

Managing Serious Eventing Incidents

Explanatory Guide for OCs and Officials

Introduction

EA has decided (consistent with the Coroners recommendations) to extend and formalise the scope of management and review of Serious Eventing Incidents. This extension builds on rather than replaces the existing Serious Incident Management Plan and includes:-

- a clear definition of Serious Incidents beyond fatality of horse or rider
- a requirement for a preliminary report to be submitted to the NSM(National Safety Manager) and EAEC Chair within 48 hours
- A process and guidelines for an independent investigation to be held (to report within 4 weeks) should the NSM and EAEC chair determine it to be necessary

The new EA Policy and Procedures for Managing Serious Eventing Incidents apply to all Eventing Competitions in Australia whether National or FEI

Does the existing serious incident management plan need to be changed?

No changes to the key points of the existing serious incident management plan process are required-the requirement for it to be activated will increase (although not significantly). The key points for the SIMP process remain:-

- Prior to the event, the Organising Committee (OC) must develop a Serious Incident Management Plan (SIMP)
- The OC must appoint a Serious Incident Management Team (SIMT) who will execute the SIMP if required
- prior to the start of the XC phase the SIMT must meet to review the SIMP and confirm
 - a) acceptance of roles and responsibilities
 - b) understanding of the plan and process
 - c) correct contact details
- all members of the SIMT must have a copy of the plan

Note:- best practice is to have the SIMP cover all phases of the event

What must be done differently?

The plan must be activated and a preliminary report prepared under an extended range of circumstances which in addition to fatality of horse or rider include:-

- any injury or suspected injury to the head or spine that results in the admission of a rider into hospital.
- In the case of a horse any injury that requires transfer to an equine hospital

Responsibility for preparation of the report lies with the SIMT leader

Note : for FEI competitions there is no longer a requirement (Jan 2020 rules) to have an Arbitration and Investigation Committee appointed

Experience has shown that information is best collected as soon after the incident as possible and so the medical team should be asked to indicate when they think an overnight stay in hospital (due to head or spine injury) is likely to enable the data collection process to begin.

What resources are available to help

Tools and Templates including the “Policy and Procedures for Managing Serious Eventing Incidents” , “Eventing Incident Review Template” are available on the EA website
<https://www.equestrian.org.au/makingequestriansafer>

Good Sources of Advice include:-

- The Event TD
- The State Branch CEO or Eventing Chair
- The EA National Safety Manager

Summary

The new EA Policy and Procedures for Managing Serious Eventing Incidents apply to all Eventing Competitions in Australia whether National or FEI.

They involve minimal change to the processes currently required of OCs and officials

The scope of circumstances in which these processes are to be implemented has increased.

Thank you for your support

Roger Kane