



Polocrosse Australia

HORSE WELFARE POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

Polocrosse Australia (PA) and associated bodies are committed to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of horses. As horse welfare is an ever-evolving aspect of equine disciplines, this policy builds on PA's past welfare documents and current rule book and legislation outlined in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1986).

Over the years training and horsemanship practices have slowly developed, with more traditional methods now considered outdated. These practices are being replaced with techniques that encompass the horse's experience and perception, which in-turn, improve welfare outcomes. It is important frameworks (such as the five domains model and this welfare policy) are set in place to improve knowledge and guide us to ensure the impacts of humans and the environment on a horse's wellbeing is understood and a standard is maintained.

Club, zone, state and national horse welfare officers (HWO) are elected to oversee the welfare of horses at polocrosse tournaments, but horse welfare is everyone's concern and responsibility. All players, coaches, umpires, club officials should ensure everyone involved in polocrosse follows the horse welfare policy.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The PA Horse Welfare Policy (HWP) sets clear standards and describes best practice when it comes to horse welfare. It is expected players, coaches, umpires, officials, volunteers and supporters involved in polocrosse will use this document and associated policies/rules to meet the PA and community standards.

The HWP should be respected at all times, including and not limited to competition, training, preparation, travel and recovery.

CORE COMPONENTS OF HORSE WELFARE

The five domains of horse welfare

1. Nutrition

Free from hunger and thirst. Ensuring horses have access to fresh water at all times and are fed a balanced and varied diet to maintain condition and equate for the intended level of exercise.

2. Physical environment

Free from discomfort. Ensuring horses are provided with safe and appropriate surroundings.

3. Health

Free from pain, injury and disease. Ensure horses are fit and healthy for intended purposes. Ensure that all injuries and illnesses are treated appropriately.

4. Behavioural interactions

Free to express normal behaviour. Ensure horses can express natural behaviours, including foraging, social interactions and exercise.

5. Mental state

Free from fear and distress. A combination of all other domains alongside interaction with owners.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nutrition

Nutritional needs of polocrosse horses can differ from horse to horse (dependant on size, level of exercise/competition, dentition, and/or other disease status), but the fundamentals remain the same.

- Provide horses with access to high-quality feed and/or forage and limit access to mouldy and harmful feeds.
- Adjust feeding rates based on age, body condition and level of exercise.
- Provide adequate roughage in the diet (approximately 70% diet should be roughage based).
- Understand rationale for feeding supplements and when they are required.
- Make changes to diet gradually.
- Ensure access to fresh, clean water at all times.

Breaches of nutritional responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- failure to provide clean water to horses at polocrosse events.
- failure to ensure horses are not deprived of food for more than eight hours at polocrosse events.
- not actively addressing management of feed intake for any horse with a body condition score of less than 4.5, see appendix B.

Physical environment

Safe and appropriate environmental conditions are important as they both reduce risk of injury and ensure a horse remains comfortable at all times. As polocrosse horses are exposed to numerous different environments, it is important to consider the following:

- Ensuring areas provide freedom of movement, shade from sun (where appropriate) and protection from adverse weather conditions, and is clear from weeds, debris, wire and other hazards.
- Understand a horse's thermo-neutral zone (5-25 degrees C) and only use rugs when appropriate.
- Maintain fences, yards and gates to safely and adequately confine horses.
- Use appropriate trucks or floats for travel that provide well-ventilated and safe spaces.
- Appropriately plan long journeys to allow regular rest stops. It is recommended to unload horses and provide access to fresh water at least every six hours, ensuring horses can lower their heads during this time.

Breaches include but are not limited to:

- Failure of a club or event organiser to conduct a carnival in accordance with the above requirements or the PA Heat Policy.

- A club or event organiser to conduct an event when a local extreme weather warning has been issued. Subject to local discretion.
- Over-rugging of horses in warmer conditions

Health

Maintaining physical health and fitness helps prevent injury, disease and pain, while ensuring horses are ready to participate in competitive polocrosse events. Preventative health measures are an essential part of horse welfare, while also ensuring any injury or disease is noted and treated in a timely matter.

Health considerations:

- Examining your horse at least once daily and observe movement, appetite and demeanour, while checking for any injuries.
- Follow a preventative health plan that includes annual vaccination for tetanus, strangles and hendra (if required), treats worm burdens and manages mosquitoes.
- Keep record of normal physiological parameters for each horse (including heart rate and respiration rate)
- Know your local equine veterinarian and keep updated contact details for emergencies.
- Inspect hooves regularly and have regular farrier visits.
- Have horse's teeth checked annually by a qualified equine dentist.
- Have an appropriately fitted saddle and bit to ensure maximum comfort when ridden.
- Ensure a condition score no lower than 4.5 or higher than 6.
- It is recommended riders dismount between chukkas.
- Maintain an adequate hydration status, especially on hot days and when playing at a competitive level.
- Horses should be exercised appropriately for the standard of polocrosse they will be playing.

**Please note, currently, fitness levels of polocrosse horses in Australia is subjective and investigation is currently underway to develop a standardised approach to measuring levels at all grades. These standards will be added to this policy as an appendix once established.*

Breaches include but are not limited to:

- A horse showing signs of fatigue and overwork (lethargy, poor recovery) suggesting the horse has worked over its ability, strength or fitness level.
- A combined weight of rider and saddlery that is appropriate for the horse's current weight.
- Signs of horse has poor health (underweight, dull coat, poor demeanour, lameness, are examples)
- Use of a noseband, bit, spurs, whip or head check that results in injury, visible blood or swelling in the mouth and/or body of the horse.
- Use of a twisted wire bit in Victoria
- Use of any method of deliberate pain or injury in training on or off the field

Behavioural interactions

Providing a positive environment between horses and humans needs to be considered. Horses can develop inappropriate behaviours as a result of negative influences, including but not limited to close confinement, frustration, isolation, insufficient feed/water, all of which can point to a welfare problem. The way humans interact with horses is just as important, and inappropriate handling/training methods greatly impacts horse welfare outcomes.

Considerations include:

- Monitoring for signs of stress in horses at polocrosse both on and off the field
- Horses being excessively lunged or worked at a carnival.
- Use of appropriately fitted gear/training aids, such as nosebands and head checks

Breaches include but are not limited to:

- Use of gear that does not comply with statements in the PA rule book.
- Riding or training of a horse dangerously that can increase the risk of injury or stress.
- Not attempting to reduce the stress of a horse in a yard caused by neighbouring horses

Mental state

Interactions between the other four domains (as noted above) greatly impacts a horse's mental state. It is important to understand how nutrition, physical environment, health, and behavioural interactions (horse-to-horse and human-to-horse) can greatly impose or hinder mental suffering.

A healthy and calm horse ensures a positive mental state, improving desired ridden/training outcomes, while reducing risk of adverse behaviours such as bucking, rearing, bolting or spooking.

Considerations include:

- Display of adverse behaviours such as bucking, rearing, bolting or spooking. All of which can be a safety and welfare issue.

Breaches include but are not limited to:

- Use of punishment for adverse behaviours as a failure of training methods. For example - excessive use of a whip or racquet to strike the horse, excessive tugging on the reins to inflict pain, overuse of spurs to inflict pain.
- Instruction to a rider by a parent, coach, or supporter to use the above methods.

POLOCROSSE SPECIFICS

(Reference to the [Polocrosse Australia Rulebook \(October 2024\)](#) may help further clarify specific breaches)

Abuse of a horse

On-field breaches include but are not limited to:

- Playing or umpiring horses showing vices such as biting, rearing, kicking, or that are not under control by the rider.
- Dangerous and/or rough play as stated in the rule book under Section 8 that can increase risk of injury to a horse.
- Wrongful use of spurs or whips to intimidate or inflict pain. Including presence of welt marks.
- Excessive whipping or use of the whip when the ball is not in play.
- Cutting of the mouth due to excessive rein pressure and bit use.
- Playing horses longer than the maximum (54 minutes in one day) time limit.
- Striking a horse with a racquet.

Off-field breaches:

Refer to general health considerations. Any interaction between a horse and rider/owner must not inflict pain or aim to intimidate and cause stress to the horse.

Equipment

All equipment must meet minimum safety standards as prescribed in the Polocrosse Australia Rule book. Equipment outlined in the rule book is designed to reduce risk of injury to both horse and rider.

Rules include:

- All gear must be sound, suitable and in good order.
- Whips shall be of flexible construction - be free of wire or other dangerous materials, be up to a maximum length of 100cm, must have a full flap no longer than 5cm (Rule 11i)
- Use of spurs with sharp rowels is forbidden.
- All horses must play with protective bandages/boots and coronet (bell) boots on all four legs.
- Bits with protruding side bars are not permitted.
- Use of twisted bits in Victoria is banned (under the Prevention of cruelty to animals Regulation (2008)).

Heat policy

Tournament organisers are encouraged to do everything practicable to avoid play occurring during extreme heat. The following advice aims to protect both horses and riders from hyperthermia and associated risks (such as dehydration, fatigue, dizziness, or in severe cases, organ failure).

Use of Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) is advised as it takes into account temperature and relative humidity. Known risks of thermal injury in association with WBGT are as follows:

WBGT	Risk of thermal injury	Recommendation
<22	Minimal	Ok to play
22-28	Moderate	Ok to play
28-32	High	Discuss with club and state HWO as to whether play continues - refer to below considerations.
>32	Extreme	No play

**Hyperthermia (or heat stress) is most likely to occur when the ambient temperature is 35 or above, or when the WBGT shade is 26 or above.*

**Refer to [WBGT conversion table](#) to calculate the WBGT from degrees Celsius and humidity or see www.bom.gov.au for local WBGT readings.*

Considerations when deciding if play should go ahead:

- Intensity of play for horses (A vs E grade)
- Acclimatisation to heat for horses (used to conditions or not)
- Fitness of horses
- Available shade

If play is to continue, consider the following:

- Shortening chukkas or number of chukkas played
- Re-schedule game for cooler time of day
- Increase length of break between chukkas (e.g. 5-10 minutes)
- Ensure a veterinarian is in attendance
- Availability of temperate water for horses to drink
- Sponging horses between chukkas

Competition

Appropriate preparation and recovery of a horse prior to and after a game is essential in maintaining horse welfare standards, but it is also important to care for the horse between games.

Prior to a game:

- Horses' tails shall be plaited, and be fastened in such a manner, as to ensure they do not come undone during play. No tape, cable or zip ties are to be used.
- Bandages or protective boots should be placed, including bell boots, on all four legs.
- Horses should be well shod and have maintained hooves
- Riders, club members and the club HWO should ensure horses are not lame prior to riding out on the field.

Between games:

- Horses should be un-bandaged and re-bandaged prior to the next game.
- Horses should be hosed down if required and provided access to fresh water and forage (if appropriate)
- Horses should be placed in a yard where they are able to express normal behaviours, such as rolling or lying down.

End of games for day:

- All tails are to be undone and playing bandages and bell boots to be removed.
- Horses are to be provided sufficient food and water
- Ensure stalls/yards are made secure
- Ensure any illness or injury is attended to
- Be suitable rugged
- Have sufficient and appropriate room to lie down

Infectious diseases

All horses attending tournaments must be inspected by their club's HWO to ensure that all participating horses are free from infectious disease. Horses displaying signs of infectious disease shall not be played or umpired on (See Related Documents - Common signs of infectious disease). Diseases to monitor for include but are not limited to ringworm, Equine Influenza, Strangles, Hendra.

It is recommended horses are vaccinated for Tetanus, Strangles and Hendra (location specific).

Horse drug testing policy

A stimulant substance should not be administered to or provided for horses participating in polocrosse. Refer to appendix C the Polocrosse Australia Horse drug testing policy for more details.

Injured horses and veterinary care

For all tournaments, a registered veterinarian must either be in attendance, or on call at short notice. Distance to the nearest veterinarian needs to be considered on a location case-by-case basis (due to excessive distances between club grounds and nearest veterinarian service).

- Consider having access to equipped first-aid kit in situations where veterinary access is limited.
- If any animal is seriously injured on field, they shall be removed appropriately for immediate treatment.

Humane euthanasia

If it is necessary for a horse to be destroyed on the field, a mobile screen shall be placed around the animal prior to euthanasia and shall remain in place until such time as it allows for the euthanised animal to be loaded for transportation from the area.

A person suitable for this procedure (either a registered veterinarian or person with registered firearm or captive bolt) is required to be available at all times during play. This person is to be known by all event organisers and umpires prior to the start of play.

Yards

Current adequate horse stalls/yards are to have a minimum requirement of 3m x 3m. Newly constructed yards must be a minimum of 3.6m x 3.6m from the PA HWP adoption date. Yards are to be constructed from solid materials and be safe and secure. If owners are providing their own yards, the same minimum size standard remains. All provided yards are to be free from weeds, wire, holes and other potentially hazardous materials. Use of electric yards are prohibited.

Grounds and fields

Ensuring safe grounds and fields greatly reduces risk of injury and/or pain to all attending horses. All ground and playing fields should have the following:

- Be free of holes, rocks and other obstacles. In the event where fields are thought to be unsafe, the organising committee, alongside the state chief umpire, and horse welfare officer are to discuss a plan to improve the conditions before play is continued.
- Be adequately fenced and have gates that can be easily closed, so that stock proofing can be obtained quickly.
- Gates should be shut when horses are present at tournaments.

HORSE WELFARE OBLIGATIONS

If any person(s) should have concerns with their own horse or others they are to bring it to the attention of their club's HWO who will then discuss any concerns (if required) with their zone or state HWO. Cases of perceived cruelty must be reported to the appropriate official. A list of officials is located in appendix A.

All PA members and supporters are required to comply with the statements outlined in this policy.

Owners

Horse welfare begins at home, owners are expected to maintain welfare standards at their main residence as well as on grounds during polocrosse carnivals. It is an owner/rider responsibility to ensure horses arrive safely and in a sound/healthy manner to all polocrosse events.

Riders/competitors, club officials, coaches, umpires

Must (mandatory) adhere to the HWP at all times. All players, coaches, and supporters assisting with horse care at polocrosse events are required to comply with mandatory rules within this policy.

Club and zone horse welfare officer

Each participating zone and club must have a delegated HWO. A club HWO is responsible for ensuring all club members are aware of the current policy and know where to find it. Other responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Maintaining contact with club members in regard to any current horse welfare concerns coming from the state.
- Monitor horse welfare standards within the zone and club at polocrosse events and club training sessions.
- Act as a point of contact for welfare concerns or complaints from club members.
- Support the implementation of the national HWP at club level.

State horse welfare officer

State HWOs are responsible for:

- Providing the HWP to all clubs and state committee members.
- Promoting, monitoring and supporting the highest standards of horse welfare within polocrosse at both state and club levels.
- Ensuring all participants uphold best practice in horse care, treatment and compliance with the national HWP.
- Act as a point of contact for all club and zone HWOs for welfare concerns or complaints, while supporting clubs in educating members on welfare standards and responsibilities.
- Record and report any welfare concerns, incidents or breaches in accordance with PAs HWP and Rule Book.
- Provide regular updates to the national horse welfare committee as required.
- Maintain confidentiality and professionalism in all reporting.

National horse welfare committee

Consisting of each state's HWO and a PA committee liaison, it is the responsibility of the national horse welfare committee to uphold, maintain and update the PA WHP on a regular basis. The committee is to be open to input and discussion from appropriate bodies to ensure horse welfare standards are continually evolving with available information and knowledge.

PENALTIES

The national or state chief umpire, national or state welfare officer, or tournament chief umpire/tournament welfare officer can immediately withdraw a horse, rider and/or horse/rider combination from competition and refer them for further investigation (if required), if there is a breach of this policy. Penalties for breach of this policy are subject to the horse welfare committee discretion.

PENALTY NUMBER	PENALTY	ADDITIONAL PENALTY
1	1 week	+ 1 week
2	2 weeks	+ 2 weeks
3	4 weeks	+ 3 weeks
4	PA disciplinary hearing	

ACRONYMS

HWP	Horse welfare policy
PA	Polocrosse Australia
HWO	Horse welfare officer
WBGT	Wet bulb globe temperature

APPENDIX A – STATE HORSE WELFARE OFFICERS AND STATE CHIEF UMPIRES

STATE	STATE WELFARE OFFICER	STATE CHIEF UMPIRE
New South Wales	Tom Burke	Trent Mortimer
Northern Territory	Anna Thompson	Peter Maley
Queensland	Paul Erbacher	Stewart Neal
South Australia	Emma Schulz	Matt Reeves
Tasmania	Anna van der Meulen	Matt Howard
Victoria	Kate Richards	Tony Astbury
Western Australia	Mandy Marriott	Trent Cooper

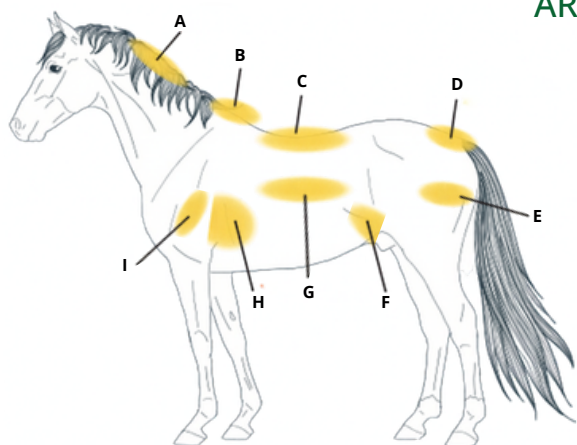
BODY CONDITION

SCORING CHART



Body Condition Scoring (BCS) is an objective system of evaluating a horse's level of body condition (amount of stored fat) and assessing a numeric score to facilitate comparisons between horses. Many owners fail to recognize significant variations in the weight of horses or variations due to age and breed types. This often results in overfeeding or underfeeding.

AREAS OF EMPHASIS FOR BODY CONDITION SCORING



- A Thickening of the neck
- B Fat covering the withers
- C Fat deposits along backbone
- D Fat deposits around tailhead
- E Fat deposits on inner thigh
- F Fat deposit on flanks
- G Fat covering ribs
- H Fat deposit behind shoulder
- I Shoulder blends into neck

1. POOR

Animal extremely emaciated; spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, tuber coxae, and tuber ischii projecting prominently; bone structure of withers, shoulders, and neck easily noticeable; no fatty tissue can be felt.

2. VERY THIN

Animal emaciated; slightly fat covering over base of spinous processes; traverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded; spinous processes, ribs, tailhead, tuber coxae, and tuber ischii prominent; withers, shoulders, and neck structure faintly discernable.



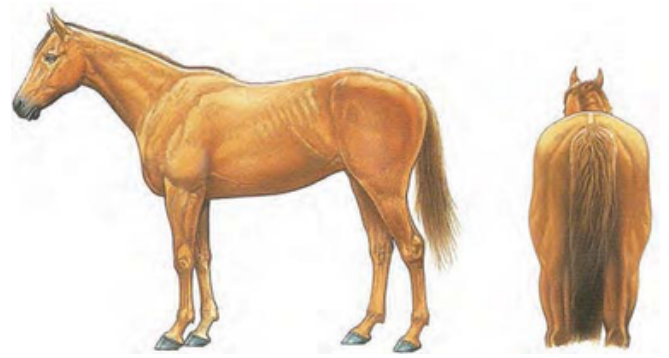
3. THIN

Fat buildup about halfway on spinous processes; traverse processes cannot be felt; slight fat cover over ribs; spinous processes and ribs easily discernable; tailhead prominent but individual vertebrae cannot be identified visually; tuber coxae appear rounded but easily discernable; tuber ischii not distinguishable; withers, shoulders and neck accentuated.



4. MODERATELY THIN

Slight ridge along back; faint outline of ribs discernable; tailhead prominence depends on conformation, fat can be felt around it; tuber coxae not discernable; withers, shoulders, and neck not obviously thin.



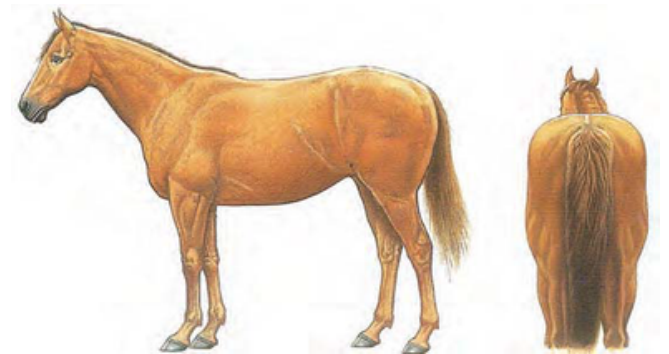
5. MODERATE

Back is flat (no crease or ridge); ribs not visually distinguishable but easily felt; fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy; withers appear rounded over spinous processes; shoulders and neck blend smoothly into body.



6. MODERATELY FLESHY

May have slight crease down back; fat over ribs fleshy/spongy; fat around tailhead soft; fat beginning to be deposited along sides of withers, behind shoulders, and along sides of neck.



7. FLESHY

May have crease down back; individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable filling between ribs with fat; fat around tailhead soft; fat deposited along withers, behind shoulders, and along neck.



8. FAT

Crease down back; difficult to feel ribs; fat around tailhead very soft; area along withers filled with fat; area behind shoulder filled with fat; noticeable thickening of neck; fat deposited along inner thighs.



9. EXTREMELY FAT

Obvious crease down back; patchy fat appearing.



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
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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.