



The Polocrosse Association of Australia Inc.

Horse Drug Testing Policy

Effective April 2014,
Updated March 2016.

The Polocrosse Association of Australia (the Association) may test any competing horse to determine whether any Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory (NSAID) or short acting corticosteroid has been administered to the horse within the recommended withholding period for competition, and may take possession of material for the aforementioned purposes and detain such horse for the period as is deemed necessary for the collection of samples. This includes, but is not limited to, substances that are administered orally, nasogastrically, intravenously, intramuscularly, intra-articularly or topically.

It is the responsibility of the owner / person responsible for the horse to seek advice from their treating veterinarian in relation to withholding periods for competition of the above mentioned medications.

A guideline for detection times can be found on at: www.fei.org click on Veterinary, then click on List of Detection Times

- The Association will require the owner or person responsible for any horse that, up to 14 days prior to the commencement and for the duration of the competition, has been administered a prohibited substance to complete a Log Book for the Declaration of Equine Medications / Treatments (attachment A). This Log Book, is to be completed in all sections & signed by the owner /person responsible for the horse (who must be over 18 years of age).
- This document will be required to be produced if an issue arises with the horse or when the horse is submitted for collection of samples for drug testing purposes.
- If a horse is required to be treated with a prohibited substance at the tournament, the tournament veterinarian must view the horse prior to the administration of the substance. The tournament veterinarian must then declare that the horse in question is fit or unfit to continue in the competition/tournament.

- National Championship Swab Process

1. The Association may select one or more games per day of the tournament for the test to be taken from. This process will be the random selection of:
 - (a) competition,
 - (b) match in that competition,
 - (c) one team from the aforementioned match.

All finals may be subject to a swab test from both teams competing.

2. The “Swabbing Officer” will notify both team managers at the time the managers submit their team sheet at the beginning of the game that this particular game will be subject to a swab test. The team managers must inform all players participating that their horses are not to leave the field until a horse has been drawn at the end of the game. That selected team’s manager (refer point 1 above), will then draw one (1) of their team members from the hat, at the completion of the match, and this will then become the horse that is subject to the swab test.
3. At the completion of that horse’s participation of the game, the swabbing officer will maintain visual contact with that horse until it is handed to the tournament veterinarian for the swab test. The horse must not be allowed to eat or be administered any medication, until after sampling is complete. The horse is allowed to drink from a bucket, provided it has been filled with tap water in front of the swabbing officer. The owner/person responsible for that horse will be allowed to cool the horse down, remove all tack, bandages etc. & hose down the horse. When the horse owner/person responsible for the horse has completed this, the horse will be presented as soon as possible to the tournament chief umpire & tournament veterinarian for the swab test.
4. If any horse is vetted out during a game the Association may require that horse to submit to a blood or urine test for drug testing purposes.
5. A parent or guardian must be present in the event of the horse selected for drug testing being ridden by a player under the age of 18 years.
6. The test will be conducted in accordance with the guidelines and documentation in the sealed testing kit used by the tournament veterinarian.
7. Blood or urine samples may be collected.

- If any horse sustains an injury that requires that horse to be euthanized, that horse may be subject to drug testing via the taking of a blood sample, at a time appropriate to the horses welfare.
- If a horse is found to have had a prohibited substance administered to it through the return of a positive swab, the owner /rider of that horse will receive a letter stating that their horse has tested positive to a prohibited substance.
- The horse owner / rider will be given 7 days from notification to show cause why they should not be charged with an act of misconduct.
- In the event of a positive swab being returned the horse owner/rider may be charged under a set penalty (horse abuse/act of misconduct) as stated in the Associations rules of the game.
- In the event of the horse being ridden by a player under the age of 18 years returning a positive swab the person responsible for the horse may also face disciplinary action.
- The return of a positive swab may result in team or individual disqualification or suspension of the individual as deemed appropriate by the Association Disciplinary Committee.
- The Association will advise all test results within 28 days of the completion of the tournament the tests were taken from.
- The horse owner/rider will have the right to lodge an appeal with the Association within 7 (seven) working days of final notification of any penalty to be enforced. The appeal will need to be lodged in writing to the Association's National Executive Officer (NEO).

Attachment A: Logbook for the declaration of Equine Medication/treatments



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LOGBOOK

FOR THE DECLARATION OF EQUINE MEDICATION / TREATMENTS

Horse Name:				State/ Team:	
Colour:		Age of Horse:		Gender:	
Microchip:				Brands:	
Owners Name:				Players Name:	

Medication and Treatment Record:

This information is compulsory for horses which have been administered **detectable medication** (Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory [NSAID] or short acting corticosteroid) as per PAA drug policy, 14 days prior to and throughout the Australian National Polocrosse Championships.

This document will be required to be produced if an issue arises with the horse or when the horse is submitted for collection of samples for drug testing purposes.

Record Each Date medication administered	Name of medication administered & active ingredient.	Dose given	Route of administration (I/M ,I/V , I/A , Oral)	Reason for use of medication(ie: injury ,colic etc)	Person responsible for administration of medication	Treating Vet (where applicable)

This is to certify that this is an accurate record of any detectable medications administered to the above described horse within the 14 days prior to and throughout the Australian National Polocrosse Championships.

I acknowledge that the completion of this Log Book does not exonerate me in the event of the return of a positive swab for the above described horse.

I further acknowledge that failure to accurately record any detectable medications administered to the above described horse may be deemed an act of misconduct, resulting in action being taken by the PAA disciplinary committee.

This section to be completed by the owner or person responsible for the above described horse - (must be over 18 years of age)			
Printed Name:		Signature:	
Date:			