



SWABBING

Incorporation No.	A00008959W	Version	1
ABN No.	35048091068	Approved by SMC on	9 October 2021

PURPOSE

The Australian Endurance Riders Association Inc. (AERA) has, by agreement, aligned itself to the FEI Rules and Regulations pertaining to Prohibited Substances in an effort to remove the use of banned and illicit drugs from equine sports. The Victorian Endurance Riders Association Inc. (VERA), as a division of AERA, also aligns itself to these policies and procedures.

The use of banned or illicit drugs can affect horse performance by:

- Performance enhancing
- Performance normalizing; or
- Performance reducing

Any of these can give an unfair advantage to horses using such substances and the use of these substances does not promote horse welfare as a guiding principle.

The aim of this Policy is, through testing, to reduce the instances of prohibited substances use and to deter persons who intend to gain advantage from such usage.

POLICY

VERA shall adopt a swabbing program to meet the annual targets set by AERA in an effort to reduce the instances of use of prohibited substances. VERA will be proactive in promoting a drug free sport and provide education to its members to achieve a fair sport and maintain the highest standards of horse welfare.

PROCEDURES

Swabbing Stewards

VERA will only use Equestrian Australia (EA) qualified Swabbing Stewards to assist in the implementation of the swabbing program and to undertake the administrative aspects of the swabbing regime. Swabbing Stewards will undertake the EA's Swabbing Steward program and must maintain currency of their qualification.

The role of the VERA Swabbing Steward is to:

- Liaise with the VERA SMC and the VERA Horse Welfare Officer to receive the swabbing program requirements for each year
- Implement the swabbing program in terms of:



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- Organising the appropriate number of swabbing kits from the AERA Medical Control Officer
 - Providing advice of swabbing, at the appropriate time, to be undertaken to the Chief Steward and Head Veterinarian at the selected VERA rides
 - Forwarding swabbing samples to the agreed laboratory
 - Maintaining the confidentiality and security of the swabbing process
- Liaise, as required, with the AERA Medication Control Officer
 - Complete and submit the AERA Medication Control Reporting Form (available from the AERA website) following the event to the AERA Medication Control Officer to support AERA reporting requirements

When the VERA Swabbing Steward is unable to attend a ride at which swabbing activities are to be completed the VERA Swabbing Steward will:

- Organise for a suitability qualified EA Swabbing Steward to conduct the swabbing activities
- Fully brief the EA Swabbing Steward with the requirements for swabbing according to the annual swabbing program
- Provide a copy of the AERA EADCM rules (Section 5 of the AERA Rulebook)
- Provide any required information to educate the EA Swabbing Steward on endurance riding and how the swabbing program in endurance is conducted

Swabbing Program

Each year AERA sets the target for the swabbing program for each State. Traditionally this is set at 2% of ride entries for Victorian rides from the previous year. VERA will meet, and may exceed, this target.

In accordance with Clause 6 of AERA's Equine Anti-Doping & Controlled Medication Rules the following are the responsibilities for the various aspects of selection of horses to be tested:

1. The VERA SMC is responsible for determining the number of rides to be sampled and the number of samples to be taken during the year. This determination will be conducted at the first meeting of the SMC for the year.
2. The President and the Horse Welfare Officer is responsible for determining which individual rides will be sampled and the quantity of samples to be taken at each of these rides. This determination will be communicated to the VERA Swabbing Steward. These details will remain confidential at all times.
3. The selection of individual horses to be sampled at a ride shall be made by the Chief Steward and the Head Veterinarian prior to the horses beginning the 1st leg of the ride.
4. Methods of selecting the horses for sample at a ride must utilise one of the 3 methods defined within Clause 6.3.2 of the Equine Anti-Doping & Controlled Medication Rules. No deviation from these methods is permitted.

Adverse Analytical Findings

Where an Adverse Analytical Finding is returned after swabbing the AERA is notified by EA. AERA will conduct the review and then provide notification to VERA of required action. VERA will complete the prescribed actions and act in accordance with the Equine Anti-Doping & Controlled Medication Rules.



To Complete is to Win

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BREACHES

Breaches of this policy may result in the disciplinary action being imposed.