

AAT Lost Time Compensation Policy

1. Time lost to weather is not compensated.
2. Time lost to the closure of the Observatory because of the fire risk rating or from the threat posed by nearby fires is not compensated.
3. There is no compensation to visitor instruments and instruments offered in shared risk if the technical fault was with the instrument.
4. Compensation is considered when either
 - a) an entire scheduled observing run is rescheduled before the run starts due to technical faults. Compensation in this case will endeavour to compensate the entire lost run irrespective of weather conditions at the time.

Or

- b) more than half of the clear observing time within a single observing run is lost due to one or more technical faults with the scheduled instruments that significantly impact their science capabilities during the run. Note that programs may have more than one observing run per semester. The relevant threshold is more than half of a run (not half of all time allocated in a semester).
5. For eligible regular programs, the AAT will endeavour to use Director's time to compensate. Note, however point 8.
 - a) If multiple programs are eligible for compensation, then preference will be given to higher rank programs and programs that lost time in the current semester; however, practical considerations may dictate which programs are able to be scheduled as compensation.
 - b) Once Director's time is exhausted in any semester, compensation will not be able to be given during that semester
 - c) Compensation can be given up to 18 months after the date that the time was lost.
6. For paid time programs and for programs that obtain time via the time swap arrangement between NOAO and the AAT, compensation occurs during future semesters and is coordinated by the ATAC Technical Secretary in consultation with the AAT scheduler. In exceptional circumstances, Director's time might be used to compensate time lost by these programs.
7. Large programs will be considered for compensation via a written request to the ATAC chair, and compensation will occur through time allocated by ATAC in future semesters.
8. Major technical issues that result in shutting down the telescope or an instrument for an extended period of time (for example significant fire damage at SSO, failure of major infrastructure like the AAT Dome shutter, or a failure that resulted in the telescope needing to be rescheduled) may exceed the ability of the AAT to compensate programs.