



The Equestrian Federation of Australia

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To: National Discipline Committees
FEI Event Organisers
EFA Branches
EFA Branch Discipline Committees/Councils
All FEI Event Veterinarians

CC: National Board
FEI World Cup Jumping Coordinator
National Office

01 March 2005

Dear Colleagues,

EFA National Medication Control Program

We are pleased to announce the successful completion of the inaugural NOAS-accredited training seminar for EFA Horse Sampling Stewards (Swab stewards). This 1 1/2 day seminar was sponsored by **Aon Risk Services Australia Limited** and held in conjunction with the EFA National Show Horse and Rider Championships at Werribee 03 – 04 December 2004.

The seminar was attended by 17 EFA Officials (stewards and veterinarians) from all EFA branches. The small group was made up of experienced and active swabbing stewards and veterinarians who will now form the group of key accredited personnel that EFA Branches and Event Organisers can call upon for the organisation and delivery of Medication Control (swabbing) at EFA Events and Competitions. From this group the EFA has appointed Branch Medication Control Officer(s) for each Branch and has also accredited a number of EFA Horse Sampling Stewards.

From 10 March 2005, the conduct of all EFA medication control (swabbing) falls under the policies and procedures of the EFA Medication Control Program. This program is supervised by the EFA National Medication Control Officer (NMCO), Dr. Warwick Vale.

The key points of this program are;

- Any sampling at EFA events is to be organised through the respective Branch Medication Control Officer (BMCO) in each Branch. BMCOs are required to work in conjunction with event organisers and Branches to make sure that all sampling is quality assured, in line with the EFA Medication Control Policy and Procedures and is only conducted by EFA-accredited EFA Horse Sampling Stewards.
- The BMCOs will be required to assist with any requests from the NMCO, EFA Branch or an Organising Committee of an EFA competition to have MCP sampling conducted.
- The Branch Medication Control Officers bear the primary organisational responsibility for coordinating the sampling at all EFA events taking place in their State or Territory. The NMCO bears the primary responsibility for FEI and National EFA Events conducted in Australia.
- The testing laboratory will notify all sample results directly to the National EFA CEO, Mr. Franz Venhaus who will also be responsible to instigate judicial (disciplinary) hearings where there are doping infractions.

Honorary Patrons of the
Australian Equestrian Team:
Bill Roycroft, OBE
Neale Lavis, OAM



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission



- The training and accreditation of more EFA Horse Sampling Stewards will be an ongoing process. We will also review procedures and system from time to time and amend them where necessary.

It is vital that EFA event and competition organisers are made aware of the structural management and procedural changes affecting swabbing at EFA and FEI competitions within all Branches.

We trust we have your full support for the introduction of this program.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'F. Venhaus', written in a cursive style.

Franz Venhaus
Chief Executive Officer

(signed)

Warwick Vale
National Medication Control Officer



EFA Medication Control Program

Proudly sponsored by **AON**

Checklist and Advice for Event Organisers

For all EFA Events/Competitions at which sampling takes place after 10 March 2005.

Event Organisers must:

(A) Contact the Branch Medication Control Officer(s) in order to:

1. Organise the attendance of an **accredited** EFA/FEI event Swab Steward(s)
2. Organise the attendance of Swab Steward assistants (if required)
3. Organise an event sampling veterinarian (*may need to be an FEI vet*)
4. Notify the NMCO of the staffing selections and event details
5. Establish the method of selection of horses
6. Confirm the financial arrangements for MCP sampling at the event.

(In principle, event organisers are responsible for meeting the cost of the sampling; however, a number of Branches provide financial assistance. Please ensure that the level of sampling is consistent with the EFA Medication Control Policy)

Laboratory Fees

Sample Courier Fees (if applicable)

Swab Steward Fees (if applicable)

Veterinary Fees (if applicable)

7. Ensure access to a "swabbing box" or similar facility
8. Advise the BMCO of the number of sampling kits that will be required

Qualified Personnel

EFA Branch Offices and the EFA National Medication Control Officer maintain a list of members that have experience as Horse Swabbing Stewards and a list of experienced veterinarians. As from 01 March 2005, the EFA Steward in charge of the swabbing of horses must be EFA-accredited for this function. The EFA has appointed a BMCO for each Branch.

BMCO = Branch Medication Control Officer

NMCO = National Medication Control Officer

(B) Required On-Site Facilities

It is preferable to have a separate stable dedicated to the collection of samples. This "swabbing box" should be in a quiet and private area, be clean and have a supply of fresh straw/sawdust in it. There should be chairs for Person Responsible, veterinarian and Swab Steward(s) and a table on which the sampling kits and documentation can be processed.

In the absence of such facility, the sampling can be done in other areas, preferable in an area with which the person responsible and sampling personnel are comfortable. This area must be isolated and quiet, and safe for the horse and handlers.

(C) Selection of Horses for Sampling – Decision for the Ground Jury

There are many methods for selecting horses to be swabbed at EFA events and competitions. Only horses where the Person Responsible is an EFA member can be selected for swabbing. This includes Senior and Junior members in any official/graded competition. Where Medication control takes place in Associate/unofficial competition, Associate members may also be included.

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

1. Horses may be chosen specifically because their behaviour raises suspicion, in other words, they appear drugged or under the effect of medication (deemed a Ground Jury “spot test”)
2. Horses may be chosen at random from all competitors entered, or chosen at random from a group of winners or place getters (deemed a random selection).
3. Horses may be chosen because they are winners or place getters (deemed a “required selection”, e.g. at certain FEI Events)
4. Horses may be chosen because they have been withdrawn or scratched (deemed a Ground Jury “spot test”).
5. Horses may be chosen because of poor performance (deemed a Ground Jury “spot test”).
6. Horses may be chosen at a judge’s request (deemed a Ground Jury “spot test”).
7. The Ground Jury may delegate the responsibility to the Veterinarian, the Chief Steward (not the Swabbing Steward) or another senior member of the Organising Committee to decide upon the method of selection or select the horse(s).

Once the Ground Jury/Event Organising Committee have selected the required number of horses for swabbing, a ground jury member/event organising committee member must sign the EFA Medication Control Notification form(s) that will be used for the notification of the person(s) responsible.

Contacts

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Some Pertinent Questions and Answers

Does the EFA MCP change the selection process for horses to be sampled at competitions?

No, the same methodology and procedures will apply;

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

- 1. Horses may be chosen specifically because their behaviour raises suspicion, in other words, they appear drugged or under the effect of medication (deemed a Ground Jury "spot test")*
- 2. Horses may be chosen at random from all competitors entered, or chosen at random from a group of winners or placegetters (deemed a random selection).*
- 3. Horses may be chosen because they are winners or placegetters (deemed a "required selection", e.g. at certain FEI Events)*
- 4. Horses may be chosen because they have been withdrawn or scratched (deemed a Ground Jury "spot test").*
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- 6. Horses may be chosen at a judge's request (deemed a Ground Jury "spot test").*
- 7. The Ground Jury may delegate the responsibility to the Veterinarian, the Chief Steward (not the Swabbing Steward) or another senior member of the Organising Committee to decide upon the method of selection or select the horse(s).*

Are there minimum requirements of Organising Committees and Branches with respect to the amount of medication control that is to be undertaken each year?

Yes, the EFA Medication Control Policy stipulates the following MCP requirements;

Drug testing is compulsory at the following events/occasions:

- All FEI events (refer FEI Rules and Regulations).*
- All National Championships or equivalent (at least three horses or three percent of the horses taking part, whichever is the greater).*
- All State Championships or equivalent (at least three horses or three percent of the horses taking part, whichever is the greater).*
- Upon any horse that dies/euthanased at an EFA National Championship Competition or and FEI event.*

Drug testing is recommended/permitted at the following events:

- At all selection or qualifying events for Championships or Finals.*
- At least once a year at official events that have a run more than six times a year.*

- Any EFA event or competition that holds “graded” competition
- At any EFA affiliated club/body that holds “graded” competition
- At any EFA Official Measuring Day

Are there minimum requirements of Organising Committees and Branches with respect to the process of medication control/sampling?

Clubs and Bodies must have an organised ground jury at every EFA/FEI fixture. One member of the Ground Jury must be able to liaise and work in cooperation with the EFA MCP Sampling Personnel at all times on the day of swabbing. The minimum facilities required by the EFA for swabbing (ie the swabbing area) must be maintained and available for use at any time

The minimum facility required for swabbing is an area that has the following attributes.

- ❖ *Grass area, approx 12 square metres, with access to covered shelter for the staff.*
- ❖ *Away from floats and other horses not being swabbed*
- ❖ *No public access*

The best facility that is encouraged from affiliated clubs is a dedicated swab stable or box, under cover with running water, tables/chairs and lighting.

The lack of physical facilities provided for swabbing at events does prevent the MCP to sample at these events. The swab team on the day will choose the best and safest means to swab horses given the nature and circumstances of the facilities (or the lack of) at any particular affiliated club or grounds.

Can EFA Branches and Affiliated Clubs conduct Medication Control at competitions in addition to those required in the EFA MCP minimum requirements?

Yes, the sampling of horses will never be discouraged and EFA State Branches, OC's and Discipline Committees are encouraged to develop and expand their MCP sampling requirements. EFA Branches can still also conduct the “random” sampling programs that they already run. The EFA MCP will not be managed in a way that restricts the desire of EFA Branches/OC's to undertake sampling at EFA events and competitions.

The only requirement under the new EFA MCP is that any sampling is;

- *Conducted in complete accordance with EFA MCP rules, procedures and approved personnel.*
- *Approved beforehand by the relevant EFA BMCO and the NMCO.*

What happens if any sampling of EFA horses is not conducted under the auspices of the EFA MCP?

If OCs organise their own sampling of EFA horses independent of the EFA MCP (ie without prior knowledge or approval of the EFA MCP (NMCO and/or BMCO)), then the results of these samples may not be recognised.

Who gets notified of the results?

The reporting of results will be direct from the testing laboratory to the EFA CEO.

The initial reporting of the sample results will only be made to CEO of the EFA National Body for non FEI events. Reporting of sample results for FEI events is directly to the FEI.

In the case of samples that are tested not to be free of prohibited substances ie a positive test, then the PR will be advised in a manner that is determined by the relevant EFA disciplinary by-laws and procedural guidelines. This will be the responsibility of the EFA Chairman of the National Judicial Procedures Committee (CNJPC) and the National EFA CEO. In this case OCs, BMCO, EFA Branches and Sampling Officials are only informed of the sample results at the discretion of the National EFA Board.

How do Branches, Discipline Committees and OC's have input into the rules, regulations and procedures of the EFA MCP?

The EFA MCP is a policy and program in progress and evolution. The EFA MCP will be under constant review and development, with input sought and required from all participants on an ongoing basis. Branches and OCs can provide comment and input directly to the National EFA Medication Control Panel (NEMCP) via the BMCOs and the NMCO.

Who is responsible for advising EFA members on issues related to Medication Control?

The NMCO will be responsible to answer any questions that arise from members, officials, clubs, OCs, etc on the EFA Medication Control Program and medication issues.

Are the Branches and Event Organisers restricted in their sampling wishes under the EFA MCP?

No, Branches may still carry out all the sampling that they want to do, however it must be now organised under the EFA MCP.