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Air Quality Policy for Events and Clinics

Purpose

Poor air quality poses significant health risks, especially during outdoor physical activities such as tennis, where participants are exposed to air pollutants for extended periods. The Canmore Tennis Association (CTA) recognizes the need to identify these risks, their impact on CTA-organized activities, and the proposed course of action. Members are encouraged to use their own discretion during normal tennis play.

Scope

The following is the CTA policy for official events and tennis clinics regarding Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) advisories. Event and clinic coordinators are responsible for monitoring air quality readings in advance and during the event or clinic (as applicable).

This Policy is for the operation of the event or clinic as a whole. We recognize individuals may have conditions or sensitivities that prevent them from playing tennis at a different AQHI than indicated thresholds. Every player should use their own discretion as to what is an appropriate AQHI for them to play safely.

Application

SUMMARY of Air Quality Impact for Events and Tennis Clinics	
AQHI Level	**Impact/Action**
1-3	Play proceeds
4-7	Play proceeds; sensitive individuals proceed with caution
8	Monitor and proceed with caution
9+	No new organized activities will commence. Activities already underway may be completed at the discretion of the coordinator.

CTA will monitor the applicable Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) when wildfire smoke or other air quality concerns are present. CTA organized events and clinics will generally proceed when the AQHI is 8 or below, although participants are encouraged to modify activity based on their individual health circumstances. When the AQHI reaches 9 or higher (Very High Risk) at the start, all organized events and clinics will be cancelled and rescheduled. This threshold is intended to align generally with the air quality standards used by Tennis Alberta for outdoor tennis activities.

CTA reserves the right to cancel activities at lower AQHI levels where local conditions warrant.

The following are the recommended actions and expectations:

1. AQHI 7 or Less Prior to Start:
   - Events and clinics proceed as planned; all attendees should be present.
   - If AQHI reaches 9 by the start, the event should be delayed or cancelled by the coordinator on site.

- Coordinator and participants to use discretion for sudden AQHI changes during an event or clinic. The coordinator can always cancel the event for safety concerns at any time if AQHI deteriorates during play.

2. AQHI 8 Prior to Start:
   - Prepare for the event to proceed.
   - Continue if AQHI remains at 8 or below at the start.
   - Coordinator and participants to use discretion for sudden AQHI changes during an event or clinic. The coordinator can always cancel the event for safety concerns at any time if AQHI deteriorates during play.

3. AQHI 9 and Above Prior to Start:
   - Delay or cancel if AQHI is 9 or higher at the start of an event or clinic.

During times of smoke risk, AQHI will be checked approximately 2 hours before the start time and again shortly prior to the scheduled start by the coordinator. AQHI readings will be taken from a reference with Canmore-specific readings. The event or clinic coordinator has authority to cancel at AQHI 7–8 where local conditions at the courts (visible smoke, reduced visibility, participant complaints, nearby wildfire activity) suggest the actual risk is greater than the reported AQHI.

Notification for cancellations is via email or phone to all registered participants, using contact information provided by participants.

If an event or clinic is cancelled due to air quality, it will be postponed and scheduled at a later date. Refunds will only be provided in special circumstances at the discretion of the Board.

FAQ Related to Air Quality for Events and Tennis Clinics:

1. *What should participants do if the AQHI is between 0 and 8?*
   - Events and clinics will proceed as scheduled. Participants and officials should arrive prepared to participate.

2. *What happens if the AQHI reaches 9 or above at the start time?*
   - The event may be delayed or cancelled by the event or clinic coordinator. Decisions will be based on the safety of all involved.

3. *What if the AQHI is 8 one hour prior to the start time?*
   - Players and officials should be ready to proceed, but events will be cancelled if the AQHI reaches 9 or higher by the start time. Sudden changes require onsite discretion.

4. *Are events cancelled if the AQHI is 9 or above one hour prior to the start time?*
   - Yes, events or clinics are automatically cancelled in such conditions.

5. *How will participants be notified of changes due to air quality?*
   - Participants will receive notifications via email or a phone call.

6. *Who should participants contact for more information?*
   - The event or clinic coordinator will be available to provide further clarification, and contact details will be provided in all communications.

7. *What about Round Robins?*
   - Round Robins are encouraged to follow the parameters in this policy, but the decision to play on any Round Robin day is at the discretion of individual players.

8. *How does AQHI compare to AQI?*
   - AQHI is intended to communicate the health risks associated with air pollution. It considers the combined effects of multiple pollutants, as opposed to just the concentration of particular air pollutants, which is what the Air Quality Index (AQI) does. While there is no direct correlation, where the main pollutant relates to wildfire smoke, as is commonly the case in Canmore, an AQI of 151–175 would be the closest equivalent to a level 9 AQHI.