



EQUESTRIAN
AUSTRALIA

EA National Horse Health, Safety and Welfare Policy

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1.0 Introduction

Equestrian Australia (EA) is committed to ensuring, so far as reasonably practicable, the health, safety, and welfare (HSW) of horses within the sport. Regardless of the inherent dangers within equestrian sport and variable horse-related behaviours, training regimes and welfare needs, our aim is to provide and maintain an effective health, safety, and welfare management system, mitigating risk where possible.

Equestrian Australia is committed to providing support to all equestrian sport participants and their horses through promoting optimal health (free of illness, injury, or pain) and wellbeing, and providing a safe environment. The aim is to protect all participants and their horses against any adverse physical, social, and emotional (welfare) conditions during all EA endorsed equestrian activities that are conducted under the auspices of EA or by any EA affiliate.

2.0 Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate EAs commitment to all HSW matters and reassure those for whom this policy applies that safety is our highest priority. This policy outlines EAs obligations, expectations of all members, non-members, and any other equestrian sport participant. This policy also clearly defines prohibited conduct, breaches and EAs expectations in reporting these matters.

3.0 This Policy is applicable to the following equestrian participants:

Any affiliate, member, non-member, participant, organiser, and worker.

3.1 For the avoidance of doubt, this policy applies to:

- a) At all EA endorsed equestrian activities that are conducted under the auspices of EA or by any EA affiliate.
- b) To all EA accredited coaches, officials, and other accredited persons during any EA endorsed equestrian activity even if they are not coaching, officiating or undertaking an accredited activity but are representing EA.
- c) Any non-member of EA is required to abide by this policy when attending any EA endorsed equestrian activity.

4.0 What Constitutes Horse Health, Safety and Welfare

Horses are deemed as counterparts of EA members and non-members at all EA endorsed equestrian activities. The horse's welfare is paramount. EA members and non-members have the sole responsibility to provide for their horse's basic needs in accordance with the Five Domains Model of animal welfare.

Horse's must always be afforded the highest regard and never be compromised or subordinated to competitive, training, or commercial influences.

The Five Domains are **nutrition, environment, health, behaviour, and mental state**, which relate to five horse freedoms:

- a) Nutrition – Free from hunger and thirst
- b) Environment- Free from discomfort
- c) Health – Free from pain, injury, and disease
- d) Behaviour – Free to express normal behaviour
- e) Mental state – Free from fear and distress

4.1 HSW for EA members and non-member

All persons in attendance at any EA endorsed event, or training activity are required to abide by EAs HSW policies, procedures, protocols, rules, and regulations regardless of role context. Refer to the EA National Health, Safety and Welfare Policy for further detail on HSW for EA members and non-members.

4.2 HSW for Horses

- a) Horses are deemed as counterparts of EA members and non-members at all equestrian events and activities. The horse's HSW must be always afforded the highest regard and never be compromised or subordinated to competitive, training, or commercial influences.
- b) EA members, non-members and their designated support personnel have a responsibility to maintain their horse's HSW pre-event or training activity, during and post-event or training activity. This responsibility includes but is not limited to the following for the horse:
 - (i) General care, welfare (five domains) and management
 - (ii) Health and fitness to complete or train
 - (iii) Environment and surface conditions
 - (iv) Serious Incident Management Plan for Horses
 - (v) Humane treatment, veterinary care, and euthanasia if/as required

5.0 Health, Safety and Welfare Obligations

All EA members and non-members must

- a) Adopt, implement, and comply with all:
 - (i) HSW Policy, Procedures and Protocols

- (ii) Provide support and resources for the implementation of the HSW Policy, Procedures and Protocols.
- b) Follow the general regulation and sport rules
- c) Refer to all EA Guidelines as best-practice standards and where practical adopt these
- d) Prioritize the HSW of yourself and your horse, and the HSW of others and their horses at any EA endorsed equestrian activity
- e) Report any breaches of this Policy immediately to the National Health and Safety Manager (NHSM) safety@equestrian.org.au
- f) Be willing to participate in any investigations pertaining to HSW matters

6.0 Prohibited Conduct

EA members, officials, volunteers, or non-members commit a breach of this Policy when they individually or in conjunction with another or others engage in any of the following conduct against or in relation to a HSW matters or personnel:

- a) Choose not to abide by or adhere to a horse related HSW rule, procedure, or protocol
- b) Fail to report a horse related HSW incident within the prescribed timeframe
- c) Knowingly misrepresent a committee decision or rule regarding a horse related HSW matter
- d) Disseminate or discuss HSW information that is incomplete, in draft or identified as confidential without permission of the author
- e) Change, erase, alter or misuse any nationally disseminated horse related HSW documents, forms, training information, procedures, or protocols
- f) Knowingly disrespect, dishonour or use offensive language towards (directly or indirectly) to any National, State or EA endorsed equestrian activity HSW representative
- g) Knowingly discuss or disseminate untruthful, misrepresented, or false information regarding HSW protocols, procedures, rules, meeting minutes or other HSW information.

EA reserves the right to apply a sanction to any equestrian participant that does not comply with this policy or any of EAs National HSW policies, procedures, protocols, rules, and regulations.

7.0 Breach of this Policy

It is an obligation under EA for all sport participants, officials, coaches, and relevant others to comply with EAs HSW Policy and its related Polices, Procedures, Protocols. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action or a sanction pursuant to EAs Code of Conduct and Disciplinary By Laws.

8.0 Related Documents and References

8.1 FEI Code of Conduct Horse Welfare

https://inside.fei.org/sites/default/files/Code_of_Conduct_Welfare_Horse_1Jan2013.pdf

8.2 EA Disciplinary by Laws

8.3 EA Hot Weather Policy

8.4 EA National Health, Safety and Welfare Policy

<https://www.equestrian.org.au/policies>

8.5 FEI Standard for Arena Surfaces

<file:///C:/Users/meredithc/Downloads/FEI%20Footing%20Standard%20-%20Jan%202022.pdf>

8.6 FEI Equestrian Surfaces – A Guide

https://inside.fei.org/system/files/Equestrian_Surfaces-A_Guide.pdf

8.7 FEI All about Footing in Equestrian Arenas

<https://www.fei.org/stories/lifestyle/teach-me/footing-standards-equestrian-arenas>

8.8 FEI Olympic & Paralympic Venue & Operational Requirements

https://inside.fei.org/system/files/Olympic%20&%20Paralympic%20Venue%20&%20Operational%20Requirements_1st%20edition%20Jan2015.pdf

8.9 Mellor, D.J.; Reid, C.S.W. Concepts of animal well-being and predicting the impact of procedures on experimental animals. In Improving the Well-being of Animals in the Research Environment; Baker, R.M., Jenkin, G., Mellor, D.J., Eds.; Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching: Glen Osmond, Australia, 1994; pp. 3–18. Available online:

<https://org.uib.no/dyreavd/harmbenefit/Concepts%20of%20animal%20well-being%20and%20predicting.pdf> (accessed on 28 September 2020).

8.10 Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council Limited. Large Animal Rescue Operations Guideline Ver 1.0 05.05.2022

file:///C:/Users/meredithc/Downloads/large-animal-rescue-operations_v01-0.pdf

8.11 <https://www.equestrian.org.au/horse-welfare>

9.0 General Definitions

In this Policy the following words in the singular include the plural and vice versa and have the corresponding meaning:

Committees: The Committees of Equestrian Australia (EA) are Sub-Committees of the EA Board of Directors and are in all respects accountable to, and subject to, its control. The overall purpose of each Committee is to assist the Board in advising, promoting and developing each discipline. Each Committee is an administrative representative of the EA Board and will conduct business as such to reflect this. Committees are not authorised to enter into any contract or to incur liabilities on behalf of EA or independently.

Employees: A person employed by Equestrian Australia or an Equestrian Organisation.

Equestrian Activity: Any equestrian competition, event, or activity (including training), conducted under the auspices of EA and its Affiliates, whether on a one-off basis or as part of a series.

Equestrian Australia (EA): The national governing body for Equestrian Sport in Australia.

Guideline: General principle that provide support and advice, like a rule, but not binding as justified deviations area possible

Health: The state of optimal physical and mental wellbeing, not merely the absence of disease, pain or limitation.

Horse/s: An equid, equine, sentient being regardless of its breed, sex, type, or purpose.

HSW: Health, Safety and Welfare

Incident: An instance of something that happens or occurs

Member: A member of Equestrian Australia or an Equestrian Organisation under its constitution, including:

- a) **Member Organisations:** Each company or incorporated association that is a member of including each:
 - (i) State, territory, and
 - (ii) Club Member; and
 - (iii) affiliate that is a member of a State and Territory Member.
- b) Individual Members, which means individuals who are individuals registered with a Member Organisation.

Participant:

- a) Athletes/Riders who are registered with or entitled to participate in an Equestrian Organisation or an Equestrian Australia Activity
- b) Coaches appointed to train an Athlete or Team in an Equestrian Organisation or Equestrian Australia Activity
- c) Administrators who have a role in the administration or operation of an Equestrian Organisation or Equestrian Australia, including owners, directors, Board members, committee members or other persons
- d) Officials including referees, judges, marshals, technical officials, or other officials appointed by an Equestrian Organisation, Equestrian Australia or any Club or Team sanctioned by Equestrian Australia
- e) Support Personnel who are appointed in a professional or voluntary capacity by an Equestrian Organisation, Equestrian Australia or any Club or Team sanctioned by Equestrian Australia including sports science sports medicine personnel, team managers, agents, selectors, and team staff members.

Procedure: Documented step-by-step plan of how to perform a process that minimises a deviation from a procedure that may lead result in harm to people, horses, or our environment

Risk mitigation: Planning and preparation to reduce the effects of hazards or threats

Safety: The state in which hazards and conditions that may lead to physical, psychological, or material harm or fatality are controlled or minimised, as low as reasonably practical in order to preserve the health and well-being of people, horses, environment, and the community.

Welfare: The state where the promotion of social, physical, and material well-being is being met

10.0 Document Control

Author	Status	Date	Version	Approved Changes	Date Approved
Meredith Chapman-NHSM	Initial draft- EA Integrity, Sport Ops, CVO & State CEOs, NHSC	12.04.22	1.0-1.4	01.06.22	
Meredith Chapman-NHSM	Final Draft reviewed CVO & NHSC Circular Resolution NHSC Final copy V1.5 Reviews completed	01.06.22 11.07.22 19.07.22	1.5 1.5 1.6	02.06.22 19.07.22	
Meredith Chapman-NHSM	Final Document for EA Board Endorsement 19.07.22	19.07.22	1.6		
George Proimos – NHSC Chair	Final Document following EA Board Review 27.07.22 – to be re-submitted to Board for final approval by circular resolution 04.09.22	29.07.22	1.7	04.09.22	13.09.22