



## **Team run cancellation Policy for Rebel Runners ~ Medway**

### **Introduction**

The **Rebel Runners ~ Medway** Committee has overall responsibility for the Health and Safety of the club, and for ensuring that it fulfils all legal responsibilities. It recognises that it is the duty of the Committee to uphold this policy and to provide the necessary funds and resources to put it into practice.

The Committee is dedicated to ensuring that all activities are safe, and it will do whatever it can to provide for the health, safety and welfare of all members, volunteers and members of the public in order that risks are minimised as far as reasonably possible.

For the purpose of the policy the definition of severe weather refers to any dangerous meteorological phenomena with the potential to cause damage, serious social disruption, or loss of human life. This policy will be reviewed annually by the committee.

### **The club seeks information regarding the weather from two sources:**

\*Heat Health Watch Service from 1 June to 15 September

\*Met Office

### **The Rebel Runners ~ Medway Responsibilities**

The Committee members are responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the team run cancellation policy and:

- Assessing the risk to the health and safety of volunteers, members and members of the public and identifying what measures are needed to keep all parties safe
- Ensuring routes and training facilities have been risk assessed and safe
- Ensuring that equipment is safe and well maintained;
- Providing information, instruction, training and supervision to volunteers and members in safe working methods and procedures as required

There are times when the UK experience extreme weather conditions, this could be heat, cold, wet, wind, fog, snow or ice which can all affect the ability to offer a team run. Whilst it is not common for the UK to experience extreme weather warnings or the highest rating issued by Met office and/or Heat Health Watch service it does happen from time to time.

Date completed	12 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018	Next review due	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2019
Date agreed	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018	Last review date	New policy



The Heat Health Watch Service operates in England from 1 June to 15 September each year, in association with Public Health England. The service acts as an early warning system forewarning of periods of high temperatures, which may affect the health of the UK public. The Met Office forecasts day-time and night-time maximum temperatures, which are monitored regionally. When certain heat thresholds are passed, a warning is issued and displayed on Our Health Watch service website.

The Met Office issues weather warnings, through the National Severe Weather Warning Service, when severe weather has the potential to bring impacts to the UK. These warnings are given a colour yellow, amber or red depending on a combination of both the impact the weather may have and the likelihood of those impacts occurring.

The full meanings of the colours can be found via the Met Office

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/guide/weather/warnings>

It is important that we protect our runners and volunteers from risk and harm where possible. There is no hard and fast rule in relation to assessing if it is safe to run or not. However, we take into consideration public advice and the common sense approach. Further more we have to consult the volunteers regarding decision to cancel. If volunteers are unable to attend we have to cancel the planned run.

Cancelling a team run is always a last resort but sometimes essential to ensure the health and safety of our runners, volunteers and members of the public. It is important to note that when we are considering cancelling this includes considering the means of travel to and from the run.

The Committee will consider the Met Office and Our Health Watch advice and make a decision on each run, however in the event the UK is issued with a red rating this will result in an automatic cancellation. With regards to yellow warnings, individual assessment will be carried out by the Health and Safety Officer who in turn will consult the committee where a majority vote decision will be made.

If an agreement cannot be reached the Health and Safety Officer will make the final decision in consultation with the Chair.

As part of the assessment the Club may decide to make alternative arrangements in order to reduce the risk as opposed to cancelling a team run. For example change or amend the route, shorten the duration of the run and offer practical advice e.g. stay hydrated, recommend a different type of footwear.

In the event the difficult decision is reached to cancel the run we will communicate this via our website and the Club's social media platforms. Once the decision has been made to cancel a run, this decision will remain in place until the next run when a reassessment will be completed.

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You are able to view live updates via the Met Office

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/>

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/heat-health/#?tab=heatHealth>

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