



Swabbing Strategy

Procedure/Policy Area	Swabbing Strategy	
Effective Date	1 July 2021	
Prepared By	ESA Executive Officer	April 2021
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Revision History

Current version	0.1	
Updated/Reviewed by	Executive Officer	
Date of next review	May 2022	
Version	Date superseded	Reason for change
0.1		

Background

For the purposes of this paper, any reference to Equestrian Australia (EA) is taken also to be a reference to Equestrian South Australia (ESA). Horses ridden or driven in an EA competition must not compete under the influence of prohibited medications. The FEI defines what a prohibited substance is in the FEI Veterinary Regulations. EA agrees and uses the same definition. The purpose of the FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulation (EADCMR) policy is aimed at preserving horse welfare and maintaining the philosophy that doping is contrary to the spirit of the sport.

This EA Medication Control Policy follows the EADCMR. Medication control sampling (swabbing) is compulsory at the following events/occasions:

- All National Championships or equivalent (for at least one horse or three percent of the horses taking part, whichever is the greater).
- All State Championships or equivalent (for at least one horse or three percent of the horses taking part, whichever is the greater).
- Upon any horse that dies/must be euthanised at an EA Competition.
- For all classes with prize money totaling more than \$2,000 or with a first prize of \$1,000 or more (for at least one horse or three percent of horses taking part, whichever is the greater).

Sampling at FEI events is to follow guidelines as prescribed in the FEI EADCMR.

Medication control sampling (or In-Competition Testing) is recommended/permitted at:

- all selection or qualifying events for Championships or Finals, HOTY.
- least once a year at official events that are run regularly (meaning at least six times a year).
- any EA event or competition that holds “graded” competition.
- any EA affiliated club/body that holds “graded” competition; and
- any EA Official Measuring Day (or Out-of-Competition Testing).

Current state

Currently, swabbing in South Australia is coordinated by an organising committee, often with the oversight/support of the relevant board discipline committee. Swabbing in these circumstances is often determined by the budget available to that committee. Funds are generally raised via a levy applied to competitors at the time of competition entry.

The dependence on funds raised restricts the number of horses swabbed.

Cost of swabbing

- 1) That 75% of the discipline-based horse competition licence monies received by ESA be allocated to the respective discipline committees (being the 3 Olympic disciplines).
- 2) The Olympic disciplines would be required to undertake swabbing at compulsory events and at least one non-compulsory event, each financial year, following the EA Medication Control Policy. Should these disciplines decide to swab at other events or more than the required swabbing numbers then these costs would need to be met by the respective disciplines and/or organising committees.
- 3) Disciplines who do not have a competition licence card system would be required to swab as per the EA Medication Control policy. The funding of the swabbing costs would be:
 - a. Showhorse and Interschool would be required to fund the swabbing costs from discipline funds and/or from event funds as these disciplines have significant horse numbers and can fund swabbing costs from entry fees. Alternatively, these disciplines may decide to introduce a card system like the Olympic disciplines to cover swabbing costs.
 - b. As Vaulting and Carriage Driving has very low competition numbers and therefore unable to recover enough swabbing levies from entries to cover the swabbing costs, it is proposed that these disciplines be required to charge a \$10 swabbing levy per horse at events to be swab (e.g., State Champs) and these levies would then be used to pay, in part, the swabbing costs. ESA would then fund any swabbing cost shortfall up to \$500 for each of these 2 disciplines each financial year.
- 4) From 1 July 2021 75% of the competition card monies by ESA, on behalf of each respective discipline, be transferred to the discipline's bank account at the end of each calendar month.
- 5) Should ESA be eligible for, apply for and be successful in receiving grant funding to meet swabbing costs then at that point FARMC/the Board will determine how those funds are allocated to the respective disciplines.
- 6) Prior to each financial year end each discipline would be required to report to the Board which events (compulsory and non-compulsory) swabbing occurred at in compliance with the above. Should a discipline have not conducted the required swabbing then appropriate consequences would need to be determined.