



HORSE WELFARE OFFICER BASIC CARE AND PENALTIES

BASIC CARE

- All horses should be fed and exercised properly for the standard of polocrosse they will be playing.
- Horses should be rugged according to the climatic conditions. Any horse clipped should be rugged appropriately.
- Horses should be well shod at all carnivals and practises.
- Horses should always have access to clean water when not playing or umpiring.

TOURNAMENTS

- No horse shall be left bandaged or bell booted overnight.
- No horse shall have its tail left up at night.
- All horses will be appropriately rugged at night.
- Horses must have sufficient room and an appropriate surface in their yards to be able to lie down.
- Horses must have access to clean water at all times.
- The fields the horses are being asked to play on should be safe and properly prepared.
- Horses should be properly cared for at the end of each match. E.g. Hosing down, rugging etc
- If there are long breaks between games, horses should be unbandaged and rebandaged for the next game.

PENALTIES

PENALTY 1

Negotiation. The Horse Welfare Officer speaks to the offending person and negotiates a plan of action to overcome the problem.

PENALTY 2

This follows a penalty 1 where the plan of action is not being followed.

a] If the Horse Welfare Officer believes that the offender has misinterpreted his information he may explain the plan again

OR

b] If the Horse Welfare Officer believes there is no attempt by the offender to rectify the situation he/ she will advise the offender through the club or zone or state or National level body that they will be stood down until the remedial plan is put in place and is working.

PENALTY 3

This occurs in an emergency situation where the horse welfare officer must act quickly and has no time to speak to other officials. E.g A player is about to play a horse that for some reason eg [colic, lameness, injury, poor condition, dehydration, ringworm etc] should not be allowed on the field.

The horse welfare officer will explain to the offender what he/she sees as the problem and stand that horse down from that match and any other matches until the problem is solved.

The horse welfare officer will report the problem and the action taken to officials, [club, zone, state or National] at an appropriate time, who will endorse the action taken.

PENALTY 4

This occurs when a person continually breaks the horse welfare code. E.g Horses never fed properly, unfit, continually left without water, not rugged appropriately or anything that would affect the well being of the horse.

The club, state, zone or National Body will convene a meeting with the offender present and, after hearing evidence from both parties, decide on a suitable punishment which may include standing the offender down, fining or banning.

PENALTY 5

This occurs when something happens that is not covered by the above situations. The horse welfare officer has the right to stop a horse playing or umpiring when it is not in the best interest of the horse. Appropriate penalties will be applied later.

CONCLUSION

Although the horse welfare officers are elected to oversee the welfare of polocrosse horses, playing and umpiring, horse welfare is everyone's concern. Everyone should ensure they follow the horse welfare code with their own horses and bring to the attention of Horse Welfare Officers any breaches of the code they see. Most polocrosse players put the welfare of their horse above anything else but it only takes a few offenders to give the sport a very bad image.