

Dressage WA Risk Management Guidelines and Risk Management Checklist for Dressage Events



**Where new rules which provide greater protection
are issued in any sport (discipline)
after the date on this document,
the rules in that sport must be followed.**



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Author W. Barker

wendy_eb@bigpond.net.au

Risk Management Guidelines for Events

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Introduction

'Welfare of horses must take precedence over all other demands', as the Equestrian Australia (EA) & Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) Dressage Rules state. Each participant should be aware that they have a duty of care to horses and ponies, to members, and to their 'neighbour' (the general public).

This DWA Risk Management Guidelines are the standard for managing risk at Dressage events, where possible they should be adhered to by Ground Juries and other Officials as well as Organising Committees.

Officials have expressed the need for a guide as to how to conduct themselves in situations which present risk as members of Ground Juries at events. This document is to be regarded as a pilot which will be added to as further incidents arise. Where situations arise which are not covered in this document, officials and organisers should make the best judgement they are equipped to make, and notify DWA so further adjustments can be made to the document.

Duty of care

'Every person must take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which he or she can reasonably foresee would injure his or her neighbour'. (Lord Atkin, House of Lords, 1932)

Your 'neighbour' is any person who is clearly & directly affected by what you do, or fail to do.

The standard of care

Three key factors:

1. The type of activity

The more hazardous the activity, the greater the standard of care expected. Cross country jumping is higher risk (ambulance & vet on stand by) than a show horse event.

2. The age/ability of the participant

Age

The younger the participant, the greater the duty of care (child care centres must show a high standard of care). Adults (18 years +) are owed a lesser duty of care than minors

Ability

Duty of care is greater:

With beginners than with skilled & experienced competitors

With those with disabilities than with able-bodied riders

3. The official's training & experience

The more experienced the official, the higher the standard of care required

The standard of care must reflect the 'reasonable person' test (or 'reasonable official' test)

The 'reasonable person' test

ie If a reasonable official would have seen the danger, and would have acted to try prevent it, then an official has a duty to try to provide a comparable 'reasonable standard of care'

Officials have a higher duty of care for

- Children
- People with a disability
- Horses

In short, legally, under Duty of Care, every participant bears responsibility to promptly report unsafe and or hazardous situations to the Event Organiser.

Medical and veterinary provisions

Wherever possible a General Practitioner(GP), Ambulance Officer, Nurse or at minimum, a person who holds a current Senior First Aid Certificate, should be available on the grounds for an entire event. Where this is not possible, a person with medical expertise should be on call, or available by phone. When there are suspected serious injury/injuries, the person who has the highest level of medical expertise providing first aid (herein called the carer), should make the decision on whether an ambulance is called.

However, if there is an Altered Level of Consciousness (ALOC) for any period of time (seconds or minutes), there is a significant risk of head injury (cerebral damage). ALOC is defined as any state of awareness that differs from the normal awareness of a conscious person (Mosby, 2005). This can be as little as some disorientation to unconsciousness. In this situation, there is a legal obligation to call an ambulance. On arrival of the ambulance, a Certified Paramedic/Ambulance Officer or GP can then assess the patient for the need for ambulance transfer to hospital. In these instances, the casualty's opinion on the matter is not considered.

Wherever possible a qualified Veterinarian should be available for an entire event.

The event office

Available at all times in the office, or at appropriate stations on the grounds, should be:

- A well-maintained first aid kit and basic veterinary care kit
- Well-maintained fire extinguishers

On file in the office there should be:

- A copy of Dressage WA's Risk Management Guidelines
- A copy of the current EA General Regulations
- EA Dressage Rule Book - current
- FEI Dressage Rule Book - current
- A list of emergency phone numbers, it is recommended that these will also be prominently displayed at each event.
- Signed EA Member Release and Waiver of Liability forms, (for every rider who is not an EA Member, or in the case of minors, by their parent or guardian).
- Where any incident or accident occurs, an Incident Form should be filled out by the official or other person who witnessed it. Forms should be kept in an Incident File/Book for all accidents and unusual occurrences for future reference.

Signage

A prominent notice at the entry gate should inform visitors that

- a) the gate must be kept closed after entry
- b) children must be kept under supervision at all times
- c) dogs are not encouraged at events, If the Organising Committee (OC) allows dogs on the grounds, they must be controlled and on a leash at all times

Event Schedules

It is strongly recommended that schedules include the following clauses:

- a) This event will be run according to the DWA Risk Management Guidelines. Neither the OC, nor Equestrian WA, accepts any liability for any accident, loss, damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, grooms, and spectators or any other person or property whatsoever.
- b) Any competitors who are not EWA members must send a signed disclaimer form when entering.
- c) It is strongly recommended that all competitors have Ambulance Cover, as the organising committee will call an ambulance in the event of an accident if they believe it to be appropriate and unavoidable.
- d) Competitors enter on condition that refunds may not be available if one or more competitions are unavoidably cancelled as a result of risk management plans for bio-alerts, extremes of weather, or for any other reason connected with risk management.
- e) **Helmets**
Insurers may impose the following requirements: 'Any person on horseback or lungeing a horse is required to wear a properly fitting, EA endorsed, secured helmet at all times. Riders are to understand that their EA member's insurance may be rendered void in the event of an accident/injury, wherever it may occur, if found to have not been using an endorsed helmet. Helmets marked as follows are approved for use: AS/NZS 3838:1998 (Australian and New Zealand Standard); EN 1384 (Current European Standard); ASTN F1163 (Current US Standard)'.

Officials

It is highly recommended that all Judges, Stewards and TD's appointed to officiate at events have completed Risk Management training and assessment. NOAS Judges Levels F- A, and DWA State Judges have completed Risk Management Assessment.

Helmets, body protectors and footwear

It is compulsory for all riders under 18 years to wear a properly fitted, EA endorsed, secured riding helmet when riding or lungeing a horse at an EA sanctioned event or clinic.

EA strongly recommends all competitors wear properly fitted, EA endorsed, secured helmets at all times when riding or lungeing a horse at an EA sanctioned event, but recognises the rules of some disciplines may allow otherwise e.g. Vaulting & Dressage and therefore members may ride their own horse in a hunting cap, bowler or top hat when required for competition, doing so on the understanding it is at their own risk. EA endorses helmets that meet the current:

- Australian and New Zealand Standard ASNZS3838
- European Standard EN 1384 or PAS 015 and
- USA Standard ASTN F1163

The OC has the final decision if riding /lungeing without a helmet is permissible. Venue owners may have their own regulations that OCs must follow to comply with different insurance regulations. What is and is not allowed must be published in the event's Schedule and Conditions of Entry.

Some insurers impose the following requirements:

- 'At all times, all persons on horseback at a club are required to wear an endorsed helmet. It is requested that helmets be of a dark colour.'

- The onus is on clubs to comply with insurance requirements regarding helmets. Any club that allows a rider to ride without a helmet will be held liable for any claims that may arise and the rider will not have insurance cover.
- Riders are also to understand that their EA member's insurance may be rendered void in the event of an accident/injury, wherever it may occur, if they are found not to have been wearing an EA endorsed helmet.

Body protectors are highly recommended, and in some situations will be compulsory.

Approved footwear (riding boots) is strongly recommended for all horse handlers, and is required for any person riding a horse.

Public Address Systems

PA systems can be invaluable for one off announcements as well as for ongoing reminders about risk management. Organisers are encouraged to use them wherever possible.

Critical Incident Response Plan

A Critical Incident is a traumatic event, which is likely to cause extreme physical and/or emotional stress to one or more participants and is outside the normal range of experience of the people affected. A critical incident may be an incident at an event, training session, rally, clinic, seminar, workshop or similar activity that affects any participant at that event.

An Emergency is an incident, actual or imminent, which occurs at or near an event, endangers or threatens to endanger life, property or the environment, and requires a significant or co-ordinated response.

Critical Incident and Emergency Management are the procedures which lead to the best outcomes for those affected and for any other participants. This should be conducted in a way which minimises psychological impacts on all parties, damage to the venue, assets and operations, reputation and participants.

Critical Incident – Level 1 (RED) requires a major community response, where external emergency services are required to attend urgently and assume overall management of the incident. The CEO of EWA should be informed of such a critical incident. These types of incidents include but are not limited to:

- Fatality or violent incident which affects, or is likely to affect seriously, a number of participants
- Fire that cannot be contained by hand held extinguishers
- Hostage or siege situations
- Discharge of firearms
- Industrial or vehicle accidents involving serious injury or fatality
- Threat of serious and/or wide spread infection/contamination
- Natural disaster affecting an event venue

The OC is required to convene in any of the circumstances outlined above, and work with emergency services and other relevant parties in managing the response and recovery procedures.

A Critical Incident – Level 2 (YELLOW) requires a small-scale response, where notification of emergency services is required. If an incident attracts media or formal attention from external

agencies, the CEO of EWA should be informed. These types of incidents include but are not limited to:

- Sudden or unexpected death of a participant, which causes distress to other participants
- Acts of self harm
- Threats of violence to staff/students
- Major theft or vandalism
- Physical assault by a person or dog
- Attempted robbery
- Threat to person, or property
- Fire that can be contained by hand held extinguishers

In any of the above circumstances the OC manages the immediate response and recovery, depending on the nature of the critical incident, and manages follow up with those directly involved in the incident.

The Immediate Response

The OC response should be co-ordinated and immediate. This will be achieved by the following steps:

Any participant should ensure their own personal safety in the first instance, and respond immediately.

- **In all Critical Incidents** – the OC or an official should:

If the situation has required a call to 000, immediately thereafter notify the OC, Ground Jury and other relevant officials. The notification should include the type of incident, the exact location of the incident, and details of any person, or persons who might be at risk.

- **Only in cases of immediate risk of harm or injury** - call emergency services on **(0) 000** – police or ambulance services, and make clear statement about the exact location and nature of the incident. Depending on the incident, it may also be necessary to initiate evacuation procedures through the OC.

The OC will immediately attend the scene of the incident to:

- Manage the incident scene. Remove any people at risk, and seal off the incident area if required.
- Depending on the nature of the incident, initiate and manage evacuation procedures.
- Contact external emergency services or other internal services if required, if this has not already been done.

All participants must follow the instructions of emergency services.

The OC will:

- Ensure emergency services have the appropriate emergency contact information for any Ground Jury or Officials involved in a critical incident.
- Be responsible for ensuring the physical area is safe and secure, in conjunction with emergency services. They will notify the emergency services of any relevant building information to assist in the management of the incident.

Recovery Procedures

It is often assumed that only those directly involved in the incident are affected psychologically. Minimisation of harm requires a response that takes into account the impact on:

- Those directly involved in the incident
- Those closely associated with the incident
- Those less directly involved in the incident

A critical incident can have long term effects on those who experience it, be they physical, psychological or spiritual. A recovery plan will include future management plans for those affected to ensure information is provided in a timely and responsible way (including family if appropriate) and will ensure that people directly affected by the incident remain informed and have access to counselling/debriefing services.

CEO and EWA Office Responsibilities

- The CEO of EWA will determine appropriate follow up with the individuals effected.
- The CEO of EWA will be responsible for any amendments to records related to any participants affected.
- The CEO of EWA will brief the Insurance Officer, as required.
- Actions are to be recorded. Details relating to any critical incident will be treated in a confidential manner, consistent with current EWA policies.
- All critical Incidents reported will be recorded in the 'Critical Incident Register' with the EWA Office.
- First Aiders and other key personnel can be assured of support from EWA and will be indemnified where the person acted in good faith and in the course of their duties.

Protests

***Protests about abuse of a horse, volunteer, participant or spectator**

Protests against whom?

Protests may be lodged **against any person or body (group)** for failure to observe the Rules, or common principles of good behaviour, fairness, or accepted standards of sportsmanship. Any person or body (group) involved in any capacity in an event.

Protests by whom?

Protests **for abuse** may be lodged by **any person or body (group)** for failure to observe the Rules, or common principles of good behaviour, fairness, or accepted standards of sportsmanship.

Protests to whom?

1. **During an event** – to the Ground Jury (must be presented personally to the President of the Ground Jury)
2. **After the event** – must be sent to the CEO of EWA – must be no later than 14 days after the end of the event

The CEO may at his/her discretion refer a protest to a Judicial Committee.

Information to include in the protest

The protest must be in writing, dated & signed by the person making the protest.

It must have supporting evidence, obtain names & addresses of any witnesses to the incident, or obtain signed written statements & any other form of evidence (eg photos or video).

Please Note: The information above on action to take where abuse is witnessed is drawn from EA General Regulations, Articles 163, 164 & 165 & the EA Codes of Conduct as referenced in the EA Dressage Competition Rule Book 2011 (Dressage Rules for Equestrian Australia).

Behavioural issues

Those who breach the EA Code of conduct through behaviour such as harassment or bullying may be given a Caution Card or be subject to disciplinary action. Whether it is written, spoken, or electronic, such behaviour is completely unacceptable.

Harassment

Harassment is any unwanted or unwelcome behaviour which contravenes any ground under equal opportunity and/or anti-discrimination legislation. It could be related to gender, disability, race, sex, age, physical appearance, religion or any other ground.

Bullying

Bullying is any inappropriate behaviour using force or power. Bullying undermines another person's self-esteem and confidence. It may be a one-off or may be repeated incidents:

- Disparaging remarks, Name-calling
- Public criticism, Smirking
- Verbal abuse, Harassment
- Written abuse, Swearing
- Threats, Socially excluding people
- Shouting, Spreading rumours and innuendo
- Sarcasm, Belittling

Bullying or harassment is never acceptable. Please report it to an official. Being uptight at a competition is no excuse for bad behaviour.

The cost of bullying

Bullying is not confined to the school yard. Bullying may make officials, competitors and sponsors leave our sport.

WITHOUT OUR VOLUNTEER JUDGES, ORGANISERS, AND OFFICIALS, THERE WOULD BE NO COMPETITIONS.

Steps the Dressage WA Committee may take

Many bullies are repeat offenders. Every time a bully gets away with poor behaviour, it is a signal to him or her that the organisation thinks it is acceptable. When unacceptable behaviour is reported to the committee, the committee can:

1. Issue the bully with a written warning, which may remain on file at EWA.
2. Hand the matter to the National Office, for EA to resolve
3. Suspend the bully from competing at club events for a period of time if in the judgement of the committee the incident merits it, or if further incidents occur.

Dealing with a bully

1. Stay calm. Consider issuing the person/s with a Caution Card (see Appendix J)
2. If necessary, tell the intimidator that you will not continue the conversation until you have a second official or other witness with you (walk away if you have to).
3. Stay polite. Inform the intimidator that the Dressage WA Committee has requested that inappropriate behaviour be recorded and formally reported.
4. Make a note of the following details if relevant, as soon as possible.
 - a) Name or bridle number, (ask them to provide their name if you don't know it)
 - b) Time and date
 - c) Others present
5. Put a brief written report in to the committee so the matter can be handled formally.

Organisers need the knowledge & experience of volunteers. They cannot afford to lose good people through others' bad behaviour.

Here's how it might go:

Spectator: "You haven't got a clue how to marshal this event, my daughter should have been called 10 minutes ago. You're a bloody idiot".

Marshal: "If you wish to continue this conversation, you will need to come to the club house / scorer's caravan/ canteen so another official is present while we discuss this issue".

Spectator: "What the hell do you mean? She's riding in a test right now. I'm not going anywhere".

Marshal: "Officials have been asked to submit written reports on inappropriate behaviour at competitions. When you say "You're a bloody idiot" I feel intimidated.

Spectator: "How ridiculous, get a life!"

Marshal: "In accordance with Dressage WA Promotions committee guidelines, I am making a note of your daughter's bridle number, the time, what was said, and these other riders' bridle numbers so the incident can be properly reported".

Bullies exploit power or position

People with some authority can victimize people with less power. They are often charming to those they are not bullying, which can make it even more difficult for their victims to complain. Some are clever, competent sophisticated manipulators who enjoy dominating and humiliating others. They like to see their victims squirm.

Targets for bullies

- Bullies often target people who have made a mistake. Everyone occasionally make mistakes. Riders do, officials do, organisers do.
- Bullies often attack people who are victims – the 'blame the victim' syndrome
- For example, an organiser gets abused when a computer, P.A., printer or photocopier breaks down, or weather conditions damage a riding surface or blow arenas down.

Responses from bullies

Bullies tend to use a few time-worn strategies - they

- Deny it
- Blame others


- Claim victimization if they are challenged
- Rationalise to explain their bad behaviour

See below regarding Caution Cards for officials and volunteers to carry at events.

Caution Cards

It is recommended that Caution Cards and copies of the 'What are Caution Cards?' (an explanatory sheet) are included in clipboards used by all officials and volunteers at events.


Caution Cards:



Caution Card
Breaches of the
EA Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct for Equestrian Australia requires members, participants and those connected with them to respect the rights, dignity and worth of others, and to be fair, equitable and honest in all dealing with others. They must refrain from abuse, intimidation or harassment. Inappropriate behaviour towards officials, volunteers, committee members or horses will not be tolerated. Breaches of the Code may be reported to the CEO of EWA and the Chair of the EWA Board.

Disciplinary action may result.



Caution Card
Some examples of
breaches of the
EA Code of Conduct

Use of force or power
Disparaging remarks
Shouting
Swearing
Ridicule
Insults
Sarcasm
Threats
Sneering
Public criticism (on cyberspace, at the scoreboard etc)
Verbal abuse
Written abuse
Spreading rumours &/or innuendo
Intimidating body language
Belittling behaviour
Name-calling
Harassment
Throwing gear or papers etc down/around

Disciplinary action may result.

See over page for an explanatory sheet, 'What are Caution Cards?' These should be placed with Caution Cards in each volunteer's clipboard.

What are Caution Cards?

Dear Marshalls, Gearcheckers, Judges and Organisers

Thank you for the time and skill you provide to help our sport to function. We know that most participants you will come across in our sport are helpful, cheerful and polite.

Each year we lose people we are already short of - volunteers, organizers and other loyal supporters of Dressage in WA. Why? Because some participants in our sport treat these people badly – they breach the Code of Conduct with inappropriate behaviour.

In recent years, many other sports have come down very hard on such inappropriate behavior by banning participants, parents, coaches to protect volunteers from poor behaviour.

We have resolved this year to provide a mechanism that Marshalls, Gearcheckers, Judges, Organisers and other people can use quickly and easily if confronted by inappropriate behaviour, to help to keep the people we value in our sport.

The Caution Card is an amber light

The Caution Card, is designed to be an 'amber light' rather than a red light. It is modelled on the yellow card now used in the Defence Forces by any subordinate feeling intimidated by a peer or superior. It could be, for instance, pulled out of a Marshall's clipboard and handed to a person who was behaving unreasonably. The Caution Card would simply indicate to that person that they need to back off or else there might be consequences. In most cases this would be sufficient to make the behaviour improve.

It would be a very rare event for you to formally report an incident, and there would be no obligation for any person who issued a Caution Card to do so.

We anticipate that word about the Caution Card will get around quickly and poor behaviour will become generally become a thing of the past.

Any poor behaviour that does arise should be responded to with a Caution Card at the time when the behaviour occurs.

Minors – a parent, guardian or team manager should be present before a child under 18 is handed a Caution Card.

If the behaviour does not improve, and you do wish to report an incident, you should note down the date, time, name, number & other details of the person and horse, and the name of any witness who may be present along with a brief outline of what was said or done, as well as your own name and address.

Working with Children Checks (WWC Checks) for Officials and Coaches

The Working with Children Check (WWC Check) aims to help protect children under 18 in Western Australia by:

- deterring people from working with children where they have criminal records that indicate they may harm children and
- preventing people with such records, who do apply for work with children, from working in a paid or unpaid capacity.

See EWA Health Policy for further information.

Extreme Weather Issues

‘Competitions must not take place in extreme weather conditions if the welfare or safety of the horse may be compromised.’ (EA Dressage Rule 1.2.3 c)

The President of the Ground Jury, in consultation with the Ground Jury or the Chief Steward or the Technical Delegate has the right to cancel an event where the welfare of horses and/or riders may be at risk.

Lightning / storms / strong winds

In December 1998, lightning struck and killed 22 year old Damien Beckitt, a jockey, and Brave Buck, a racehorse, while they exited Ascot Race Track in WA. Each year lightening causes casualties in outdoor recreation activities in Australia.

In the event of a severe weather warning, information should be accessed by the OC from the Bureau of Meteorology. This provides free, constantly-updated information including radar traces forecasts and severe thunderstorm warnings: consult the Bureau’s website: <http://www.bom.gov.au>

Where there is a risk of lightning, the following should occur.

An announcement on the PA should require every rider to dismount immediately, lead their horse/pony to refuge, load the horse/pony into their truck or float, and take shelter in a vehicle or a large fully enclosed building.

Lightning - the 30/30 Rule

The 30/30 rule relates to the duration between the flash of lightning and clap of thunder, which indicates the proximity of a storm cell and when outdoor activities should be suspended and resumed.

The rule of thumb is that every three (3) seconds of delay between a lightning flash and the audible thunder associated with the flash equates to a distance of approximately one (1) kilometre.

Accordingly, the thirty (30) seconds flash-to-thunder time interval suggests that the lightning activity is approximately ten (10) kilometres away.

a) Suspension of Activity

- As part of any lightning safety plan, all persons must take cover if the flash-to-thunder delay is thirty (30) seconds or less

(b) Resumption of Activity

All persons must remain under cover until thirty (30) minutes after the final flash of lightning or clap of thunder, as trailing storm clouds still carry a lingering charge

30 seconds: Count the number of seconds between observing lightning and hearing thunder. If this time period is thirty seconds or less, take cover as the lightning is sufficiently close to represent a hazard.

30 minutes: After observing the final lightning or hearing the final thunder, remain under cover for thirty minutes to ensure the hazard has passed.

Safe locations to seek cover during lightning

Take refuge in a safe location:

- Inside a large enclosed structure, preferably with electrical/telephone wiring and plumbing (to provide a safe pathway to the ground for any current), but keeping away from doors, windows, metal fittings and devices connected to the electricity supply
- Inside an enclosed metal vehicle (such as a car, van or bus) with rubber tyres

Unsafe during lightning

Avoid:

- buildings with exposed openings
- small structures or sheds
- open fields
- in close proximity to the tallest localised structure (eg. surveillance tower, tree, light pole, antenna, etc)
- umbrellas
- lakes or water generally (eg. showering)

Holding events in heat and humidity

Welfare of horses must take precedence over all other demands

The impact of heat and humidity on Dressage horses has been poorly understood by many in the industry in Australia. There have been instances of horses dying and/or requiring intensive veterinary care following Dressage competition or clinics in such conditions in Australia. Heat overload (heat stress or even heat stroke) occurs when an individual cannot shed sufficient heat to maintain a normal core temperature (38°C for a horse & 37°C for a person). Definitive research on this subject by Dr David Marlin recommends:

- o Alteration of time of day or time of year at which an event is run
- o Reduction in overall effort (shorter distance, less jumping efforts, etc)
- o Education of riders, grooms and officials
- o Provision of shade
- o Provision of adequate means of cooling horses

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) forecast is based on the temperature in the shade. The temperature for horses and riders warming up and competing in the sun, and for judges in cars, will be *much* higher than this.

Cooling facilities are strongly recommended for events held in January & February between 11.00am and 5.00pm

The following are strongly recommended for events held between 11.00am and 5.00pm in January & February, (except on the South coast):

- A. At least 2 wash bays for each arena running tests**
So horses can be aggressively cooled
- B. Free ice – ad lib**
An abundance of bags of ice for ice boots or for riders to add to water to cool horses after exercise
- C. A shaded area with misting fans**
For recovery
- D. An equine veterinarian**

Please note these requirements are well below those required at an FEI Event – see Appendix D.

Events in January & February should be held between 7.00 -11.00am and/or 5.00 -9.00pm (except on the South coast). Organisers may prefer to run from 5.00pm Saturday and 7.00am Sunday.

Strategies required for *any* events where the WGBT forecast is 33° C or more

1. Advanced and FEI level competitions – to be run in the coolest part of the event

Schedule the most demanding tests when it is cooler. The lower level competitions generally make lower demands on horses.

2. PA announcements – frequently repeated

- a) Explanations of the 6 Minute Threshold in any demanding exercise, (not just cross country exercise), as being pivotal in heat overload
- b) Encouraging riders to pre-cool their horses by hosing them to place lower demands on the horses' cooling systems while they work
- c) Encouraging abbreviated warm ups to lighten the load on horses' cooling systems
- d) Encouraging 'Summer Dress' – no jackets or vests. This to be mandatory for riders under 18 years
- e) Explanations of aggressive cooling until the horse's temperature returns to 38° C (see App A)
- f) Encouraging use of ice and a shaded area with misting fans, to cool horses after exercise
- g) Encouraging hydration of every horse with cool clean water, salt and electrolytes

3. Shaded areas for officials

Any organiser of a Dressage event to be held in hot weather should understand the following key principles:

1. Humidity and heat – a dangerous mix causing heat overload

Combinations of high heat and humidity impact severely on a horse's main cooling mechanism – sweating and evaporation. A heat stressed horse can have multiple organ failure – it may collapse and die. To assess the risk, the FEI now uses the Wet Globe Bulb Temperature (WGBT) or Comfort Index. WGBT information is published on both the BOM website and the ABC/BOM site. Unless cooling facilities to FEI standard are in place at an event, the FEI strongly recommends that riding activities be suspended when the WGBT Index reaches or exceeds 32-33 °C.

2. The 6 Minute Threshold - heat overload for horses working in the heat

Where the WGBT Index is high, horses which have just performed are at risk of suffering a dangerous temperature hike. FEI Equine Veterinary Delegate Dr Nigel Nichols officiated at Sydney, Athens, and Hong Kong Olympics in adverse heat. He explained that when the WGBT Index is high, 6-6.5 minutes of continuous hard work – the '6 Minute Threshold' is pivotal in causing heat stress. Dressage horses do work extremely hard in both the warm up and in their tests. For Showjumpers the effort is generally under 6 minutes, however for Dressage and Cross Country, horses are at risk in heat, because the effort will exceed the 6 Minute Threshold.

Aggressive cooling (see Appendix D) should be used after a performance for a Dressage horse when the WGBT is high, just as for horses coming off Cross Country.

3. Windflow (breeze) dramatically reduces heat overload (heat stress)

Windflow significantly increases evaporation. The primary cooling mechanism for both horses and humans is evaporation of sweat. On hot days, events should be scheduled early or late, when better windflow is likely. Triathlons in the heat start at 4.00am. Dressage events in the heat should start no later than at 7.00am.

Horses *standing* in the sun without shade or windflow in temperatures above 33°C, start to accumulate heat. Horses *working* in the sun without windflow at or above 33°C are at risk (Dr J. Kohnke).

4. Surface area to body mass (SA:BM)

As body mass increases, relative surface area decreases. An 80 kg rider will have a SA:BM = 1:40, but a 500kg horse has a SA:BM = 1:100. Surface area to body mass ratio impacts negatively on a horse's ability to shed heat through evaporation. Greater muscling in Dressage horses lowers their SA:BM ratios and makes them less effective than other equine athletes at shedding heat.

5. Judges in cars in the heat

For a judge sitting in a hot car, heat stress is a risk. Judges who have been distressed because they had to judge for some time where the temperature in cars was in the high 40's, although the forecast was in the 30's.

Sun Smart Policy

Exposure to the sun's ultraviolet radiation (UVR) increases the risk of skin damage, skin cancer and damage to the eyes. OC's should actively promote and support strategies to reduce harm from the sun's UVR for all participants i.e., riders, officials, administrators, volunteers, supporters and spectators at all levels.

Guidelines to alleviate the risks of heat & humidity & UVR

Regular PA announcements should encourage Sun Smart practices - the well known dictum slip, slop, slap, slide:

***Slip** on UV protecting clothing (with long sleeves and collar)*

***Slop** on broad spectrum sunscreen with a SPF of 30+ (freely available for athletes at events held in the warmer months of the year)*

***Slap** on a hat with a broad brim to protect the face, ears and neck*

***Slide** on wraparound sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard for UV protection (AS 1067)*

Encourage athletes to ride without vests, coats and jackets at an event - 'Summer dress'

Split shift events are preferable in the heat – eg commence at 7.00am & break between 11.00am and 5.00pm when heat and UVR levels are highest.

Suspension of Activity until the WGBT Index is below 32 [degrees](#):

32 degrees or higher

Where the forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology forecasts (on ABC Radio 7.20 from 6.00pm on the day before the event) will exceed 32 degrees Celsius, 'summer dress' should be the standard. Announcements on PA systems should reiterate this policy on a regular basis throughout the day/s of the event.

35 degrees or higher

Where the forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology forecasts (on ABC Radio 7.20 from 6.00pm on the day before the event) will exceed 35 degrees Celsius, the event should be rescheduled to a split shift or to another date.

Officials should be notified of these policies before they commence their duties. Officials should as far as possible be provided with the following to prevent the risk of heat stress if they are working in the sun or are sitting in a vehicle or hut:

- Sunscreen
- Cool water
- Damp wraps or handtowels for necks
- Shade (a towel) for car windows

Horse Related Issues

Enclosed venues

It is highly recommended that any area where an EWA event is held be fully enclosed with a horse proof fence (at least 1.2 metres high), where any external gates are kept closed except when traffic is actually passing through the gateway.

Tying up horses

Horses must have access to adequate water when tied up.

When not being ridden or led, horses should be tied to a building, properly installed hitching rails or similar structures such as a float, a horse truck or similar. Horses should only be tied to objects which are secure. Horses should not be tied to floats unless the float is attached to a car. These cars should be in gear with the handbrake on.

Yarding and Portable Yards

Horses must have access to adequate water when stabled or yarded.

If a horse is kept in an approved yard, it may be loose. Stallions must not be housed in portable yards at any event. See Appendix K.

"Stabling and yards should be of solid construction. From 01 January 2010, the use of electrified tape, strings, ropes or chains, will not be permitted at EA Events." A yard will be considered as a rigid enclosed area in which a horse is confined but in which it may be loose to freely move around.

The rule will not apply to a situation where a horse remains tied to a float or truck on a short tether and is not free to move around.

The OC determines whether it will allow portable yards to be used. Venue owners may have their own regulations that OCs must follow. What is and is not allowed must be published in the event's Conditions of Entry.

Horses should not be left unattended for long periods. Regular inspection is recommended.

Electric tape should not be used at events at all. An exception is when it is used around the top of rigid yards or stables to stop horses from reaching across the yard fence.

Minimum standards for portable yards

1. Yards intended for 'loose' horses should have a minimum area of 3m x 3m.
2. Yards should not extend for more than 5m from a truck or float.
3. The minimum height should be 1.2m.
4. Minimum number of rails: 2 with a maximum distance of 600mm between rails.
5. Yards should be made of alloy, steel or galvanised pipe. (Note: New technologies with different properties may become available and may be allowed if safe.) Galvanised pipe or steel uprights should have a minimum wall thickness of 2mm and be at least 25mm in diameter. Alloy uprights and rails should have a minimum wall thickness of 3mm and be at least 32mm in diameter.
6. Uprights should be anchored to the ground at least in the free-standing corners away from the truck/float, to prevent movement. Preferable, all uprights should be anchored to the ground. (Note: If the design of the yard does not make a provision for anchoring, this can

be done by sliding uprights over posts rammed into the ground or by attaching uprights to posts with strong electrical ties or similar methods.)

7. Single yards may be attached to a truck or a float.

8. Portable yards may be constructed in a row or other joint assembly (square, rectangle).

This assembly may be free-standing. Where permanent day stalls, yards or stables at a venue) have an open side, this may be secured with a chain or rope of suitable strength. Electric tape must not be used for this purpose.

Loose horses

Any horse behaving in a manner likely to endanger itself, its rider, or other horses and riders may be asked to leave.

Where a horse becomes loose and uncontrolled, officials should immediately order all mounted participants in that vicinity to halt, using a PA where possible. Where appropriate riders may also be advised to dismount. Activities should only recommence when the loose horse is under control.

Falls

Any fall of horse &/or rider in a Dressage competition between the entry at A and the end of the test at the final salute (and possibly also in the warm up) will entail elimination from that competition. Organisers are encouraged to include this in their schedules.

If, as a result of a fall, a rider is in an unconscious or semi-conscious state as a result of a fall, & does not appear fit to compete, the Chief Judge, in consultation with the Technical Delegate (TD)/Chief Steward (or in their absence, the organisers) & a medical officer, if available, has the right to use their discretion to not allow the rider to compete for 24 hours from the time of the fall. The time of the fall should be noted on the test sheet, and by the TD/Chief Steward or organisers.

There is no appeal against this decision unless a medical certificate is provided confirming that the rider is fit to continue in competition.

Stallions

It is the stallion owner's/rider's responsibility to ensure that all possible safety precautions are taken.

Handlers

It is recommended that all handlers wear Australian Standards Approved, secured riding helmets. At shows it is recommended that riders and handlers of stallions be over the age of 17 years; however, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to understand the full code of conduct for stallions at events. With the exception of rule 1.1.8 in the Show Horse Rules and Guidelines, stallions are not permitted in Show Horse classes at EA State or Championship events. All riders/handlers under the age of 17 years must be supervised by an adult/parent/guardian whilst at the event. Riders and handlers of stallions should be over 17 years, and the parent/guardian is responsible.

Discs on the horse

Official green 'discs' at all times at the venue - on both sides of head collars & bridles, or on some part of the horse.

Restraint

A suitable restraint is compulsory to move a stallion around a venue - a bridle, an anti-rearing bit, or a chain lead rein over the stallion's nose or under his jaw.

Stables or supervision

No suitable stabling - then stallions must wear a collar, tied securely to the outside of a truck or trailer, & MUST be supervised at all times.

Floats/Trucks

Vehicles transporting stallions must display the green discs.

Prize giving

Stallions may be substituted with another horse in prize-giving.

Responsibility

It is the stallion owner's/rider's responsibility to ensure that all possible safety precautions are taken.

Warm Up Arenas

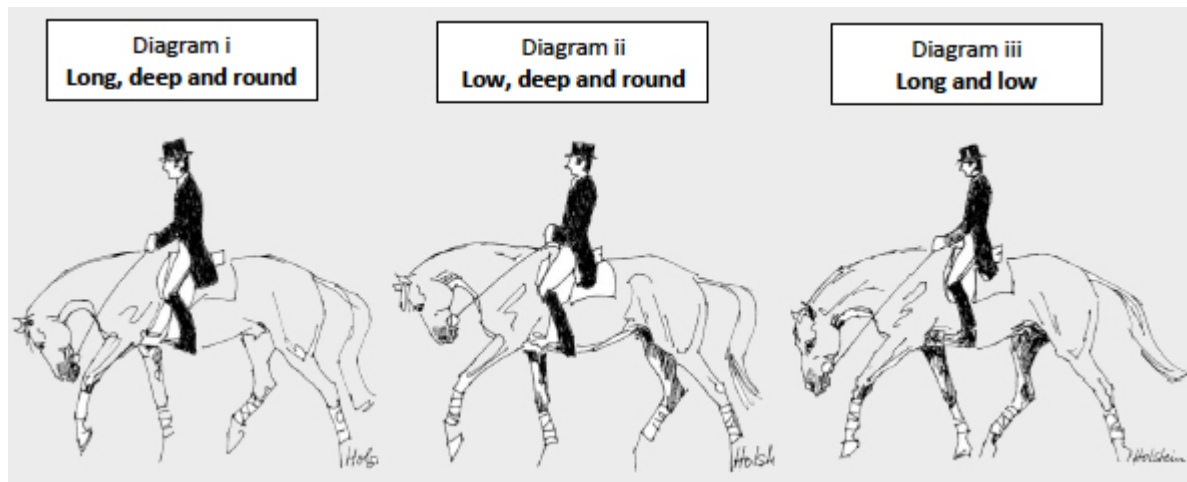
Spectators must stay within assigned areas. Where possible a Steward (this may be a Judge) should be appointed to assist with safety and welfare in the warm up arena. Guidelines from the Dressage Rules on Warm Up should be posted on the rider Notice Board at events.

The horse warm-up area(s) must be adequate for the number of horses. The number of horses in the warm-up area needs to be controlled to avoid potential accidents. Where there is restricted warm up space, it is recommended that a limit be placed on the number of horses in it at any time. As a guide, in a fenced 60x20m (ie 180 square metres) warm up arena, no more than 4 horses may work in the area at one time. Priority will be given to the horses in descending order from the next in the draw to ride in the competition. A Steward for the Warm up, or a gatekeeper may be needed to ensure this protocol is followed.

Riders should remove unsafe horses (or those upsetting others) from the warm up area
Officials may request removal of any horses they believe are unsafe or deemed to be upsetting others.

FEI Bureau – Stewards' guidelines on 'Warm up Techniques'

- Stressing the horse, aggressive riding & inflicting pain &/or discomfort on the horse must be prevented
- About 10 min limit – on horse's head & neck carriage in fixed position without change
- About 10 min limit – on repetition of movements in the practice arena, post-competition
- About 1 hour limit – for a pre-comp training session
- About 1 hour break between any training/warming up periods
- No single neck position should be maintained which may lead to stress or tiredness
- The rider is not permitted to use rough or abrupt aids or apply constant unyielding pressure on the horse's mouth through a fixed arm/hand position



Permitted head & neck positions

Etiquette in the warm up arena

As there are many horses warming up in a restricted area it is important that all riders have knowledge of the etiquette required in group riding. This ensures safe riding and achieves harmony in busy areas.

- ☐ safety is paramount and a collision should be avoided at all times
 - ☐ before entering the warm-up area make sure the gateway and immediate track are clear
 - ☐ riders should pass left shoulder to left shoulder when on the track
 - ☐ when not on the outside track, e.g. on a diagonal line, riders should give way to horses on their left
 - ☐ the more progressive gait has priority on the track
 - ☐ halt should not be on the track
 - ☐ walk should not be on the track and does not have right of way
 - ☐ trot has priority over walk
 - ☐ canter has priority over trot
 - ☐ lateral work has priority over **all** paces
 - ☐ mounting, dismounting and gear adjustment should be done off the track
 - ☐ consideration should be given to behaviour of other horses in the arena that may upset horses
 - ☐ a horse that is upsetting others should leave the area
 - ☐ an Official may request a horse's removal for the sake of safety
 - ☐ horses are to be lunged only in the designated lunging arena
 - ☐ lower level riders should not disturb the warm up of higher level riders (unwritten ground rule)
- Eg Priority should be given to horses in counter canter, or performing sequence changes etc.

Lungeing

Lungeing in warm up arenas is strictly prohibited. Horses being lunged at events may not be mounted. It is highly recommended that any person lunging a horse should wear a properly fitted, EA endorsed, secured riding helmet when lunging a horse at an EA sanctioned event or clinic.

Horses are to be lunged only in the designated lunging arena. This should be separate from the warm up area. Enclosed lunging yards are strongly recommended. Where enclosed lunging yards exist at venues, lunging should only be undertaken in an enclosed area.

Arena surrounds

Arena surrounds, markers and signage should be constructed of safe materials such as plastic. Arena surrounds should not be a continuous length of chain, wire etc.

Riding surfaces

Competition surfaces and warm up areas should be inspected regularly for visible dangers. Partially concealed obstacles such as tree stumps or sprinklers should be marked in a safe way.

Dust from some riding surfaces may represent a health hazard. Dry dusty surfaces should be watered before each competition and where necessary in breaks in competitions through the day/night.

Wild life and other uncontrolled animals

Snakes

Officials and/or PA announcements should immediately suspend all nearby activities until the snake has been safely removed.

Australian snakes are amongst the most venomous in the world. The preservation of human and equine life and safety considerations are of overriding importance. All snake management actions are to be undertaken with due regard to animal welfare and ethical considerations. Snakes must be interfered with as little as possible, and the killing of snakes must only be for euthanasia.

Other uncontrolled animals - dogs, geese, rabbits, insect swarms etc

Dogs are not encouraged at events, but if present must be controlled and on a leash at all times. Officials and/or PA announcements should immediately suspend all nearby activities until the animals no longer represent a hazard.

**For other issues eg Drug & Alcohol Policy,
Healthy Eating Policy, Tobacco Policy, see EWA Health Policy**



Appendix A

First Aid Kits and Veterinary Care Kits

Human First Aid Requirements

(eg St John Ambulance All-Purpose Kit)

Adhesive plasters / Band-aids
Wound closures
Non-adherent dressings
Gauze swabs
Conforming bandages
Crepe bandages
Tape
Alcohol swabs
Burns dressing
Eye wash
Eye pads
Hot/Cold pack
Forceps
Scissors
Gloves (disposable)
Safety pins
Antiseptic Cream
Paracetamol Tablets
Emergency First Aid Book

Veterinary Care Requirements

Thermometer	Scissors
Cotton wool roll	Pack of gauze swabs
Wound dressings (e.g. Melolin and Jelonet)	Ice boots or cooling packs
Cohesive Bandages (e.g. Vet Wrap or CoFlex)	Saline solution to cleanse wounds (0.9%)
Adhesive Bandages (e.g. Elastoplast or Flow wrap)	Large syringe for flushing wounds
Vaseline petroleum jelly	Poultice dressing (e.g. Animalintex)
Antiseptic solution (e.g. Betadine)	Antiseptic cream (e.g. Septicide)
Farriery tools for removal of a shoe	

Appendix B

Lightning Safety Procedures (Dec 2006, Racing NSW)

1. Lightning Safety Plan

- Thunderstorms can produce different types of severe weather hazards, including lightning;
- Each year, a number of related casualties occur during outdoor sport and recreational activities;
- Accordingly, it is considered appropriate that all Clubs implement a lightning safety plan to promote the safety of all employees, contractors, participants and spectators;
- Racing NSW believes that the most practical strategy by which such an objective can be achieved is through implementation of what is commonly known as the “30/30” rule, supported by other supplementary measures. These are detailed below.

2. Forward Planning

- The Bureau of Meteorology provides free, constantly-updated information on weather forecasts including thunderstorm activity and severe thunderstorm warnings;
- Radar traces of approaching storm cells are also available;
- All such information is located on the Bureau’s website, which may be found at the following internet address: <http://www.bom.gov.au>
- Accordingly, clubs should maintain a heightened level of awareness in respect of weather forecasts at all times, and seek additional information from the above source if thunderstorms are forecast.

3. The 30/30 Rule

- The 30/30 rule relates to the duration between the flash of lightning and clap of thunder, which describes the proximity of a storm cell;
- It is used as a measure of the imminence of the storm and therefore as a denominator in deciding whether to suspend outdoor activities;
- The rule of thumb is that every three (3) seconds of delay between a lightning flash and the audible thunder associated with the flash equates to a distance of approximately one (1) kilometre;
- Accordingly, the thirty (30) seconds flash-to-thunder time interval suggests that the lightning activity is approximately ten (10) kilometres away;

(a) Suspension of Activity

- As part of any lightning safety plan, clubs should therefore incorporate a rule which requires all persons to take cover if the flash-to-thunder delay is thirty (30) seconds or less;

(b) Resumption of Activity

- Furthermore, all persons must remain under cover until thirty (30) minutes after the final flash of lightning or clap of thunder, as trailing storm clouds still carry a lingering charge;

(c) Summary

- In summary:
 - 30 seconds: Count the number of seconds between observing lightning and hearing thunder. If this time period is thirty seconds or less, take cover as the lightning is sufficiently close to represent a hazard;
 - 30 minutes: After observing the final lightning or hearing the final thunder, remain under cover for thirty minutes to ensure the hazard has passed.

4. Safe Locations to Seek Cover

The following locations would normally be regarded as the most appropriate to seek shelter:

- the safest location is inside a large enclosed structure, preferably with electrical/telephone wiring and plumbing (to provide a safe pathway to the ground for any current), but keeping away from doors, windows, metal fittings and devices connected to the electricity supply;
- an enclosed metal vehicle (such as a car, van or bus)

5. Unsafe Locations

- the following locations should be avoided:

- buildings with exposed openings;
- small structures or sheds;
- open field/racecourse;
- in close proximity to the tallest localised structure (eg. Surveillance tower, tree, light pole, antenna, etc);
- umbrellas;
- swimming pools, lakes or water generally (eg. showering).
- people should also refrain from contacting metal objects or using the telephone, computers or any other devices connected to electrical/phone lines.

6. Responsibilities

- it is the responsibility of the club to implement an effective Lightning Safety Plan and ensure all employees/representatives are aware of the procedures;

- it is also imperative that a designated person be given responsibility for monitoring any signs of approaching storms and implementing the Lightning Safety Plan, as follows:

- on event days, the Club Secretary /Manager/Chief Executive & the Chief Steward should ensure that the Lightning Safety Plan is implemented;

7. Dissemination of Information

- OC's should make all persons at the event are aware of the existence of a Lightning Safety Plan.

8. First Aid

- If a person has been struck by lightning, immediately seek medical assistance and/or an ambulance; however first aid is required urgently. Expired Air Resuscitation ("EAR" – more commonly known as "mouth-to-mouth" resuscitation) can be applied if a person is not breathing but still has a pulse. In the absence of a pulse, cardiopulmonary resuscitation ("CPR") should be used.

9. Other Lightning Protection Measures

- OC's can provide enhanced lightning protection through adoption of other measures including:

- ensuring that all freestanding structures (eg. surveillance towers) satisfy relevant statutory standards. In this regard, Australian Standard AS/NZS 1768 (Int) 2003 sets out guidelines for the protection of persons and property from hazards arising from lightning. installation of an Electrical Storm Identification Device. Lightning Warning Systems are local warning instruments designed to provide early warning of an approaching storm front that contains lightning discharges. Such systems generally comprise a main console, antenna assembly, electrical siren plus associated components and deliver an audible warning/alert once lightning activity has been detected.

Acknowledgments:

- "Recommendations for Lightning Protection in Sport", Michael Makdissi and Peter Brukner, Medical Journal of Australia (<http://www.mja.com.au/public>) - "Lightning Safety", Matt Bragaw, National Weather Service (http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/jetstream/lightning/lightning_safety.htm)
- "Safety Procedures", Lightning and Surge Technologies: (<http://www.lightningman.com.au>)
- "On-line medical dictionary" (<http://www.wrongdiagnosis.com>)

Appendix C

Lightning Safety Plan - Racing NSW 2006

Why have a lightning safety plan?

Each year, thunderstorms produce severe weather hazards which cause casualties during outdoor sport and recreational activities. Race Clubs have therefore introduced a Lightning Safety Plan.

What is lightning safety plan?

The Lightning Safety Plan is based on what is known as the “30/30” rule, which relates to the duration between the flash of lightning and clap of thunder. This duration is used as a measure of the proximity of the storm and therefore as a denominator in deciding whether to suspend outdoor activities.

How does the 30/30 rule work?

The rule of thumb is that every three (3) seconds of delay between a lightning flash and the audible thunder associated with the flash equates to a distance of approximately one (1) kilometre. Accordingly, the thirty (30) seconds flash-to-thunder time interval suggests that the lightning activity is approximately ten (10) kilometres away.

When should activity be suspended and subsequently resumed?

All persons should take cover if the flash-to-thunder delay is thirty (30) seconds or less. After the storm has seemingly passed, all persons should remain under cover until thirty (30) minutes after the final flash of lightning or clap of thunder as trailing storm clouds still carry a lingering charge.

Which locations provide safe shelter?

The following locations would normally be regarded as the most appropriate to seek shelter:

- the safest location is inside a large enclosed structure, preferably with electrical/telephone wiring and plumbing (to provide a safe pathway to the ground for any current) but keeping away from doors, windows, metal fittings and devices connected to the electricity supply;
- an enclosed metal vehicle such as a car, van or bus.

Which locations are unsafe?

Buildings with exposed openings, small structures or sheds, open field/racecourse, proximity to the tallest localised structure (eg. surveillance tower, tree, light pole, antenna), umbrellas, swimming pools, lakes or water generally (eg. showering).

Persons should also refrain from contacting metal objects or using the telephone, computers or any other devices connected to electrical phone lines.

Who is responsible for implementing the lightning safety plan?

At events, the Club Secretary/Chair/Chief Executive (CEO) and/or Chief Steward should ensure the Plan is implemented.

What if a person is struck by lightning?

Immediately seek medical assistance and/or an ambulance. However, first aid is required urgently if a person has been struck by lightning. Expired Air Resuscitation (“EAR” – more commonly known as “mouth-to-mouth” resuscitation) can be applied if a person is not breathing but still has a pulse. In the absence of a pulse, cardio pulmonary resuscitation (“CPR”) should be used.

Holding events in heat and/or humidity –

The FEI Guidelines are set out for events where cooling facilities to FEI standard are available in the heat. Where inferior cooling facilities (or no cooling facilities) exist, greater precautions should be taken.

WBGT	Example	Recommendations
Reading	°C: %RH	
Less than 28	30:45	<i>No changes to the FEI recommended format for the Three Day Event competitions should be necessary.</i>
28-30	29:60	<i>Some precautions to reduce heat load on horses will be necessary. Additional precautions to those above to limit overheating of horses will be necessary.</i>
30-32	30:65	<i>Additional precautions to those above to limit overheating of horses will be necessary.</i>
32-33	30:75	<i>These are hazardous climatic conditions for horses to compete in and will require further modifications to the competition.</i>
Above 33	32:60	<i>These environmental conditions are probably not compatible with safe competition. Further veterinary advice will be required before continuing</i>

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*** FEI standard cooling facilities**

To enable aggressive cooling to be carried out, when the WGBT exceeds 32-33 °, the following should be available at an event:

- A. **Multiple hoses and wash bays for each arena running tests**
(ideally two hoses per horse for up to 40 minutes after each performance)
- B. **Large bins (ideally wheelie bins) full of water and bags of ice**
For aggressive cooling
- C. **Free ice – ad lib**
An abundance of bags of ice for ice boots or for riders to add to water to cool horses after exercise
- D. **A shaded area with misting fans**
For recovery
- E. **An equine veterinarian**

Aggressive cooling

Aggressive cooling should be used where a horse's temperature is elevated after any demanding exercise such as Dressage or Cross country where the WGBT Index is high. Cooling includes use of ice boots, repeatedly applying bucketfuls of iced water, and/or repeatedly hosing & immediately scraping water as it warms on the horse's body. Key areas to apply cooling to are the jugular vein (underside of neck), the femoral arteries (between hind legs) and the heat sink (lower abdomen). Aggressive cooling should continue until water is no longer heating up on the horse, or until the horse's temperature is back to a healthy 38° C, (rather than heading up to a dangerous 40° C).

Anhydrosis in horses (also called 'drycoatedness, or 'the puffs')

Only 2 species, humans and horses, rely on evaporating sweat to shed excess heat. Horses naturally have a very efficient cooling mechanism as part of their thermoregulation system.

Hindgut fluid reserve acts as a 'heat sink' (the hind gut stores 60 litres of fluid where some heat can be diverted to reduce damage to vital organs).

During humid weather when the Relative Humidity (RH) exceeds 85%, the efficiency of sweat evaporation from the skin decreases by 5% for every 2% increases in relative humidity, which greatly increases the risk of heat stress.

Some people think when a horse's coat is dry or has only patchy sweat when worked on a hot day, that this indicates that the horse is handling the heat. In fact a dry coat could be cause for great concern – the horse could be losing the ability to sweat (anhydrosis) - indicating a faulty or a completely broken cooling system. ie the horse may suffer heat stroke and collapse.

'The puffs'

Unlike dogs, horses are not designed to pant. When a horse 'pants' – this is called 'the puffs'. This means it is suffering heat stress, and requires immediate cooling.

Cooling systems in horses

- **Evaporation & convection** – 60-80% of cooling - horses shed excess heat through sweating and having air moving over them. Horses standing in the sun without shade or wind flow (breeze) in temperatures above 33°C, start to accumulate heat.
- **Radiation & conduction** – up to 25% of cooling - once the air temperature is over 37°C, a horse even at rest needs to shed heat – the size & mass of a Dressage horse's body makes this harder than for smaller animals, or even than for a lighter framed horse.
- **Respiratory loss** –up to 15% of cooling – for horses during exercise

Appendix E

The impact of heat and/or humidity on humans

Celsius	Notes	Results of continuing activity
27–32 °C	Caution — fatigue is possible with prolonged exposure and activity	Could result in <u>heat cramps</u>
32–41 °C	Extreme caution — <u>heat cramps</u> , and <u>heat exhaustion</u> are possible	Could result in <u>heat stroke</u>
41–54 °C	Danger — <u>heat cramps</u> , and <u>heat exhaustion</u> are likely	Probable <u>heat stroke</u>
over 54 °C	Extreme danger – warning – <u>heat stroke</u> - a potentially lethal condition. Fluid levels in the body become so low that sweating stops and the body temperature rises. The brain and other vital organs such as the kidneys and heart begin to fail.	Imminent <u>heat stroke</u>
	Note that humidity and exposure to full sunshine can increase Heat Index values significantly	

Potentially dangerous air temperatures & humidities for humans engaging in prolonged vigorous exercise (p225 *Better Coaching, Advanced Coaches' Manual*, F. Pyke)

Air Temperature	21°	24°	27°	30°
Relative Humidity (RH)	+70%	+60%	+50%	+40%
Heat Index	= 91	= 84	= 77	= 70

'Summer Dress' assists in heat shedding for riders

'Summer dress' (no jackets or vests) should be mandatory for riders under 18 years of age once the temperature reaches 33° C. Athletes rely on heat shedding to prevent their core temperature from overheating (above 37° C in humans or 38° C in horses). Helmets, and competition riding attire restrict heat shedding in a way that few athletes in other sports experience. The Australian Sports Commission recommends sports outfits 'used in hot conditions be made of light-coloured, natural open-weave fibres ... They should be loose-fitting and provide adequate ventilation of the skin to allow evaporation of sweat' (p226, F. Pyke). Following this ASC recommendation, riders should discard jackets & vests.

Children 6 to 10 years are prone to overheating – they have poorly developed sweating responses, and have poor perception of the strain on their thermo-regulation systems, so their assessment of their own cooling and hydration needs will be quite imprecise (p225 *Better Coaching, Advanced Coaches' Manual*, F. Pyke).

Appendix F

Yarding - Guidelines for the Keeping of Horses at Events and Shows

"Stabling and yards should be of solid construction. From 01 January 2010, the use of electrified tape, strings, ropes or chains, will not be permitted at EA Events." Equestrian Australia *General Regulation*, Article 109.3. A yard will be considered as a rigid enclosed area in which a horse is confined but in which it may be loose to freely move around.

The rule will not apply to a situation where a horse remains tied to a float or truck on a short tether and is not free to move around.

Responsibility for non-compliance with the yard rule will rest with the event organising committees. All other EA rules must be met. Event organisers are reminded that applying this exception to the yard rule will not relieve them from responsibility for complying with any National Sport Rule, Branch Rule or venue rule or condition relating to stabling and yards, and it remains the responsibility of the event organisers to ensure that they comply with all applicable occupational health and safety laws.

Clubs and associations that allow the use of yards made with electric tape are risking breakouts of horses and the possibility of injury and damage (or worse).

How appropriate is electric fencing in a show ground?

There has been a debate about the use of high-voltage electrified tape at show grounds and other event venues. While horses may learn to 'respect' this tape, many will not take it too seriously, especially when prevailing conditions or poor construction lower the intended effect of the tape.

Electricity needs a conductor to flow. When there is little or no connection for a charge to pass, the effect is drastically reduced. Factors contributing to such reduction are

- dry weather and ground conditions
- horse rugs on horses, especially in winter
- malfunctioning charge devices
- 'shorts' in the line deflecting the main charge before it can do its job
- the charge unit is not switched on etc.

Other factors reducing the 'safety' of electric tape fences are

- poor construction of the yard
- horse-unfriendly stakes
- stakes not securely rammed into the ground
- loose, sagging tape, etc.

Conversely, a horse, which accidentally receives a jolt, may in reaction break through the fence, ignoring whatever charge is left in the fence. This may stir up other horses to do the same. There have been several breakouts of horses from facilities, where electric tape fences were used, the last at an Endurance event in New Zealand in 2009.

In other words, the use of electric-tape fences for yards, especially when not properly constructed, is not a reliable and safe method to keep horses at an event. The worst examples of electric-tape yards are those that are interconnected to make up a row, so when one horse breaks out, it can take the rest of the yards – and horses – with it.

Guidelines (for discussion)

As per EA General Regulations, electric-tape yards will not be permitted at all from 2010 at EA events and events held by EA-affiliated organisations in Australia, except where organisers allow them. OCs should make the inspection of the grounds and the way participants keep their horses, part of their risk management. After all, it is the organizers and their insurers who will be made respondents to any claims resulting from damage or injury.

Principles for keeping horses at events

1. The OC determines whether it will allow portable yards to be used. Venue owners may have their own regulations that OCs must follow. What is and is not allowed must be published in the event's Conditions of Entry.
2. Horses should not be left unattended for long periods. Regular inspection is recommended.
3. When not being ridden or led, horses should be tied to a building, properly installed hitching rails or similar structures, a float, a horse truck or similar.
4. If a horse is kept in an approved yard, it may be loose.
5. Electric tape should not be used at events at all. An exception is when it is used around the top of rigid yards or stables to stop horses from reaching across the yard fence.
6. Where day stalls, yards or stables at a venue (not portable yards) have an open side, this may be secured with a chain or rope of suitable strength. Electric tape must not be used for this purpose.

Guidelines for Portable Yards

When yards are used, they should comply with the following minimum requirements:

1. Yards intended for 'loose' horses should have a minimum area of 3m x 3m.
2. Yards should not extend for more than 5m from a truck or float.
3. The minimum height should be 1.2m.
4. Minimum number of rails: 2 with a maximum distance of 600mm between rails.
5. Yards should be made of alloy, steel or galvanised pipe. (Note: New technologies with different properties may become available and may be allowed if safe.) Galvanised pipe or steel uprights should have a minimum wall thickness of 2mm and be at least 25mm in diameter. Alloy uprights and rails should have a minimum wall thickness of 3mm and be at least 32mm in diameter.
6. Uprights should be anchored to the ground at least in the free-standing corners away from the truck/float, to prevent movement. Preferable, all uprights should be anchored to the ground. (Note: If the design of the yard does not make a provision for anchoring, this can be done by sliding uprights over posts rammed into the ground or by attaching uprights to posts with strong electrical ties or similar methods.)
7. Single yards may be attached to a truck or a float.
8. Portable yards may be constructed in a row or other joint assembly (square, rectangle). This assembly may be free-standing.

Guidelines for Electric Tape Yards (for discussion)

The use of electric-tape yards should be avoided wherever possible. Many Organising Committees, venue owners and some sport rules already prohibit the use of electric-tape yards. Two strands of electric tape (not string/wire) should be used. The use of wide tape (usually white in colour) is recommended.

- The minimum height of the top tape or rail is 1m and the approximate distance to the next tape 400mm.

- The tape should be taut at all times regardless of whether the horse is in the yard or not.
- The tape should be electrified when the horse is in the yard, with a minimum voltage of
- 2000V.
- Yards should have four rigid corners (examples are star pickets, which MUST have safety caps, the side of a truck, a permanent fence already standing). Rigid corners must be firmly in the ground. Safety caps on star posts must be firmly attached.
- No side of an electric-tape yard may be shared with another yard. In other words, yards must be freestanding and not be part of a row of yards.

Appendix G

Tobacco Policy

EWA recognises that passive smoking is hazardous to health and that non-smokers should be protected from the involuntary inhalation of tobacco smoke. EWA will actively seek to promote, encourage and support strategies to prevent or eradicate the use of tobacco by all participants at all levels (local, region and state).

Where possible, EWA will ensure a smoke free environment by:

- Adopting and implementing a Tobacco Free Policy for all indoor venues under EWA control and not selling tobacco products at any SEC event run by EWA.
- Ensuring educational material is available to participants on the dangers of smoking.
- Strongly encouraging Clubs to promote their events as smoke free through signage, PA announcements and/or other initiatives.
- Strongly encouraging Clubs to promote their venues/activities as smoke free.

Appendix H

Risk

Risk Analysis Matrix

Likelihood and Consequences

Likelihood	Consequences				
	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Almost certain	M	H	H	E	E
Likely	M	M	H	H	E
Possible	L	M	M	H	E
Unlikely	L	M	M	M	H
Rare	L	L	M	M	H

The Hierarchy of Control of Risk

Start with high risk areas first

Always use the highest possible option on the list first to control risk

1. Elimination - remove completely
2. Substitution – replace with a less dangerous alternative
3. Use engineering controls – make a structural change
4. Use administrative controls – SOP's, training etc
5. Use Personal Protective Equipment – use the best available

Appendix I

EA - Risk Management Activities

Risk management has become a "hot" topic since the rather drastic changes in the insurance market following the events of September 11, 2001, and the collapse of HIH and other insurers.

The rules and regulations of the Equestrian Australia and that of its parent body, the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI), have been a solid base for risk management in the sport. Technical Delegates and Ground Juries carry out checks, course designers work within a system of rules, there are Safety Committees that review risk aspects, and all rider and horse falls are reported for further analysis and action where appropriate. Equestrian Australia has been promoting the ongoing development of risk management plans by equestrian clubs and other event organisers. The EA has also introduced a new affiliation policy that requires clubs to submit their risk management plans if they wish to be affiliated after 01 July 2004. We have prepared some documentation that will assist clubs in their development of a risk management system. The documentation is by no means perfect and will be upgraded over time.

In other words, we are constantly working on making equestrian sport safer.

Event Risk Management Plan

This plan includes guidelines to identify and reduce the risk of accidents during equestrian events.

EA has a reasonably detailed event risk checklist available for download.

No plan can cover everything that could pose a risk.

The plan intends to provide for a reasonably safe environment for people and horses. It must be recognised, however, that the handling and riding of horses is a dangerous activity and can result in serious injury and loss. Neither Dressage WA Promotions Inc, nor any member of the Committee, accepts any responsibility for any loss or damage suffered by any person. All persons who handle or ride a horse, or who attend on, any premises at which Dressage WA Promotions Inc, is conducting an event do so entirely at their own risk.

Background

The *Policy for Affiliation of Equestrian Clubs & Associations* of the Equestrian Australia (EA) requires affiliated clubs and associations to have a risk management policy and manual in place. Risk management is an integral part of good event management, particularly in higher-risk sports like Equestrian.

General

- The OC must appoint a Committee member to be responsible for safety and risk management at the event (Safety Officer/Risk Management Officer).
- At Dressage WA Promotions Inc events and other activities, the Safety Officer and the delegated official of the day, or any committee member in attendance on the day, each have the authority of the Club Committee to make any decision necessary in relation to any matter concerning safety.
- The Safety Officer, the Venue Manager and at least one other member of the organising committee must inspect all areas of the venue that are likely to be used. If necessary, they will discuss with the venue manager/property owner any potential hazards that require attention before the event is run.
- Inspections of higher-risk areas (e.g. spectator areas, catering and meal areas) should be repeated during the event as appropriate.
- All events follow the rules of the EFA or the FEI. This includes "unofficial" and "associate" classes where intent of the rules must still apply.
- Volunteers and other event personnel must have the required experience and knowledge or must be appropriately trained and supervised before commencing duties.
- All event personnel should know and understand safety procedures.

- Unusual occurrences must be recorded for future safety considerations.
- The Organising Committee must have appropriate crisis management documentation.
- There must be a list of emergency services contact details.
- First Aid kits and basic veterinary tools should be on site and easily accessible.
- All participants should sign waiver/release forms.
- Dogs must be on a lead at all times. Dogs that are creating a nuisance (eg barking or lunging at people or animals) must be removed from the premises if so directed.

Venue

- The venue must meet all safety requirements of the event.
- Arena(s): Arenas must be defined clearly and use appropriate surrounds.
- Parking: Parking areas must be safe and of sufficient size to permit safe movement of vehicles at all times.
- Spectators: Spectators attend at their own risk. However this risk must be managed by providing safe viewing areas.
- Entry to and exit from the venue should be safe for trucks and floats.
- Traffic: Vehicle, spectator and horse traffic should be kept separate and should be controlled or at least clearly marked where they intersect.
- Camping: Where electricity/gas is available these must be stored appropriately and all cables/pipes properly covered and/or fenced. Similar precautions relating to electricity and gas apply elsewhere.
- Horse accommodation: Horse accommodation (stables, yards) must be of a structure complying with current standards for horses
- Horse warm-up areas: The horse warm-up area(s) must be adequate for the number of horses and must be kept free of public spectators
- Electric fencing must be sign-posted
- Emergency personnel: Appropriate personnel (doctor, veterinarian, etc.) should attend where required by the rules or the Safety Officer.

Float Parking

- Vehicle drivers must ensure that horse floats are parked a sufficient distance (around 9 metres) from other floats to enable a horse to be tethered to each float and to move around without coming so close to another horse as to permit one horse to kick the other or to damage vehicles.
- Parking should be organized in a way that does not block the exit for others.
- If a tethered horse is known to have a propensity to kick or engage in any activity that might be a danger to a passer by, that horse must be attended by a suitably experienced person at all times whilst it is tethered.
- All horses must be tethered in accordance with good practice.
- Any horse that is behaving in a manner considered to be dangerous to any personnel may be required to leave an event. Any horse so required to leave will be taken to have scratched from any competition for which it is entered on that day: the horse will not be permitted to be ridden in that competition.

The Public

- There are no restrictions on members of the general public attending any Club event. It should be assumed that members of the general public are not familiar with the behaviour of horses and do not know how to handle them or how to behave in their presence. Accordingly, persons riding or handling a horse must be especially alert for the presence of members of the general public (including in particular children).
- Members of the public should not, as a general rule, be permitted to enter an area that is occupied by competitors. This will include parking areas, areas where horses are tethered or being walked, stables, wash bays and warm up areas.

Emergency contacts

Ambulance 000

NB: if using an Optus mobile you can also dial 112

Hospitals: Address:

Tel:

Electrician: Address:

Tel:

Plumber: Address:

Tel:

Appendix J

Event Risk Management Checklist

Equestrian Australia

Below is a checklist to assist event organisers in their risk management.

The list is by no means exhaustive. On the other hand, many items may not apply to small events or may have to be re-interpreted to suit the particular circumstances.

Some items are repeated under more than one category.

Technical Delegates for EA/FEI events have their own checklist for sport-technical and sport-safety matters.

Venue Hire/Lease

	Okay/NA	Needs Attention	Person Responsible	Action Completed
If leasing or hiring, check the Lease/Rental contract, especially for insurance requirements and for disclaimers by the lessor.				
Insurance cover of the venue				
Services provided by owner/manager				
Hire of additional facilities (temp stables, marquees, tents, temp. seating, etc.)				
Risk inspections of the site				

Hiring Equipment

	Okay/NA	Needs Attention	Person Responsible	Action Completed
On-site vehicles - Third Party insurance (golf buggies, etc.)				
Vehicle lease/rental contract and its provisions				
Best location for equipment in respect to refuelling, fuel leaks/spills, service access				

Contractors (for services/performances), Sponsor displays

	Okay/NA	Needs Attention	Person Responsible	Action Completed
Insurance for people doing performances/displays (if not EA, they should have their own policy)				
Service providers (like security firms, caterers, etc.) have provided evidence of insurance cover.				
If event is a ticketed event, consider cash security requirements				
Is security firm experienced and licensed?				
Briefing of security officers on functions, rights, and responsibilities				
Liability waivers/disclaimers				

Records and Documentation Okay/NA

	Okay/NA	Needs Attention	Person Responsible	Action Completed

Ample supply of 'incident report' forms and disclaimers/ waivers distributed to relevant staff for issue to competitor, etc				
Incidence Management Procedures				
Evacuation Procedures				
Illness/ Injury Procedures				
Staff have been made aware of procedural requirements				
Liability waivers				

The Venue Itself

	Okay/NA	Needs Attention	Person Responsible	Action Completed
Adequate light if operating at night (for the show itself, walkways, for camping areas, to parking areas, etc.)				
Stand-by lighting in event of power failure				
Warning and directional signage (spectator areas, spectator directions, "exclusion zones", etc.)				
"No smoking" - signs posted; restrictions enforced				
Rubbish bins (recycling where possible)				
Disabled access and facilities ("accessibility")				
Slip, trip and fall inspection in pedestrian/spectator areas				
Footing and arena side/fence inspection				
Toilets and other facilities clean and open				
Portable Toilets in place and ready				
Camping facilities are in place and working (power, lighting, water, etc., if available)				
Inspection of spectator areas and seating areas				
Emergency equipment, assembly areas				
Bus parking, drop-off/pick-up zones				

Parking Areas

	Okay/NA	Needs Attention	Person Responsible	Action Completed
Parking areas should be controlled. Signage should clearly indicate any restrictions before vehicles enter and should also have NO RESPONSIBILITY waiver.				
Suitability of entry, parking areas (levels, bumps, incline) Fencing (if star posts are used, they should be capped.)				
If used at night: Lighting. Parking officers with torches and reflecting vests				
Parking Lines and Exits clearly marked				
Staff comfort in hot/wet weather				
Protection of trees, flower beds, fixtures				
Access and parking for caterers, entertainers, VIP guests				
Separation of horse vehicles from general parking				

Electrical

	Okay/NA	Needs Attention	Person Responsible	Action Completed
Fuses/ circuit breakers suited to cable load capacity in leads, boards, cables and plugs				
Residual Circuit Devices should be fitted wherever possible				
All electrical equipment should be tested and tagged according to WA H & S Act of 1984 requirements				

Staffing

	Okay/NA	Needs Attention	Person Responsible	Action Completed

Safety and security briefing (awareness of risks in areas listed, disclaimers)				
Breaks and relief staff for event personnel				
Security of cash and cash collections				
Adequate first aid facilities/personnel				
Staff and contractor training in their areas of responsibility				
Staff use & store tools (rakes, shovel, etc.) safely.				
Staff uniforms/clothing				

Food Outlets (especially when staffed by volunteers)

	Okay/NA	Needs Attention	Person Responsible	Action Completed
Contractors carry their own insurance				
Liquor licenses displayed				
Staff uniforms/clothing clean				
Hair covered/hat or cap worn				
Use of gloves or tongs when handling food				
Others to handle money/coupons				

Checks during events - "Management by walking about"

	Okay/NA	Needs Attention	Person Responsible	Action Completed
Staff are relieved on regular basis				
Staff "overloads" are addressed during peak times				
Food area are kept clean. Spillages to be cleaned regularly				
Crowd control - marshals required - trained personnel				
Safety announcements over PA				
Vehicle parking controls in place				
Lost children procedures and facility establishment				
Translation services (where appropriate)				
Press/ Media reception hosts/hostesses				
Ticketing and coupons sales staff and outlets				
Internal Communications				
External Communications (Inc Mobile Phones)				

Housekeeping

	Okay/NA	Needs Attention	Person Responsible	Action Completed
Rubbish bins emptied regularly				
Aisles and access ways clear of obstructions and litter				
Free access by staff to electrical switches and controls				
Exit and entry ways clear				
Merchandise, stock and other goods stored neatly				

Smoking

NO SMOKING signs on proper locations

Fire Emergency Checklist

	Okay/NA	Needs Attention	Person Responsible	Action Completed

If the area is fenced, are gate keys freely available				
Emergency services/event organisers				
Personnel trained in and understands his/her emergency duties				
Personnel trained in use of extinguisher types				
Availability of Fire Blanket for cooking areas				
Emergency Plan current and reviewed				
All exits clearly marked				
Are any fixed systems on site useable (eg Fire Hoses etc)				

Siting of Facilities, Outlets etc

	Okay/NA	Needs Attention	Person Responsible	Action Completed
The siting of food outlet shall take into account the requirements for power, water and sullage. (Some mobile operations are complete with separate water and sullage tanks and can be located at will)				
Local Government Health regulations need to be observed.				
Try to site food outlets on level ground adjacent in the appropriate areas, providing easy access.				
Check for slip or trip hazards and be clearly lit at night.				

Agree (where appropriate) with contractor in advance that:

	Okay/NA	Needs Attention	Person Responsible	Action Completed
Storage and preparation areas are kept clean.				
All food is behind glass or plastic screens.				
Hot food is held at greater than 60 degrees.				
Personnel are dressed in clean and in light coloured uniforms.				
Personnel preparing or handling food use gloves or tongs.				
Personnel handling food are not handling money, etc. or				
Fire extinguishers/mats are current and in good order.				

Sport-Technical Aspects (often handled by a Technical Delegate or EA/FEI Steward)

Training and Competition Areas (Arenas)

	Okay/NA	Needs Attention	Person Responsible	Action Completed
Fencing and/or marking of arenas is adequate.				
Arena footings inspected and repaired where appropriate (holes, rocks, etc.).				
Arena footings maintained during competition.				
Tools (rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows, etc.) handled and				
Water truck drivers are experienced				
Spectators are kept away from horses (as much as this is				
Stewarding supervision for arenas where necessary.				

Stabling and Related Matters

	Okay/NA	Needs Attention	Person Responsible	Action Completed

Adequate parking areas for trucks and horse floats (separate from cars).				
Where horses are tied to floats, adequate distances between floats.				
Safe horse unloading areas near stables.				
Safe stables with adequate services nearby (water, light, hosing bays, manure bins, etc.)				
Clear stable aisles, no clutter.				
Security is in place where appropriate.				
Stable manager/steward appointed for overnight supervision where required.				
Horses kept away from parked vehicles.				
"No Smoking" signs in stables.				
Fire extinguishers/hoses in stables.				
Grazing areas for horses.				
"Beware of Snakes" warning signs where appropriate.				
Safety notices and emergency contact numbers on noticeboard.				
Evacuation plan for horses.				
Access and exit plan for horse traffic.				

Glossary

Anhydrosis – inability to sweat or abnormal reduction in sweating – drycoatedness or non-sweating syndrome – often caused by repeated heat overload – the horse’s cooling system has broken

Comfort Index - The FEI refers to the Wet Globe Bulb Temperature Index as the Comfort Index (see WGBT below)

Critical Incident - A traumatic event, which causes or is likely to cause extreme physical and/or emotional stress to one or more participants and is outside the normal range of experience of the people affected. A critical incident may be an incident at an event, training session, rally, clinic, seminar, workshop or similar activity that affects any participant at that event.

DWA – Dressage Western Australia

Emergency - An incident, actual or imminent, which occurs at or near an event, endangers or threatens to endanger life, property or the environment, and requires a significant or co-ordinated response.

EA – Equestrian Australia

EWA - Equestrian Western Australia

FEI – Federation Equestre Internationale

Ground Jury – This consists of the judges of an event.

Heat exhaustion – heat exhaustion results from being physically active in a hot environment, without taking the right precautions. It can affect athletes, workers, those wearing unsuitable clothing on a hot day, and people suffering from dehydration. Fluid loss through sweating causes blood volume falls... the body goes into a mild form of shock. Victims suffer a faint-like collapse with ashen-grey skin. They usually recover rapidly on lying down with legs raised. The difference between heat exhaustion and high risk heat stroke is not always obvious, athletes who have collapsed should be rapidly cooled.

Heat index (HI) - An index that combines air temperature and relative humidity created by Robert G. Steadman to determine the perceived equivalent temperature., referred to in Appendix E.

Heat stroke – this is a potentially lethal condition. Fluid levels in the body become so low that sweating stops and the body temperature rises. The brain and other vital organs such as the kidneys and heart begin to fail. In heat stroke the body’s ability to control its own temperature is impaired. The severity of complications from heat stroke increase with the duration of high body temperature. Immediate first aid is essential and potentially life saving. The aim is to lower the body temperature rapidly using the “strip/soak/fan” methodology;

- Strip off any excess clothing/loosen clothing
- Cool by wetting the skin liberally
- Fan to aid evaporative cooling
- Raise legs to improve blood pressure
- Ice placed in groin or armpit is helpful

OC – Organising Committee

Other officials – These may include a Chief Steward and/or other Stewards and/or a Technical Delegate.

PA – Public Address system

Participants - volunteers, competitors, spectators, trainers, support crew and/or visitors at an event

WGBT Index – Wet Globe Bulb Temperature Index – now the most widely used index of heat stress in the world. A composite temperature used to estimate the effect of temperature, humidity, wind speed and solar radiation on humans and equines. The FEI refers to WGBT as the Comfort Index.

WWC - Working with Children Check

30/30 Rule - The 30/30 rule relates to the duration between the flash of lightning and clap of thunder, which indicates the proximity of a storm cell and when outdoor activities should be suspended and resumed.

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