



Statement of Equestrian South Australia

Re: removal of Dr. Michael Haese as Course Designer from Ring 1 at the SA State Show Jumping Championships 2021

Issues surrounding the 2021 State Show Jumping Championships have been divisive amongst the South Australian and Australian Show Jumping fraternities. Following the statement of the Equestrian Australia (EA) board on 26 April 2023 shown below (reference 1), the board of Equestrian South Australia (ESA) commenced an enquiry to establish what could be learned from this event.

ESA's enquiry into this matter has determined that the relevant decision, by the previous board of ESA, was made with insufficient information as to the circumstances of the day. ESA supports the EA and National Show Jumping Committee decision that neither Dr. Haese nor the riders present breached the code of conduct or broke any rules. The previous ESA Board stated that they avoided a conflict of interest by removing Dr. Haese as Course Designer, at the 2021 State Championships, this statement is not correct. There would have been no conflict of interest if Dr. Haese had course designed at this event. Private training days are common practice within the sport of Jumping.

ESA acknowledges the ongoing hurt and distress caused by the slow resolution of this matter.

ESA extends a sincere apology to Dr. Haese and all riders who attended the training day together with owners and other offended parties.

ESA wishes to highlight and acknowledge the loss of a very talented and enthusiastic course designer to New Zealand. We hope that in time Dr. Haese will rejoin ESA and continue to course design in Australia.

ESA will now consider any further action appropriate in relation to this matter, including consideration of protocols as to how best address discipline specific issues.

(Reference 1, EA Statement):

"Equestrian Australia advises that it has written to FEI Level 3 Show Jumping Course Designer Dr Michael Haese.

In that letter, the EA Board has expressed regret as to the manner in which Dr Haese was replaced as Course Designer at the 2021 South Australian State Show jumping Championships.

Dr Haese was replaced as course designer by Equestrian South Australia due to his involvement in a training day the weekend prior to the State Championships. A subsequent Facebook post made by ESA contained certain imputations which may have brought Dr Haese's character into question.

EA confirms that the training day:

- *Was not held at the venue at which the State Championships were to be held.*
- *Did not use the same equipment which was to be used for the State Championships; and*
- *Did not involve construction of any course that was to be used at the State Championships.*

EA confirms that neither Dr Haese nor the riders involved in the training day breached the Code of Conduct or any EA jumping rules.

Equestrian Australia respects and values Dr. Haese's experience, expertise, and integrity as an FEI Level 3 Course designer.