

# UWA TC SunSmart Sports Policy

The following policy is in place to help the University of Western Australia Tennis Club minimise the risks of overexposure to UV.

## Rationale

The sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation is the main cause of skin cancer. UV damage also causes sunburn, tanning, premature ageing and eye damage. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Two in three Australians will develop some form of skin cancer before the age of 70.

Sunburn and other UV damage is common while playing or watching sport when people are exposed to the sun's UV radiation for long periods of time.

Sporting clubs and organisations have a responsibility under health and safety legislation to provide and maintain a safe working environment for staff, volunteers, players, and spectators. By minimising UV harms, you will help to fulfil this obligation and duty of care.

## Sun protection times

- The sun protection times from the Bureau of Meteorology forecast the time-of-day UV levels are due to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In Western Australia, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from mid-August to the end of April.
- A combination of sun protection measures is needed during the daily local sun protection times.

To assist with the implementation of this policy, club officials, coaches and participants are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times at [sunsmart.com.au](https://sunsmart.com.au), on the free SunSmart app and in the weather section of the newspaper.

## Schedules, fixtures, and rule modifications (including a cancellation policy)

Where possible, training, events and competitions are scheduled to minimise exposure to UV and heat.

Cancellation of training, events or competition occurs (according to the rules of Tennis West/ Tennis Australia) when high risk conditions are forecast.

Where it is not possible to avoid peak UV and heat periods, the following interim steps are taken to minimise the risk of overexposure to UV and heat illness:

Warm-up activities are limited in duration and intensity.

The duration of the activity is reduced.

Activities start earlier in the morning or later in the evening.

Rest breaks and opportunities to seek shade and rehydrate are increased.

Officials, coaches, and senior members act as role models by wearing sun-protective clothing and hats, applying sunscreen, and seeking shade wherever possible.

## Sun protection measures

### 1. Clothing

Light, loose fitting clothing is encouraged- both light in colour and fit.

### 2. Sunscreen

SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water- resistant sunscreen is promoted and/or provided to participants.

Participants are encouraged to apply sunscreen 20 minutes before training or playing and to reapply every two hours.

Participants are encouraged to apply a generous amount of sunscreen (the equivalent of one teaspoon per limb).

The first aid kit includes a supply of SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.

### 3. Hats

Caps and visors do not provide adequate sun protection to the face, ears and neck and are not recommended for extended sun protection but may be used, in combination with sunscreen on parts of skin not covered, as an interim measure for on-court play or training. Where possible, wide brimmed or bucket hats are preferred.

#### 4. Shade

When not actively playing or between individual events, participants are able to rest in shaded areas. Where there is insufficient natural or built shade, temporary shade structures are provided or participants are notified to bring their own temporary shade (e.g. tents or umbrellas).

Shade from buildings, trees and other structures is used where possible (e.g. for player interchange, marshalling areas, spectator areas).

Marshalling, interchange and presentation ceremony areas are protected by shade.

Participants and officials rotate to cooler, shaded areas.

#### 5. Sunglasses

Participants are advised to wear sunglasses that meet the Australian standard (AS/NZS 1067:2016).

### Education and information

The times when sun protection is required (as determined by SunSmart's daily local sun protection times) are communicated to participants and spectators.

### Review

This SunSmart policy will be reviewed regularly.

This policy was last updated on 22/1/2021.

#### Relevant documents and links

SunSmart: [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au)

SunSmart widget: [sunsmart.com.au/uv-sun-protection/uv/uv-widget](http://sunsmart.com.au/uv-sun-protection/uv/uv-widget)

SunSmart app: [sunsmart.com.au/app](http://sunsmart.com.au/app)

Heat and UV Guide:

[sunsmart.com.au/downloads/communities/sports-clubs/uv-exposure-heat-illness-guide.pdf](http://sunsmart.com.au/downloads/communities/sports-clubs/uv-exposure-heat-illness-guide.pdf)

Australian Government Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) – Australian regulatory guidelines for sunscreens: [4. Labelling and advertising – directions for use of the product](#)

ARPANSA Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation (2006)

Safe Work Australia: [Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers](#) (2016)

For more information contact SunSmart:

W: [sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au)

P: (03) 9514 6419

E: [sunsmart@cancervic.org.au](mailto:sunsmart@cancervic.org.au)

#### Disclaimer

The information contained in this guide is general in nature and does not constitute medical advice from your doctor or health professional. While all reasonable attempts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this guide, SunSmart and associated parties cannot accept responsibility for loss, injury, claim or damage resulting from the use or application of information within this guide.

### When UV is 3 or above be SunSmart

