

# MEMO

To: SNSW Affiliates and Committee

From: Daniel Rushworth

Date: Friday, 22 November 2019

Subject: NSW Air Quality & Softball Participation

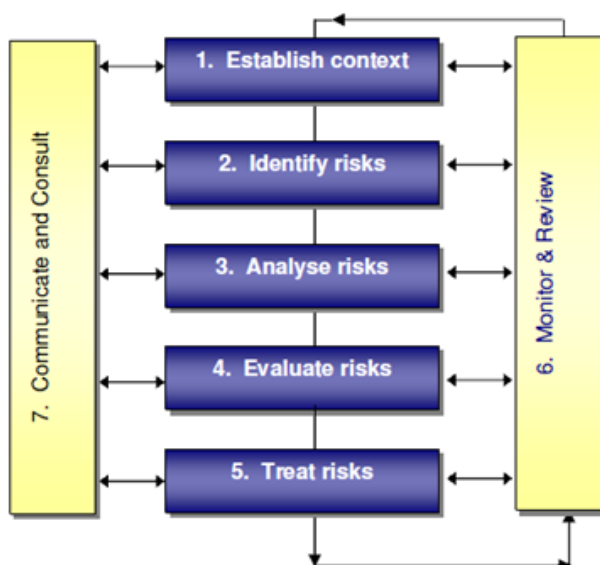
New South Wales and its communities are under significant pressure from the ongoing bushfires and subsequent smoke which is impacting all facets of everyday life. Whilst this serious issue is being dealt with by our brave emergency services to the best of their ability, it is imperative that as sporting organisations we undertake appropriate measures in relation to Softball participation and managing our risks.

With many Associations scheduled to continue their regular season competition and our own organisation will be delivering the Boys 12's State Championships at Blacktown International Sportspark across the weekend, we must do so safely and with consideration of all of the risks.

At present many Associations will be considering the viability of the competitions across the coming weekend as will Softball NSW. With the main impact being the ongoing haze of smoke across the State we must be diligent in understanding the potential Air Quality issue and subsequent risks

As such we have provided the following information to ensure that the best course of action can be taken in relation to your Affiliate and competition.

To assist in the process the [SNSW Risk Management Policy](#) uses the following framework;





SOFTBALL NSW

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## THE RISKS

The two major risks identified in this correspondence are Fire and Air Quality. With Fire, this is a significant risk and all measures should be taken to ensure that Associations do not contribute to and or participate when at risk with their locations.

In relation to Air Quality there are resources provided through the NSW Government to both understand and utilise in the decision-making process for your competition. The resource can be found at;

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/air/current-air-quality>

Each Association will be impacted by these risks at differing levels and all analysis should be undertaken prior to making your decision on the status of your competition.

To assist in this decision-making process please utilise the following link to determine Air Quality

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/aqms/aqi.htm>

## UNDERSTANDING AIR QUALITY

What does the Air Quality Index (AQI) mean?

When you look at the AQI at your nearest monitoring site or in your region, you will see the display of a colour depending on the air quality measured. The meanings of the different colours are explained in the table below. The AQI will help you understand the current level of air quality and provide information on how to reduce your risk of exposure to air pollution if necessary

AQI	What action should people take?
<b>Very good</b> 0-33	Enjoy activities
<b>Good</b> 34-66	Enjoy activities
<b>Fair</b> 67-99	<b>People unusually sensitive to air pollution:</b> Plan strenuous outdoor activities when air quality is better
<b>Poor</b> 100-149	<b>AIR POLLUTION HEALTH ALERT</b> <b>Sensitive Groups:</b> Cut back or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities
<b>Very poor</b> 150-200	<b>AIR POLLUTION HEALTH ALERT</b> <b>Sensitive groups:</b> Avoid strenuous outdoor activities <b>Everyone:</b> Cut back or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities
<b>Hazardous</b> 200+	<b>AIR POLLUTION HEALTH ALERT</b> <b>Sensitive groups:</b> Avoid all outdoor physical activities <b>Everyone:</b> Significantly cut back on outdoor physical activities



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## SNSW RECOMMENDATIONS

With the above ratings, SNSW would recommend the following actions in consideration with the information supplied through the NSW Government's website. This information should be considered holistically and as always, in the best interest of all individuals within an Affiliates responsibility.

Rating;	Recommendation
Very Good	Play as per normal
Good	Play as per normal
Fair	Provide information to all participants on the current Air Quality status and risks associated for personnel that have breathing difficulties. Play as per normal
Poor	Provide information to all participants on the current Air Quality status and risks associated for personnel that have breathing difficulties. Play in a limited capacity, consideration on reducing the length of game or not at all.
Very Poor	No Play
Hazardous	No Play

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any further questions in relation to this information, please contact SNSW CEO Daniel Rushworth via [ceo@softballnsw.org.au](mailto:ceo@softballnsw.org.au) or 0487 888 550