton Park. This plan aligns with the Royal Life Saving Australia, Swimming Australia, and QLD storm safety guidelines.

Morning Weather Advisory (if storms forecast)

The following will be posted on the clubs Facebook page and Swim Club App the morning of the meet, if storms are forecast for that afternoon or evening:

“Storms are forecast for later today. We will monitor conditions and provide updates on the Clubs Facebook Page and Swim Club App if the meet is expected to be delayed or cancelled. Please note that we will proceed if it is only forecast for rain”

The committee will appoint a “Weather Watch Lead for the meet. They will monitor the weather through mobile apps such as BOM, Weatherzone, My LightningTracker and make decisions based on the below risk profiles. We will always err on the side of caution as the safety of our members is our number one priority.

1. Rain (Lowest Risk)

- Swim Club proceeds in rain, including moderate or heavy rain.
- Ensure visibility is safe for timekeeping and marshalling.
- Committee to continue to monitor weather apps for potential storm development.
- No safety evacuations required.

2. Thunder (Moderate Risk – Potential Storm Forming)

If thunder is heard but lightning is not yet visible:

- Pause races immediately.
- Initiate active weather monitoring.
- Prepare for potential evacuation.

3. Lightning (High Risk – Stop Immediately)

Use the 30/30 Rule:

- If the time between lightning flash and thunder is less than 30 seconds or Lightning detected within 10 km based on radar or mobile apps such as BOM, Weatherzone, My LightningTracker → **stop immediately**.
- Evacuate the pool and pool deck to safe areas within 30 seconds.'
- Weather Watch Lead to monitor radar & lightning apps and keep time on the 30-minute countdown.
- Announcer to provide updates every 10 minutes.
- Do not resume the swim meet until 30 minutes after last thunder/lightning.



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Immediate Actions When Lightning Is Detected

1. Announce suspension on microphone.
2. Stop races immediately—whistle 3 times.
3. Clear all swimmers from the water.
4. Check vulnerable or very young swimmers are with parents.
5. Move everyone to the safe zones:
 - Undercover area of grandstand
 - Inside parked cars (safest option)
 - Away from metal fences, poles, lanes, starting blocks, canteen equipment

SAFE ZONES

- Undercover grandstand
- Cars (best protection)
- Undercover away from metal or wet areas

UNSAFE AREAS

- The pool (even if swimmers are on the edge)
- Pool deck
- BBQ or Canteen equipment (metal + electrical appliances)
- Under trees
- Open areas such as grass or wet concrete around the pool
- Metal poles or fences

4. Cancellation (Highest Level)

A meet is cancelled if:

- Severe weather warning alert (via BOM) for Everton Park, or surrounding areas. This could result in a cancellation prior to the commencement of a meet, or
- Lightning continues after a 30-minute wait, or
- Storm expected to persist more than 30 minutes, or
- Swimmer, Carer, or Volunteer capacity becomes unsafe.
- The cancellation call must be made by the Swim Club President, or a delegated Executive Committee member.

Annual Review

This plan should be reviewed:

- At the start of each season
- After any significant incident
- After any meet requiring suspension/cancellation



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Standard Storm Message Template

Weather Update:

We are currently experiencing lightning in the area.

Swim Club is temporarily suspended.

Please move swimmers and families to the Grandstand or to your cars.

We will reassess in 30 minutes and provide updates through the app and Facebook.

Cancellation Message Template

Swim Club Cancelled:

Due to ongoing lightning and safety concerns we have cancelled tonight's swim meet.

Thank you for your understanding and stay safe

