



Polocrosse Australia

HORSE DRUG TESTING POLICY

Version 2.3 | February 2026

Policy owner	Board	Adopted/Approved by	Board
Controlled document #	PA_GOV_012	Date	24/02/2026
Update date	03/02/2026	Updated by	Kate Grills
Update description	<p>03/02/2026 v2.3 – Update to policy exemptions and inclusion of timeline to submit logbook, clause 1.15, which moved the remaining six clauses down.</p> <p>18/06/2024 – Addition of exempt other medications</p> <p>06/06/2024 - Assigned controlled document #.</p> <p>Clarification of wording in 2.8</p> <p>Policy exemption for 2024 National Championships</p> <p>Inclusion of SSO notification timeline</p>		

Policy Exemptions – National Championships, Darwin June 2026

There will be no “blanket” exemptions for medications under this policy for the above championships. The tournament veterinarian will have sole discretion on any exemptions for the tournament, assessed on a case-by-case basis, that have met the following compulsory requirements.

All horses that are applying to use this exemption will need to meet the following compulsory conditions.

- Present the horse to the National Tournament Vet for inspection on Sunday 21st June 2026 from 11am.
- Provide a treating veterinary certificate at the time of inspection, providing details of treatment including product used, date and route of administration, and any other information pertinent to the horse’s treatment.
- Any veterinary treatment of horses whilst in the travel phase to Darwin must be recorded in the policies supplied Equine Medication Treatment Logbook.
- Final approval of any exemption will be at the sole discretion of the tournament veterinarian. The decision will be final.
- The approved use of any exempted medications will NOT exclude the horse from being tested under the horse drug testing policy.
- A horse owner MAY seek a pre travel exemption by providing the tournament vet with a full treating veterinary certificate and any other information pertinent to the horse’s treatment. A consultation between the tournament vet & the local treating vet may also be required at the expense of the horse owner. The tournament vet’s decision will be final.

Any “spare/second” horses will need to be presented at the same time as the nominated playing horse to also seek approval under this exemption.

Any horse that requires veterinarian treatment of a swabbable substance during the tournament MUST be presented for assessment and/or treatment by the tournament veterinarian.

POLICY

This policy covers, but is not limited to, substances administered orally, nasogastrically or via a nebuliser, intravenously, intramuscularly, intra-articularly or topically to horses involved in competition. This policy is aligned with the 'Clean sport for horses' approach endorsed by Equestrian Australia (EA) in terms of controlled and prohibited substances leading up to and during competition, which is guided by the FEI Equine Prohibited Substances List.

More information on the 'Clean sport for horses' guidelines can be found [here](#).

Polocrosse Australia (PA) may test any competing horse to determine whether any controlled or prohibited substance has been administered to the horse within the recommended withholding period for competition. Polocrosse Australia may take possession of material for the testing (samples) and detain any competing horse for a period deemed necessary to collect sufficient samples.

It is the responsibility of the owner and/or person responsible for managing the horse to seek advice from their treating veterinarian in relation to the recommended withholding period for competition of the abovementioned controlled and prohibited substances.

"If in doubt, do not give it to your horse."

MAINTAINING THE LOGBOOK

Polocrosse Australia requires the owner and/or person responsible for any competition horse that has been administered with a controlled substance (up to 14 days prior to the commencement and for the duration of the competition) to complete a *Logbook for the declaration of equine medication / treatments* (see appendix A).

All sections of the logbook are to be completed and the owner and/or person responsible for managing the horse (who must be over 18 years of age) must sign the logbook. This document will be required to be produced if an issue arises with the horse or when the horse is submitted for the collection of samples for drug testing purposes.

1. TOURNAMENT/ CARNIVAL DRUG TESTING PROCESS

The process for identifying horses, collecting and processing samples at a polocrosse competition is outlined below:

- 1.1. PA may identify one or more games per day of a tournament from which a horse/horses will be tested (swabbed) for the presence of a controlled or prohibited substance. The identification of this game will remain confidential until immediately prior to the chosen game commencing.
- 1.2. All finals may be subject to a drug test (swab) from either team competing.
- 1.3. The selection process for testing will be the random selection of:
 - a. a competition
 - b. a match in that competition

- c. one team from the match
 - d. one player from the team (c).
- 1.4. The random selection of (a) the competition (b) the match in the competition will be performed by a PA appointed representative.
- 1.5. The PA appointed 'Swabbing Officer' will notify both team managers that this game will be subject to a drug test when they submit their team sheet at the start of the identified game.
- 1.6. The team managers must inform all players participating that their horses are not to leave the field until a player's name has been drawn at the end of the game. A horse may only be removed from the field before the conclusion of the game if given permission to do so by a designated tournament official, or if the welfare of the horse is deemed compromised by the appointed Tournament Veterinarian.
- 1.7. Immediately at the conclusion of the identified game a team name will be drawn from the 'hat'.
- 1.8. After a team has been selected, one player from this team will be randomly selected and samples will be collected from their horse (i.e. swabbed). The selection process is as follows:
 - a. Each player will be allocated a number by the order their name is entered on the scoresheet (i.e. the first player listed is number 1, second player listed is number two and so on from top to bottom, including the order reserves are listed).
 - b. The team manager will draw one number (1–6, 1–7, 1–8 — pending the number of players in the team) from the 'hat' and this player must submit their horse for testing.
- 1.9. In the event of the selected player having played more than one horse in the identified game, multiple horses ridden by that player may be subjected to testing (see point 1.16).
- 1.10. At the completion of the horse's participation in the game, the Swabbing Officer will maintain visual contact with the selected horse until it is handed to the Tournament Veterinarian for swabbing.
- 1.11. The selected horse must not be allowed to eat or be administered any medication, until after the swabbing process is completed.
- 1.12. Prior to swabbing, the selected horse may drink from a bucket filled with water in the presence of the Swabbing Officer and/or Tournament Veterinarian.
- 1.13. The owner and/or person responsible for the selected horse will be allowed to cool the horse down, remove all tack and bandages etc. and hose down the horse.
- 1.14. As soon as the owner and/or person responsible for the selected horse has completed the above tasks, they will present the horse to the appointed Tournament Veterinarian for swabbing.
- 1.15. The player/person responsible for the horse being tested must provide a copy of the "Logbook for the Declaration of Equine Medication/Treatments" at the time of swabbing.

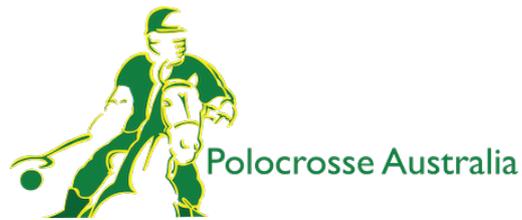
- 1.16. Should the owner and/or person responsible for the horse wish to present the horse for sampling before attending to the horse as outlined in point 1.13 this will be permissible providing the Tournament Veterinarian is satisfied the horse is not distressed nor its welfare compromised in any manner.
- 1.17. If any horse is vetted out during a game, PA may require that horse to submit to a blood or urine test for drug testing purposes.
- 1.18. A parent or guardian must be present in the event of a horse selected for drug testing being ridden by a player under the age of 18 years.
- 1.19. The Tournament Veterinarian will carry out the sample collection and drug testing processes out in accordance with the guidelines and documentation in the sealed testing kit.
- 1.20. Blood or urine samples may be collected for testing. Two samples are taken (i.e. sample A and sample B).
- 1.21. If any horse sustains an injury that requires it to be euthanised, the horse may be subject to drug testing via the collection of a blood sample prior to it being euthanised, at a time appropriate to the horse's welfare and taking into consideration the emotional wellbeing of those immediately affected.

2. SAMPLE PROCESSING, RESULT NOTIFICATION AND DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

- 2.1. All samples will be submitted to an authorised testing facility for analysis.
- 2.2. In the event of the A Sample returning a positive result to an controlled or prohibited substance the B sample will be tested.
- 2.3. The owner and/or person responsible for the horse will be advised of the result of the A sample within 20 working days of the receipt of the test result by PA.
- 2.4. In the event of the B sample being tested the owner and/or person responsible for the horse will be advised of the result of this test within 20 working days of the receipt of the result by PA.
- 2.5. If a horse is found to have had a controlled or prohibited substance administered to it through the return of both a positive A and B sample the owner and/or person responsible for the horse will receive notification stating their horse has tested positive to a controlled and/or prohibited substance.
- 2.6. The owner and/or person responsible for the horse will be given 20 working days from notification of the positive A and B sample to show cause why they should not be charged with an act of misconduct.
- 2.7. In the event of the A and B sample returning a positive result to the controlled and/or prohibited substances the owner and/or person responsible for the horse will automatically

receive a period of suspension as deemed appropriate by the Polocrosse Australia Disciplinary Committee.

- 2.8. In the event of the horse being ridden by a player under the age of 18 years returning a positive test result the person responsible for the management and care of the horse will also face disciplinary action.
- 2.9. The return of a positive test result may result in a team and/or individual disqualification, and/or suspension, as deemed appropriate by the Polocrosse Australia Disciplinary Committee.
- 2.10. The owner and/or person responsible for the horse will have the right to lodge an appeal with PA within 20 working days of final notification of any penalty to be enforced. The appeal will be required to be lodged in writing to PA's National Executive Officer (NEO) along with a fee of \$500 for an individual and \$1000 for a team. If the appeal is successful, this fee will be returned, if unsuccessful the fee will be retained by PA.
- 2.11. PA will advise State and Territory Associations, and appropriate stakeholders, at a time deemed appropriate to the circumstances of each individual case, the results of any disciplinary action due to a proven breach of this policy. The timing of this notice will take into consideration, but not limited to, the confidential nature of each individual case.



LOGBOOK

FOR THE DECLARATION OF EQUINE MEDICATION / TREATMENTS

Horse's name:	
Description: <i>Brands / Microchip, Gender / Colour</i>	
Owner's name:	
Player's name:	

I acknowledge the completion of this logbook does not exonerate the abovementioned horse / owner / rider in the event of the return of a positive swab.

I further acknowledge that failure to accurately record any controlled medications administered to the above described horse may be deemed an act of misconduct, potentially resulting in action being taken by the PA Disciplinary Committee.

Signed : _____ Date : ____/____/____

Print name : _____ Owner of horse / Player
(Must be over 18 years of age)

Medication and treatment record:

It is compulsory to record this information for horses that have been administered **controlled and/or prohibited substances**, as outlined in the *Polocrosse Australia Horse Drug Testing Policy* (February 2026), for 14 days prior to and during the nominated competition.

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.

To check the status of your horse's medication or supplements [click here](#)

Date medication administered	Name of medication administered and active ingredient (e.g. phenylbutazone)	Dose and route of administration (e.g. IM ,IV , IA , oral, nasal)	Reason for use of substance (e.g.: injury, infection, colic etc)	Person responsible for administration of medication	Treating veterinarian (where applicable)

This is to certify that this is an accurate record of any controlled or prohibited substances administered to the above described horse within the 14 days prior to and during the nominated competition.