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## Commencement times of Sanctioned Events

At its December 2024 meeting, the Governing Council approved a significant amendment to the Dogs West Regulations regarding the commencement times of Sanctioned Events.

The regulation can be viewed here - [B23.4 Commencement Times](#)

This decision followed a thorough review of various animal welfare and dog sport policies, along with an analysis of Western Australia's weather patterns.

### Purpose of the Amendments

- These changes prioritise the **health and wellbeing of dogs** by ensuring events are conducted in safer temperature conditions.

### Heat Considerations (B23.4.4 - Weather Extreme Heat: Conformation Only)

- Events between **April and December** must adapt to high temperatures to prevent heat stress in dogs.
- If the **forecast temperature reaches 32°C or higher**, clubs must:
  - Adjust event start times (early morning or evening) OR
  - **Postpone** or **cancel** the event with sufficient notice.
- Clear communication requirements ensure exhibitors are informed in a timely manner.

### Severe Weather Protocol (B23.4.5 - Severe Weather Warnings: All Sanctioned Events)

- If a **Severe Weather Warning** is issued, event organizers must act **within two hours** to decide whether to:
  - Adjust start times **before or after** the extreme weather OR
  - **Cancel or postpone** the event.
- This ensures that events do not take place under hazardous conditions such as **storms, heavy rain, or strong winds**.

### Responsibility of Exhibitors

- Exhibitors must check the **Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) forecast** two days before an event.
- This ensures they are aware of potential schedule changes and can plan accordingly.

### Air-Conditioned Venues Exemption (B23.4.6)

- Events held in **climate-controlled environments** are exempt, as dogs will not be exposed to extreme outdoor conditions.

Kind regards

Dogs West



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