

This Policy is in place to protect the welfare of and minimize the effects on horses racing during hot summer days at ALL South Australian race tracks.

Heat stress is most likely to occur on days when the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature is 26°C (or where the WBGT is not available, the ambient temperature is 35°C) or above. Days on which the humidity is high or there is an absence of air movement are susceptible to an increased risk of heat stress.

Symptoms of heat stress are:

- Rapid shallow breathing
- Flared nostrils
- A congestion appearance of the gums
- Staggering gait
- Very high body temperature

It will be the responsibility of the Chairman of Stewards acting at any race meeting to obtain the forecast conditions and monitor Thermal Comfort Observation as provided on the Bureau of Meteorology (www.bom.gov.au) during the meeting.

In the event a trainer concerned at the manner in which any horse is coping with the prevailing conditions, approaches the Stewards seeking to withdraw a horse from its race engagement, the Stewards should consider all submissions on merit. Depending on the prevailing conditions, the Stewards may seek the opinion of the Veterinary Surgeon before adjudicating on any submission.

Level 1:

This Policy will apply on ALL race days where the forecast temperature is 26°C (WBGT) or 35°C (ambient) or above.

The Club will be instructed -

- To provide additional hoses and water containers to maximise evaporative cooling and opportunities to drink
- To ensure the swabbing stall is as comfortable as possible

The Club Veterinary Surgeons will scrutinize all horses –

- - presented in the enclosure pre-race
- - on arrival at the barriers
- - on return to the enclosure post-race
- - while detained in the swabbing are (either pre or post-race)

If the Club Veterinary Surgeon is concerned about a horse's condition pre-race he shall immediately report his concern to the Stewards.

Any horse found to be exhibiting signs of heat stress will immediately be given appropriate treatment.

Appropriate treatment shall include -

- Repeated application of cool water to the entire body of the horse, followed by scraping excess water from the horse
- Positioning the horse in a cool location, preferably with access to breeze or air flow
- Intravenous medication as prescribed

Level 2:

In the event that the forecast temperature for a race day is 32°C (WBGT) or 38°C (ambient temperature) or above, Stewards must take advice from the Veterinary Surgeon/s in considering whether to proceed or modify the programme for that race meeting.

Should the **Stewards** determine to continue the racing programme, in addition to the measures listed in Part 1, they may instruct that -

- an additional Veterinary Surgeon be provided
- additional equipment be provided to assist the comfort of horses
- an adequate supply of intravenous fluids and electrolytes are available
- a Veterinary Surgeon be available post race at a position as directed by the Stewards for riders to report concerns regarding a horse
- Riders, if they become concerned at the condition of their mount post-race, should proceed to the Veterinary Surgeon positioned on the track

The **Veterinary Surgeon/s** will, in addition to duties described in Part 1, scrutinize all horses –

- upon arrival on course – in particular, horses identified as travelling in excess of one hour to attend the meeting.
- noting the horse's pre-race body temperature. Any horse observed with a high body temperature (eg: in excess of 38.5°C) should be monitored and, if required, attempts made to reduce the body temperature prior to racing
- while detained in the swabbing area (either pre or post-race) to monitor horses sweating or becoming distressed during the sampling procedure
- post-race, in particular any horse which the rider becomes concerned at its condition. The Veterinary Surgeon will take a position post-race as instructed by the Stewards
- subsequent to the race, to ensure all horses have recovered appropriately to permit travel, no horse may leave the course without the approval of the Veterinary Surgeon.

Note: Modification of a race programme might include the advancement or delay in a schedule if it appears likely the extreme conditions might ease or be avoided.

Policy amended:27/03/2006.....
Policy Reaffirmed:09/12/2004.....
Policy Reaffirmed:13/05/2002.....
Replaces previous:.....03/03/1997.....

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