



Drug and Welfare Policy for Horses

Australian Extreme Obstacle Racing recognises the importance of sound animal welfare policies which prevent the use of animals that are not fit for competition. Fitness may be gauged as appropriate physical fitness or lack of suitability for competition due to injury or disease.

AEORA recognises that animals used in competition must be treated in a humane manner and that AEORA does not condone the ill treatment or abuse of any animals whilst competing.

1. The following provisions regarding conduct shall apply to any event whether in competition, clinics, training or warm up.

- In humane treatment or abuse of a horse in any manner whilst in the arena or on the grounds is prohibited. Inhumane treatment includes, but is not limited to the following:
- Riding of a crippled, injured or lame animal.
- Riding of a horse with a health abnormality which could result in the horse's undue discomfort or distress.
- Abuse of an animal which includes excessive jerking, spurring, whipping or any other act intended to cause trauma or injury to the animal.
- Any act of abuse or intent to abuse an animal whilst in the arena or on the grounds which could also endanger the safety of other persons or animals will not be tolerated and the persons may be subject to disciplinary action.

If the committee discovers inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse, it may immediately bar the responsible party and horse from further participation from the event. This decision should be based on consultation with a veterinary surgeon. In the event that a Veterinary Surgeon is not available then the committee shall consult the judge (s) of the event before any action is taken under this rule.

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2. Administration of a drug or drugs while on the grounds is strictly prohibited with the following provisions:

- Any horse winning an event may be swabbed. Other horses may be chosen at random before the running of an event and they will be swabbed at the completion of the event. The number chosen will depend on the number of entries in the event.
- All testing will be by blood sample. Entry to any event will be contingent on permission for such blood samples to be obtained. The blood test will be an accurate determination of drug levels in the bloodstream (not a screening test). A registered drug laboratory will perform the test. Blood samples will only be taken by Veterinarians using tamper proof sample kits supplied by the testing laboratory.
- A Veterinarian must gazette all the drugs that he/she has prescribed and administered to a horse up to 10 days prior to competition. This information must include a statement that **the horse is fit for competition, the reason the drug has been given, the drug administered. The dose, the route of administration and the date and time that the last dose of the drug was administered.** All of these conditions are mandatory. Any horse found to have a positive swab in the absence of a Veterinarian's certificate will be reported to the governing body.
- The governing body, on advice from the testing laboratory, will determine whether any offence has been committed and what penalty will be imposed. Drug levels that are not high enough to have influenced the performance of the horse, will not attract any penalty, however, the party (s) involved will receive a warning letter and any further inappropriate behaviour will result in a ban from competition determined by the governing body. These levels will be taken from internationally published data. All results of negative tests will be destroyed.
- The cost of these tests will be borne by the governing body except where such a test is positive in which case the cost will be borne by the OWNER. In the event that a committee discovers or has a complaint made to them regarding inhumane treatment, abuse or any drug administration not in accordance with the above rules, the governing body shall be notified and a hearing to consider disciplinary action against the responsible party (s) shall be scheduled.