



## **NOTICE TO LICENSED PERSONS, OFFICIALS AND CLUBS**

### **BIOSECURITY INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THOROUGHBRED RACE MEETINGS WITHIN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**(Until further notice)**

***Directions made by TRSA Limited Stewards under Rule AR.64K(7A)***

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*The equine influenza virus is excreted in the nasal secretions of the horse. One of the greatest risks of disease transfer from horse to horse is by humans who have been contaminated (hands, clothes, footwear and/or gear) by their nasal secretions. This is the rationale behind these required biosecurity instructions. It is strongly urged that contact with the horse is kept to the absolute minimum avoiding nasal secretions where possible. Contact with non-thoroughbred horses must be avoided. Physical contact between persons handling horses at the race meeting and the general public is prohibited*

#### **A. Transport**

1. Trainers must only transport horses to any race meeting using their own float or truck unless they have the prior permission of the Stewards. This vehicle must be dedicated solely to the transport of registered thoroughbred racehorses in the trainer's care. Under no circumstances is the trainer's own float or truck to be used for any other horse breed until further notice.
2. Trainers may only use commercial float companies with the prior permission of the Stewards.
3. Where such permission is granted, commercial float companies will be required to organise floating arrangements to and from the races such that the number of pick-up and drop-offs is kept to a minimum.
4. All horse transport vehicles (commercial or private) must be cleaned and disinfected prior to transporting any horses to a racecourse, whether for training or a race meeting. Refer below for recommended disinfectants.
  - Quarternary Ammonium compounds (eg Glitz Pine disinfectant)
  - Chlorhexidine (eg Hibitane)
  - Virkon (not to be used on skin)
  - Any bleaching agent containing hypochloriteUse of high pressure appliances such as a gurney is recommended.
5. At the conclusion of the day's transportation, all floats and transports must be cleaned, all organic material removed and the vehicle thoroughly disinfected.
6. This procedure must be followed for each day's racing.

**B. Trainers, Strappers, Race Day Staff/Officials (involved in horse only areas, including gate attendants)**

1. Clubs are required to ensure that the general public must not be permitted to come in physical contact with any horse on race day. ***TRSA Limited Stewards will assist Clubs with protocols to ensure the general public does not come in contact with any personnel who have contact with, or work in horse only areas.***
2. All personnel must ensure they present for work showered, wearing clean/freshly laundered clothing and footwear which has been cleaned of organic matter and disinfected immediately prior to coming to the races (see section A, item 4).
3. Trainers and strappers must also attend on the racecourse as outlined in section B, item 2.
4. Trainers must limit physical contact between horses in your care with Vets, farriers, Stewards, barrier attendants, clerks of the course, strappers, trainers, sampling assistants and riders. ***Contact between horses and any other persons attending the race meeting is strictly prohibited.***  
***During the race meeting, stable staff, including trainers and strappers, must not go into public areas of the racecourse or have physical contact with the general public, including owners.***
5. At the conclusion of each day's work (at whatever point in the day that may be for respective personnel), staff are to return home immediately, shower, launder all clothes worn at the races and clean (removing any organic matter) and disinfect footwear.
6. Those personnel who do by necessity come into contact with horses should avoid direct personal contact with other persons. Staff are encouraged to thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water regularly during the course of the day. Facilities in the stabling area will be provided.
7. Under no circumstance is a stablehand to work for more than one trainer at any race meeting.
8. Strappers are required to walk their horses in such a way that they are positioned between the horse and the public (across the fence).
9. In the event that a race day stall is required to be used more than once, the stall shall be decontaminated prior to reuse.

**C. Riders (South Australian based)**

1. Riders must ensure they shower and wear clean/freshly laundered clothes to a race meeting. They must also ensure that their footwear has been cleaned and disinfected (refer section B, item 2) before entering the racecourse.
2. All gear, helmets, whips, saddles and associated packing must be cleaned and disinfected before arrival on the racecourse.
3. All clothes brought on course, including riding apparel, must have been cleaned and freshly laundered beforehand.
4. All riders are required to shower prior to putting on their riding gear for their first ride.
5. Between rides, all riders must decontaminate in that they wash their hands and wipe any riding gear used in a previous race with disinfectant.

6. At the completion of each rider's engagements for the day, they must shower, put all soiled clothing and saddle cloths (packing) into a plastic bag (to be supplied), clean and disinfect all gear (helmet, whip, saddle, packing and riding boots) and pack separately to the soiled clothing.
7. Riders must avoid direct personal contact (eg shaking hands, kissing, hugging) with any other person on the racecourse and entry to the public areas during the race meeting is prohibited.

***The primary aim of this requirement is to avoid the potential for transfer of this virus from horse to humans and onto other horses. Please be vigilant and aware of this very real possibility.***

**D. Barrier Attendants, Veterinarians, Farriers, Clerks of the Course, Starters & any other relevant personnel who may have direct horse contact.**

1. Please ensure that you arrive at the racecourse in clean/freshly laundered clothing (including hats, jumpers and coats). Footwear should be cleaned of all organic matter and disinfected (refer section B, item 2). All gear to be used on horses must be similarly disinfected.
2. Keep direct contact with horses during the day to a minimum.
3. Where possible, avoid contact with the head of the horse and any nasal secretions.
4. After completing their duties in regards to each race, each person must decontaminate to the best of their ability by washing their hands, checking their footwear and using the sprays provided.
5. At the completion of the day's duties, return home directly, shower, launder all work clothes, clean and disinfect your boots and all related gear (leads, whips, blindfolds, barrier blankets, twitches, etc).
6. Where possible, wearing easily cleaned and/or disinfected plastic slickers would be preferable.
7. Barrier Attendants are advised to avoid any contact with the general public and are prohibited from entering any public areas during the race meeting.

**E. Farriers/Vets**

1. These personnel must ensure that they shower, wear clean/freshly laundered clothes, cleaned and disinfected footwear before coming to the races.
2. All additional gear and any protective clothing must be disinfected prior to arrival at the course.
3. Contact with horses is to be kept to a minimum.
4. Direct contact with the general public must be avoided and entry to any public areas of the racecourse during the race meeting is prohibited.
5. At the conclusion of the day's racing, all staff must go straight home, shower, launder/dry clean all clothes and clean and disinfect footwear.

**F. To All Personnel in stabling areas**

1. Direct contact with the public must be avoided.
2. Regular washing of hands with soap and water is advised.
3. Please adhere to these instructions. They are for the protection of the Industry in which we all work.

## **G . Clubs**

1. In accord with the directions of TRSA Limited Stewards, to this end, all barrier fencing must be intact and access points manned. All staff need to be thoroughly briefed in relation to what is required of them. Clubs are required to ensure the public cannot in any way have physical contact with horses or attendants in the horse movement areas.
2. It is essential that the public are separated from those staff who are in, or may have, contact with horses.
3. Defined areas must be created for trainers, strappers and riders that preclude their contact with the general public. For example, the mounting yard shall be confined to trainers, riders, strappers and relevant raceday staff.
4. It is reiterated that Clubs should make every effort to ensure that people in contact with horses are not permitted to have direct physical contact with owners and/or any other members of the public.
5. All staff who have contact with horses or work in horse areas must be advised not to have direct personal contact with the public and are prohibited from entering the public areas during the race meeting.
6. There should be footbaths, buckets/troughs provided in the jockey's room with sufficient disinfectant to allow riders to disinfect their boots, helmets, whips, saddles and packing at the conclusion of the day's racing. The use of Pine-O-Clean disinfectant wipes or similar to clean down gear will be sufficient. Chux wipes for dipping into disinfectant solutions should also be available.
7. Plastic bags must be available for jockeys into which they can put their soiled riding apparel (or other items) for transfer directly home for laundering.
8. Access to the mounting yard is restricted to trainers, strappers, riders and essential Industry race day officials. Patrons should be kept at least two metres back from the placegetters stalls.
9. Media shall not be permitted in any horse only areas.
10. In the event that a race day stall is required to be used more than once, the stall shall be decontaminated prior to reuse.
11. Barrier stalls must be thoroughly disinfected prior to the start and at the conclusion of each race meeting.
12. All saddlecloths (and strapper's bibs, if used) must be laundered prior to and at the conclusion of each racemeeting.

**All Industry personnel are requested to adhere to these instructions rigidly. They are also requested to comply, without reservation, to the requests of race day officials.**

**By Order of:**

**GRAHAM LOCH**  
**CHAIRMAN OF STEWARDS**  
**Issued 31 August 2007**