# Extreme & Adverse Weather Management Plan – Guidance

Adverse weather or extreme weather conditions are extreme, intense and / or unfavorable weather and climate events which may disrupt event operations – resulting in forced amendment, adaptation or cancellation of the event. Extreme / adverse weather includes, but is not limited to:

* Heavy rain/ hail / flooding
* Lightning and extreme storms
* Extreme temperature (heat / cold) / extreme humidity
* High winds
* Dust storm / air pollution
* Wildfire events

This document is part of the SOEEF Environmental Sustainability Framework guidance to support event organizers to:

* Complete the Extreme & Adverse Weather Management Plan
* Ensure coordinated management of any adverse / extreme weather incidents with key partners (e.g. venue organizers, local authorities and community groups)
* Identify climate risks and opportunities
* Identify adaptation, resilience and recovery measures and evidence actions taken to minimize negative physical and social impacts from extreme weather and climate events
* Communicate and share lessons learned from dealing with extreme weather

For all events, event organizers can demonstrate climate responsibility and commitment to safeguarding health of athletes, staff and wider stakeholders by incorporating climate considerations throughout event delivery, including planning, staging and breakdown. This is also relevant to indoor events. This can be done through:

* Completing a climate risk and opportunity assessment – particularly focusing on physical weather impacts (e.g. heatwaves, extreme storms, and flooding)
* Adopting actions to enhance climate resilience and adaptation e.g. resilient infrastructure and/ or measures to protect spectator and participant health and safety
* Communicating operational measures to safeguard health in advance of and during events (as a result of a changed climate)
* Taking actions to effectively communicate and share lessons learned from operating during an extreme / adverse weather event

## Key Guidance

Your extreme and adverse weather management plan should be specific to the type of event you are operating, but consideration of climate risks should always be present. Best in class projects may also wish to promote climate resilience through restoration and recovery.

Consider working with the local authority for support and guidance on completing the plan, identifying risks, opportunities, and mitigation measures; as well as any existing policies and procedures in place.

Key questions to consider are:

* Which climate risks may / are affecting your event? What is the likelihood and severity of occurrence?
* What actions can be taken to minimize negative operational, financial, and reputational risks; and how can this be managed in partnership with the event team, local authorities and key stakeholders?
* Who are the key stakeholders affected; and are there those who require additional levels of protection and support?
* What are the health (physical and mental) impacts of a climate event and how can the negative impacts be reduced / mitigated?
* What actions can be taken to future-proof your events / local events and share lessons learned?

The rest of this document sets out a framework that could make up an Extreme & Adverse Weather Management Plan. It is not meant to be prescriptive, but a useful guide for Event Directors and those responsible across the team.

Further information can be found by contacting Colin Kenny, Senior Manager of Projects and Grants at SOEEF, [ckenny@specialolympics.org](mailto:ckenny@specialolympics.org).

Extreme & Adverse Weather Management Plan - Template

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# Key Contacts

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| Name | Role | E-mail Address |
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**Extreme & Adverse Weather Management Plan – Introduction**   
Ahead of an event, it is important for event organizers to plan for the risk of extreme / adverse weather in a timely manner. The risk of extreme / adverse weather should be monitored ahead of the event to allow enough time to sufficiently plan and support the running of the event. Severe weather warnings can be monitored through in collaboration with the local council. Event organizers should monitor weather systems and be prepared to stop activity when required – based on an acceptable threshold of health and safety for all involved. It is important that extreme and adverse weather is communicated ahead of time – with guidance communicated to athletes, staff and spectators on an ongoing basis. This may be communicated via the event website, email and direct communications. It is important to consider the mental and physical wellbeing of key stakeholders in communications and allow for two-way communication.

The following pages provides a framework for assessing and evaluating climate change-related risks and opportunities that may be relevant to our event. As part of ensuring we responsibly manage any climate change risks and opportunities that may occur, we have undertaken a climate change risk and opportunity assessment, and where risks exist, adaptation and mitigation plans are implemented.

For an indoor event, planning includes the venue, as well as the last mile, and relates to considerations such as maximum and minimum heat and temperature thresholds, allergens (resulting from changed climate and weather) and impacts on transportation to the event.

This exercise is important because it is recognized that a lack of adequate and well-considered planning for climate impacts could result in compounding risks, including, but not limited to reputational, operational and financial impacts to the event. It is important to work in partnership to identify and implement climate change and adverse weather protection such as:

* Operational measures to protect participant health and safety (e.g. working with the venue)
* Opportunities to collaborate and invest in mitigation measures with commercial partners and sponsors (e.g. water refill station investment); and
* Communicating and engaging with participants, staff and volunteers to seek feedback on the event in relation to extreme / adverse weather (what worked well, what didn’t, and lessons learned)

# Risk Assessment Framework

The following scoring framework has been used to score each identified risk against:

* The scale of impact should the risk occur (high, medium, low) – this could be reputational, operational and / or financial
* The likelihood of the risk occurring (high, medium, low)

These two scores are culminated (multiplied together) to generate a significance score for the risk (the magnitude score). The total score should be regarded as the highest score in the equation, e.g. medium x medium = medium; whereas medium x low = medium. This is to allow a cautious approach to risk management.

# Climate Risk Assessment

You can use the below table to:

* Populate your list of climate risks associated to your event (feel free to remove any not relevant and add new ones)
* Score the risks, based on the scoring framework on the previous page
* Document the actions to be put in place and by whom/when to mitigate the risk
* Track the ongoing status of the risk (Not applicable, uncomfortable with the risk, mitigation panning in progress, comfortable with the risk)

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| What are the climate risks? | Description of the risk | Expected Impact/ Significance of the risk? | Expected likelihood of the risk | Risk Score | Current and planned mitigation actions | Who needs to carry out the action? | Timeframe of action | Status |
| Flooding & Storm Events | Extreme flooding and storms affecting operational running of the event – including transport disruptions, efforts to clean up the local area and / or rescheduling of the event | Medium | Medium | Medium | Weather management plan is in place; working with the local authority on emergency services planning as well as evacuation plans for the events; appointing a meteorologist in the event of rapid onset of extreme weather in the local area | [insert responsible person] | [insert timeframe] | [insert status] |
| Extreme Heat | Extreme resulting from unseasonal temperatures in the local area – resulting in potential negative impacts to athlete and spectator health and wellbeing; attendance and revenue drop; event day disruptions. Commercial sponsor impacts for global brands  Secondary increases in UV exposure may result in health risks e.g. skin cancers within the running community, leading to large scale legal action against SOEE  From an operational perspective, there may be a need to consider low carbon alternatives to avoid rising energy costs from venues - associated with a higher demand for cooling equipment with venues | Low | Low | Low | Incorporate heat related mitigation into operational event planning - including water-based foods for catering, in event communications and ensuring necessary on-site first aid and staff training. Ensure sufficient access to water, sun-cream for athletes; as well as water baths for heat stroke (minimum number per athlete)  Work with venues to reduce the health impacts from extreme heat, e.g. ensuring shelters with suitable heat-proofed materials, and selecting venues with sufficient green spaces and natural and artificial shading. Ensure appropriate installation of water dispensers; and access to insect repellents and medications.  Information boards should be made available on health-related impacts and communicated to all pre and during the event | [insert responsible person] | [insert timeframe] | [insert status] |
| [add in other risks, as relevant] |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# Opportunity Assessment Framework

The following scoring framework has been used to score each identified opportunity. Opportunities could result in operational, reputational, or financial benefits.

* **1: Low – A minor opportunity for the event resulting in some or all of the following:**Local / specific positive press coverage, mild or only local impact on public perception   
  Supports the substantiation of sustainability action to commercial partners and external stakeholders   
  Occasional engagement from internal stakeholders   
  Limited operational benefits realized – relative to a particular part of the event delivery
* **2: Medium – A moderate opportunity for the event resulting in some or all of the following:**Some positive press coverage and short-term positive impact on public perception   
  Some positive responses from commercial partners and external stakeholders on actions taken, as well as positive feedback from internal stakeholders  
  Some operational benefits for at least part of the event delivery
* **3: High – A significant opportunity for the event resulting in some or all of the following:**Notable positive media attention (or potential to lead to positive media attention), medium term positive impact on public perception/view, national TV news coverage  
  Positive response from commercial partners and external stakeholders leading to continuation of partnerships, as well as positive support from internal stakeholders   
  Multiple operational benefits for the delivery of the event  
  High contribution to the success and delivery of the event’s Sustainability Strategy

# Climate Opportunity Assessment

You can use the below table to:

* Populate your list of climate opportunities associated to your event (feel free to remove any not relevant and add new ones)
* Score the risks, based on the opportunity scoring framework
* Document the actions to be put in place and by whom/when to realize the opportunity
* Track the ongoing status of the risk (Opportunity under review; Opportunity being implemented; Opportunity realized)

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| What are the climate opportunities? | Description of the opportunity | Opportunity Score | Current and planned actions to realize the opportunity | Who needs to carry out the action? | Timeframe of action | Status |
| **C**limate campaigns | Promoting adaptation and resilience to climate change through effective campaigns – e.g. focusing on the health impacts e.g. climate campaigns within the healthy eating corner at events – promoting water-based foods in extreme heat | Low | Undertake a communications campaign to promote health protection and mitigation measures in relation to extreme heat and healthy eating – promoting to all key event stakeholders | [insert responsible person] | [insert timeframe] | [insert status] |
| [add in other opportunities, as relevant] |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# Further guidance for event organizers

Climate liability increasingly presents as a key risk to sporting events. In the context of sports events, climate liability is defined as the legal responsibility and accountability of SOEE to address climate change and take action at events.

When planning and running your events, it is important to consider how extreme / adverse weather may impact your contracts, engagement with key stakeholders, and therefore any potential financial implications of amended / adapted / cancelled events. The list below presents some key considerations in event planning:

* Do you currently consider climate / adverse weather risks in athlete (and teams) and spectator duty of care at events?
* Within key contracts (suppliers, commercial partners, venues etc.) are there current considerations of the ramifications of contractual breaches owing to extreme weather / climate impacts? Does this include repayment/mitigation provided by the event in the event of harm / cancellation / amendments to agreements?
* When working with key suppliers, e.g. stadia / venues and accommodation providers, do you review contracts for consideration / reference to climate risk?

# Post-event reporting and data collection

[Provide an overview on any data collection and reporting you are planning to do relating to extreme and adverse weather. Provide details on stakeholders you will report to ahead of, during and post-event. If adverse weather is present at your event, data collected may include, but is not limited to, climate communications to key stakeholders; the nature of the extreme / adverse weather event – including climatic conditions and duration; mitigation measures in place; any incidents; and any opportunities / engagement].

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