

Quirindi Public School Horse Sports 24 May 2019

Horse Welfare Procedures

As recommended in the Safe Work Australia "Guide To Managing Risks When New And Inexperienced Persons Interact with Horses (June 2014)", Team Managers should, through discussion with the horse owners, not permit new or beginner riders to ride horses that:

- are nervous or reactive
- have a tendency to rear, buck, pig root, bite people or horses, kick people when being handled or ridden, shy, bolt or any other behavior which might unseat an unbalanced rider
- are highly trained and sensitive
- are non-compliant and unresponsive
- regularly trip or stumble

Horses

- are to be sound and suited to riders ability
- have no medical condition, physical disability or injury
- that are known kickers are required to wear a red ribbon in their tail. Parents in this situation are required to stay with the horse. Known kickers are to stay at a reasonable distance from other horses whilst in the marshalling area and arena.

Note – horses known to kick will typically kick only in certain circumstances (e.g. if another horse moves up close behind that horse). Through the use of this red ribbon warning, other riders know to maintain a safe distance behind any horse displaying a red ribbon so as to avoid increasing the risk of kicks.

Bio Security Process – Pony Club of NSW Bio-security procedures are to be adhered to.

Prior to entry to the ground, at the ground gate, horse owners/parents are to provide the completed Horse Health Declaration form to the Grounds Officer. If appropriate the Grounds Officer will advise parent/horse owner to proceed to the loading/unloading zone and unload the horse. If concerned, the Grounds Officer will immediately report concerns to the Work Health and Safety Officer by walkie talkie and the Work Health and Safety Officer will alert the Chief Steward by walkie talkie.

If there is a concern with the health of the horse, the horse is not to be unloaded from the float and the *BIOSECURITY CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR SUSPECT BIOSECURITY RISK is to be implemented.*

Throughout the day:

- Horse health will be monitored throughout the day and the "Biosecurity Procedures" will be implemented if a horse falls ill on the day.
- Rest periods for horses are provided between activities.
- Changes will be monitored over day (e.g. weather) that might impact on the behaviour of horses.
- Gear check and ongoing monitoring to include conversations that:
 - Ensure that the horse is physically capable of undertaking the activity
 - Appropriate equipment will be utilised at all times, in particular appropriate restraints that avoid injury or undue stress

Through the Gear Check, Horse Rider Combination Suitability and Horse Health Procedures the Team Manager will:

- Confirm with parent/horse owner that the horse is fit for the purpose of the event and free of illness or injury.
- Ensure the completed Horse Health Declaration has been collected prior to commencement of event.

If there are any concerns Team Managers are to call Horse Sports Management team and the office can call for a vet if required.

All horse owners are to:

- Complete the mandatory "Horse Health Declaration" form prior to entering the recreation ground.
- Ensure the completed Horse Health Declaration is collected by the Marshall on entry into the ground.
- Ensure horse has sufficient water, feed and shade whilst at the event.
- Ensure horses that are known kickers wear a red ribbon in their tail.
- Ensure known kickers stay at a reasonable distance from other horses whilst in the marshalling area and arena.
- To call the Horse Sports Management Team to raise any concerns. The vet can be called at the office.

The Team Manager will document that the discussions have occurred on the Horse Welfare Procedure and advise the Horse Sports Management Team of any concerns. **Following discussion with the Chief Steward, the decision will be made to either allow or not allow the horse and rider to compete. Final decisions with regard to Horse Welfare will be the responsibility of the Host Principal and Quirindi Public School Horse Sports Management Team.**

Documents to be used in conjunction with this procedure:

NSW Pony Club Association Event Biosecurity Checklist and Horse Health Declaration

Gear Check, Horse/Rider Combination Suitability and Horse Health Procedures and Confirmation form