

SHOW HORSE COLLECTIVE VICTORIA

S H C V

Medication Control Policy

Standards for the use of medication and testing of horses at SHCV events

Show Horse Collective Victoria

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This policy forms part of the SHCV governance document suite and is to be read together with the SHCV Competition Rules and related SHCV policies.

1. Purpose

This Medication Control Policy protects the welfare of horses competing at SHCV events and safeguards the fairness and integrity of SHCV competition. It sets out the standards that apply to the use of medication and other substances in horses presented for competition, and the testing regime that supports those standards.

2. Application

This Policy applies to every horse and every Competitor, owner, lessee, trainer and handler at a SHCV event, and is to be read together with the SHCV Competition Rules (Section 6) and the SHCV Horse Welfare Policy.

3. Prohibited Substances

A horse must not compete, and must not be presented for competition, while carrying a prohibited substance. The current SHCV Prohibited Substances Schedule is maintained and published by the SHCV Committee and updated from time to time. In general terms, a prohibited substance is any substance capable of affecting the performance of a horse, masking pain, lameness or illness, or otherwise affecting its behaviour, movement or welfare, other than a permitted therapeutic substance administered and cleared in accordance with Section 4.

Where the SHCV Committee has not yet published a Prohibited Substances Schedule, officials and Competitors should apply the ordinary meaning of "prohibited substance" above, and treat any medication, supplement or other substance capable of masking pain or affecting performance as prohibited unless a clear washout period has passed.

4. Therapeutic Treatment

A horse that has received veterinary treatment must not compete until sufficient time has passed for it to make a full recovery and for any medication administered to have cleared the horse's system. Competitors are responsible for knowing the relevant withholding period for any substance administered, and for seeking veterinary advice where there is doubt.

Where a horse has received veterinary treatment in the days immediately before a show, the Competitor must declare this to the Show Committee prior to the horse competing. The Show Committee may, on veterinary advice, withdraw the horse from competition where it is not satisfied the horse has fully recovered.

5. Strict Responsibility

The owner, lessee, trainer, handler and rider of a horse are each responsible for ensuring the horse is free of prohibited substances when presented for competition, regardless of who administered a substance or why. A positive test result is a breach of this Policy irrespective of intent, and it is not a defence that a substance was administered by a third party (such as a veterinarian, agistment provider or previous handler) without the Competitor's knowledge, although this may be relevant to the penalty imposed.

6. Testing

- Horses and riders may be subject to random in-competition swabbing or sampling at any SHCV event.
- Sampling will be conducted by, or under the supervision of, a Medication Control Officer appointed by the Show Committee.
- Samples must be collected, labelled, sealed and transported in a manner that preserves the integrity of the chain of custody.
- A Competitor or their representative may be present during the collection of a sample from their horse.
- Where a sample returns a positive result, the Competitor will be notified in writing and given the opportunity to respond before any finding is made, in accordance with the SHCV Complaints, Protests and Disciplinary Procedure.
- Where testing infrastructure allows, a split sample may be retained and tested at the Competitor's request and cost, to confirm a disputed result.

7. Consequences of a Breach

Depending on the circumstances, a breach of this Policy may result in one or more of the following: disqualification of the horse and rider from the relevant class or Championship; forfeiture of prizes, ribbons and points; suspension of the Competitor's or owner's SHCV membership; and referral to the SHCV Committee under the SHCV Complaints, Protests and Disciplinary Procedure for further sanction. Matters involving suspected deliberate doping or animal cruelty may also be referred to the police or other relevant authority.

8. Confidentiality

Test results and related records are confidential and will be handled in accordance with the SHCV Privacy Policy, and disclosed only to those persons who need to know in order to administer this Policy, conduct an investigation, or determine a disciplinary matter.

9. Review

This Policy, and the Prohibited Substances Schedule referred to in Section 3, will be reviewed periodically by the SHCV Committee to ensure they remain consistent with current veterinary and animal welfare standards.