

Prevention of Heat Illness Guidelines

Athletes participating outdoors in hot, humid weather or indoors, in non-air conditioned or poorly ventilated gyms are susceptible to heat related illness. While it is the responsibility of each school participating in an IHSA contest to allow adequate acclimatization to the heat prior to the contest, it is the authority of the local manager to adjust or alter a contest based on the environment. Managers should check the environment one-hour before the scheduled contest.

If a high risk is present, the manager has the authority to alter game conditions. Athletes should drink one to two cups of water in the hour preceding competition and continue drinking during the activity every 15-20 minutes. If conditions become severe the manager may suspend or alter the contest. Altering the contest may include stoppage of play for a mandatory drink period, stopping play for a rest period where gear and clothing may be loosened to allow heat loss, stopping play to allow for removal of outer clothing, socks and or shoes or even postponing the contest.

Local Managers should refer to the Heat Index Table below if the host school does not have a plan or means to assess both the temperature and humidity prior to the contest. This heat index can be used to define caution, extreme caution, danger and extreme danger risk conditions. Additional heat and hydration information can be found by accessing the Sports Medicine link on the IHSA web site at www.ihsa.org.

Heat Index Chart

Heat Index in °F (°C)

		Relative Humidity (%)											
Temp in °F/°C	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
110 (47)	136 (58)												
108 (43)	130 (54)	137 (58)											
106 (41)	124 (51)	130 (54)	137 (58)										
104 (40)	119 (48)	124 (51)	131 (55)	137 (58)									
102 (39)	114 (46)	119 (48)	124 (51)	130 (54)	137 (58)								
100 (38)	109 (43)	114 (46)	118 (48)	124 (51)	129 (54)	136 (58)							
98 (37)	105 (41)	109 (43)	113 (45)	117 (47)	123 (51)	128 (53)	134 (57)						
96 (36)	101 (38)	104 (40)	108 (42)	112 (44)	116 (47)	121 (49)	126 (52)	132 (56)					
94 (34)	97 (36)	100 (38)	103 (39)	106 (41)	110 (43)	114 (46)	119 (48)	124 (51)	129 (54)	135 (57)			
92 (33)	94 (34)	96 (36)	99 (37)	101 (38)	105 (41)	108 (42)	112 (44)	116 (47)	121 (49)	126 (52)	131 (55)		
90 (32)	91 (33)	93 (34)	95 (35)	97 (36)	100 (38)	103 (39)	106 (41)	109 (43)	113 (45)	117 (47)	122 (50)	127 (53)	132 (56)
88 (31)	88 (31)	89 (32)	91 (33)	93 (34)	95 (35)	98 (37)	100 (38)	103 (39)	106 (41)	110 (43)	113 (45)	117 (47)	121 (49)
86 (30)	85 (29)	87 (31)	88 (31)	89 (32)	91 (33)	93 (34)	95 (35)	97 (36)	100 (38)	102 (39)	105 (41)	108 (42)	112 (44)
84 (29)	83 (28)	84 (29)	85 (29)	86 (30)	88 (31)	89 (32)	90 (32)	92 (33)	94 (34)	96 (36)	98 (37)	100 (38)	103 (39)
82 (28)	81 (27)	82 (28)	83 (28)	84 (29)	84 (29)	85 (29)	86 (30)	88 (31)	89 (32)	90 (32)	91 (33)	93 (34)	95 (35)
80 (27)	80 (27)	80 (27)	81 (27)	81 (27)	82 (28)	82 (28)	83 (28)	84 (29)	84 (29)	85 (29)	86 (30)	86 (30)	87 (31)

Category	Heat Index	Possible heat disorders
Extreme Danger	130° F or higher (54° C or higher)	Heat stroke or sunstroke likely
Danger	105°-129° F (41°-54° C)	"Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustion likely. Heatstroke possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.
Extreme Caution	90°-105° F (32°-41° C)	"Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustion possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.
Caution	80°-90° F (27°-32° C)	Fatigue possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.

• reproduced from NWS, Birmingham, AL