



EQUESTRIAN
AUSTRALIA

Medication Control Policy

Effective from April 2024

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REFERENCES

The intent of the EA Medication Control Policy is that it forms guidelines to assist the administration when running National level competitions and must be referred to in conjunction with:

- FEI Equine Anti Doping Control Medication Regulations:
<http://inside.fei.org/content/anti-doping-rules>
- FEI Veterinary Regulations:
<http://inside.fei.org/fei/regulations/veterinary>

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1. Definitions/Abbreviations

ARFL	Australian Racing Forensics Laboratory
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
BMCO	Branch Medication Control Officer
EA	Equestrian Australia
EADCMR	FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations
EA Swabbing Steward	EA Medication Control Swabbing Steward
FEI	Federation Equestre Internationale
GJ	Ground Jury, as defined in relevant Sport Rules
NMCO	National Medication Control Officer
OC	Organising Committee
PR	Person Responsible

“Graded” competition refers to EA Competitor level events

2. Preface

Horses ridden or driven in an EA competition must not compete under the influence of prohibited medications. The FEI defines what a prohibited substance is in the FEI Veterinary Regulations. EA agrees and uses the same definition.

The purpose of the FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulation

(EADCMR) policy is aimed at preserving horse welfare and maintaining the philosophy that doping is contrary to the spirit of the sport. This Policy follows the EADCMR with National directives.

Medication control sampling (swabbing) is compulsory at the following events/occasions:

- All National Championships or equivalent (for at least one horse or three percent of the horses taking part, whichever is the greater);
- All State Championships or equivalent (for at least one horse or three percent of the horses taking part, whichever is the greater);
- Upon any horse that dies/ has to be euthanised at an EA Competition;
- For all classes with prize money totaling more than \$2,000 or with a first prize of \$1,000 or more (for at least one horse or three percent of horses taking part, whichever is the greater).

Sampling at FEI events is to follow guidelines as prescribed in the FEI EADCMR.

Medication control sampling (or *In-Competition* Testing) is recommended/permitted at:

- all selection or qualifying events for Championships or Finals;
- least once a year at official events that are run regularly (meaning at least six times a year);
- any EA event or competition that holds “graded” competition;
- any EA affiliated club/body that holds “graded” competition; and
- any EA Official Measuring Day (or Out-of-Competition Testing).

3. Event Planning Summary

FEI events at which medication control/sampling of horses is to take place is referred to as a Targeted event. The FEI will contact the EA NMCO whose duty it is to organise appropriately qualified personnel, that is, an approved FEI Treating Vet and FEI Testing Technician.

National events at which medication control/sampling of horses is to take place are identified by State branches and the OC, who will contact the EA NMCO. The EA NMCO will, with the assistance of the EA BMCO, organise appropriately qualified personnel, that is, an approved Veterinarian and EA Swabbing Steward.

Both events will need to plan the following:

- Access to a “swabbing box” or similar facility in which samples can be collected at the event.
- Availability of an adequate number of sample collection kits and equipment. Kits are available from Beehive Industries. Please contact BMCO for contact details.
- The method of selection of horses may be random, targeted or for the purpose of FEI events, obligatory. This decision is made in consultation with the Ground Jury and the Veterinarian. The Swabbing Steward is not involved in the selection of horses for drug testing.
- Financial budgeting for the required National sampling. The OC is responsible for paying:
 - a) The Veterinarian and/or EA Swabbing Steward. The FEI Veterinary Regulations provide guidelines to OCs on the payment of Veterinarians in Article 1022.10 “*VDs are to receive remuneration from the OC, agreed in*

advance, the recommended minimum rate being 200 EUR (or equivalent local economic value) per day. Travel and accommodation costs will be reimbursed by the OC where applicable".

- b) Factoring in the cost for swabbing charges. An estimate of these charges are listed below (correct at 2023) and tend to remain stable which will assist an OC to develop an appropriate budget for the event:
- Standard Screening Cost (covers blood and urine samples)
AUD230

Please note if a positive swab is detected, the Lab will undertake a Sample A Confirmation Test (at a cost of AUD1300). EA will cover the cost of the Sample A Confirmation test. If the result of the Sample A is confirmed as a positive swab, the PR will be charged for this cost and will have the opportunity to request a Sample B Test. This would also be at the PR's cost (approximately AUD1300). Hence the OC does not need to budget for either of these costs.

4. Qualified Personnel

The EA Office and the EA NMCO, in conjunction with the State Branches, maintains a list of financial members that are qualified accredited EA Medication Control Swabbing Stewards.

The EA Office and the EA NMCO also maintains a list of qualified accredited FEI Treating Veterinarians (TV), FEI Permitted Treating Veterinarians (PTV), FEI Official Veterinarians (OV), FEI Endurance Veterinarians (EV) and FEI Testing Technicians (TT) on a Non-Financial registrar in line with FEI accreditation requirements.

At EA National Championships, a FEI Official Vet (OV) must be used for the trot up/horse inspections. The FEI OV is also responsible for the approval of medication forms, boot and bandage checks (where applicable) and medication control. A FEI Permitted Treating Vet (PTV) may be used for the treatment of horses and, preferably, be available at the venue for the duration of the event. These appointments are to be approved by the relevant EA National Discipline Committee, the NMCO and the EA National Head Vet. If the Championship is being run as an FEI event, this should occur prior to submitting the FEI schedule.

At EA State Championships, a FEI Official Vet should be used for the trot up/horse inspections. The FEI OV is also responsible for the approval of medication forms, boot and bandage checks (where applicable) and medication control. A FEI Permitted Treating Vet (PTV) may be used for the treatment of horses, and preferably be available at the venue for the duration of the event. These appointments are to be approved by the relevant EA National Discipline Committee, the NMCO and the EA National Head Vet. If the Championship is being run as an FEI event, this should occur prior to submitting the FEI schedule.

At an EA "Graded" competition and/or EA Official Measuring Days, a qualified equine Vet familiar with FEI/EA medication control may be used.

At FEI Events, only FEI Accredited Testing Veterinarians and FEI Accredited Testing Technicians will be used. Refer FEI EADCMR.

5. Supply of Sample Collection Kits

Sample Collection kits must be ordered from Beehive Industries.

Upon arrival, the kit(s) must be checked to ensure that the expiry date is current. The ID number must also be checked.

It is the duty of the person ordering the kit(s), that is, the BMCO, Veterinarian, FEI Testing Technician, FEI Treating Veterinary or the EA Medication Control Swabbing Steward, to bring the kit(s) to the event.

EA recommends that all OCs have access to at least two kits at every event regardless of whether swabbing is to be conducted at the event. This is because swabbing must occur if there is a fatality.

The opening of the bag by the Veterinarian must occur in the presence of the Sample Collection Officials (EA Swabbing Steward/FEI Testing Technician) and the Person Responsible (PR).

All kits, whether used or unused, must be returned to the Laboratory.

Note that a washed, purpose built urine catching receptacle is required and arrangements will need to be made to have one available. The BMCO can assist with sourcing this item.

6. On-Site Facilities

It is preferable to have a separate stable dedicated to the collection of samples. This “swabbing box” is to be in a quiet and private area, be clean, have access to fresh water and have a supply of clean straw/sawdust in it. There should be chairs for the PR, Veterinarian and Steward(s) and a table on which the sampling kits can be processed.

In the absence of such facility, the sampling can be done in other areas, preferably in an area with which the PR and sampling personnel are comfortable. This area must be isolated and quiet, sheltered (from wind/rain/heat) and safe for the horse and handlers.

7. Selection of Horses to be Tested

There are many methods for selecting horses competing at National events and registered with the FEI or EA (both *In-Competition* and *Out-of-Competition* testing).

The Ground Jury may delegate the responsibility to the Veterinarian to decide upon the method of selection. The selection processes available to the Ground Jury/Event OC include any of the following:

- Horses may be chosen specifically because their behavior raises suspicion. In other words, the horse may appear drugged or under the effect of medication (this will be deemed a Ground Jury “targeted test”);
- Horses may be chosen at random from all competitors entered or chosen at random from a group of winners or place getters (this will be deemed a “random selection”);
- Horses may be chosen because they are winners or place getters (this will be deemed “obligatory”, e.g. at certain FEI Events);
- Horses may be chosen because they have been withdrawn or scratched (this will be deemed a Ground Jury “targeted test”)
- Horses may be chosen because of poor performance (this will be deemed a Ground Jury “targeted test”); and/or
- Horses may be chosen at a judge’s request (this will be deemed a Ground Jury “targeted test”)

Once the Ground Jury/OC have selected the required number of horses for swabbing, a Ground Jury member/OC member must sign the EA Medication Control Notification form(s) that will be used for the notification of the Person(s) Responsible.

8. Reporting of Results

The reporting of the sample results will only be made to the NMCO and CEO of EA for non-FEI events. Reporting of sample results for FEI events is sent directly to the FEI.

All paperwork in relation to Medication Control is to be returned to the NMCO c/- the EA Office to ensure chain of custody throughout the swabbing process. Paperwork must not be retained by any other parties involved in the Medication Control Programme.

The OC and the BMCO are only informed of the sample results at the discretion of the EA CEO.

9. EA/FEI Reference Laboratory

The EA/FEI Approved Laboratory within Australia:
Australian Racing Forensics Laboratory (ARFL)
Level 11, 51 Druitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Phone: 02 8344 5000

10. Other Contact Details

EA National Medication Control Officer
Dr Penny Dow
Email: penny.dow@equestrian.org.au

EA National Office
Postal address:
PO Box 673 Sydney Markets NSW 2129

Physical address:
Unit 7, 11-21 Underwood Rd Homebush NSW 2140
Phone: (02) 8762 7777
Email: integrity@equestrian.org.au
Web: www.equestrian.org.au

11. Notification and Supervision

The accredited EA Swabbing Steward or FEI Testing Technician will seek out the selected rider/horse combinations without significantly interfering with their competition or preparation. Horses may be sampled at any time during a competition. Horses may be sampled more than once.

In practice, it is best that the Rider/Driver/Handler/Owner or their designated representative (hereinafter called the PR) are notified and that the horse is swabbed immediately after they have finished competing or have taken part in the presentation of prizes or within 30 minutes of the announcement of the competition results. The PR may be notified up to 30 minutes after the finish of competition.

The PR must stay with the horse from the point of notification until the sampling procedure is completed.

When the Rider is a junior (under 18 years of age), the horse must be accompanied by a PR who is 18 years old or older. Further, when the Rider is a junior, the appropriate form MUST be signed to authorise a PR 18 years of age or over is accompanying the horse.

The horse must then be accompanied by the EA Swabbing Steward after notification.

The Swabbing Steward will supervise the selected horse from the moment the PR is notified until the horse comes under the supervision of the Veterinarian. The horse may be offered food and water by the PR before entry to the swabbing box but must not be administered any medication until after sampling is complete. The horse may be hosed down, may have its tack removed and may be presented quickly for photographs before making its way to the swabbing box/area. However, after notification the PR must present the horse at the swabbing box/area as soon as possible for sample collection.

A refusal or wilful obstruction by any person to submit a horse for sampling is regarded as a doping violation under FEI EADCMR.

Once at the swabbing box/area, the identity of the horse should be confirmed in the best way possible. The Veterinarian must identify the horse with its EA/FEI or relevant breed registration papers, or, if the paperwork is absent, write a description on the EA MCP Horse ID form including a microchip number if a scanner is available.

12. The Sampling Process

The Veterinarian/Swabbing Steward must open the swab kits in the presence of the PR, conduct the wash-through procedure and sample the horse, waiting for urination for no more than half of one (1/2) hour. Detailed procedures for the use of sampling kits may vary from kit to kit or lab to lab. Please consult the appropriate laboratory resource material provided with the sample kits.

Whilst the length of wait for urine must not exceed half of one (1/2) hour, on entering the swab box, this may be shortened if the sampling officials are of the opinion that collection of urine is not probable. Blood samples will be taken from all horses and may only be taken by a veterinarian. If the horse becomes dangerous then the sampling procedure may be curtailed or abandoned with the approval of the Veterinarian and/or the EA Swabbing Steward.

13. EA Medication Control Swabbing Steward Personal Kit

All EA Swabbing Stewards should obtain a personal kit, which should contain the following:

- Identity badge;
- Swabbing sample kit(s);
- Scissors;
- Stapler;
- Collection pan/urine collector;
- File/notebook;
- Pens;
- Plastic Gloves;
- Sunscreen lotion;
- Sun hat or cap;
- Swabbing Procedures;
- The Laboratory's Sample Collection Procedures Booklet (It is advisable to read this booklet thoroughly and carry it with you on swabbing day);
- EA Notification Forms;
- Blank Horse Identification Forms;
- Express Post Envelopes for Post Sampling paperwork to be returned to the National

- Office; and
- Express Post secure bags for the posting of samples to the laboratory (if needed).

Upon arrival at the grounds, check the following are available:

- Swabbing Box Area/Stable is available/clean/ready;
- Competitor List/Event program (the Ground Jury/OC must supply the swabbing team with an event program and competitor listing upon request); and
- The Swabbing Steward, a member of the Ground Jury or event coordinator and Veterinarian must meet to discuss procedures for the day.

14. After Sampling Completion

As soon as possible after a sample is taken and sealed, it must be kept chilled in a suitable secure (locked) cooler container or refrigerator. This is to ensure the biological integrity of the sample.

Used and unused sample kits are to remain in the custody of the EA Swabbing Steward or the BMCO.

Swabbing samples are to be sent by express registered post or courier freight to the approved laboratory on the first working day following the competition.

Post sampling paperwork is to be scanned and emailed as a matter of priority to the EA office with a copy sent to the NMCO. The hard copy is to be returned to the EA office once confirmation of receipt of electronic copies is received. **Under no circumstances are copies to be held by individuals.**

15. Risk Management Measures

To enable the PR to be confident that the correct processes have been followed and need not be challenged, the following measures are to be observed:

- The Swabbing Steward should not be involved in the selection of horse to be swabbed.
- The PR must have a clear view of all procedures and be given an explanation about each step of the process.
- Only an approved/qualified Veterinarian is to take blood; either the Veterinarian or the EA Swabbing Stewards may take the urine samples.
- EA Swabbing Stewards should be well versed with regulations, procedures and equipment required.
- Preferable identification of the horse should be through a suitable identification document such as an EA/FEI passport or the horse's registration papers (Note: at FEI events these documents are mandatory). If these documents are not available at National competition, the horse will be identified by completing an EA MCP Horse ID form.
- EA Swabbing Stewards are to be consistent with their procedures.
- The EA Swabbing Steward is to ensure the Veterinarian has disposed of sharps into a sharps container.
- Security for the completed kits/chain of custody, is the responsibility of the EA Swabbing Steward.