Risk Management Strategy

NCEC aims to run safe and friendly competitions. All National Capital Equestrian Club events, both official competitive and closed restricted dressage tests will be conducted under EA and FEI rules where relevant. NCEC holds events at Equestrian Park, Cotter Road, Curtin ACT.

The following Risk Management Plan meets requirements under those rules. The Club reserves the right to refuse entry, reprimand or, ask any competitor or spectator who is judged to be acting in a dangerous manner and/or contrary to this plan to leave the venue.

NCEC uses many volunteers in the conduct of a competition. NCEC ensures that all volunteers are:

* Experienced with horses and competition, where practical.
* Aware of their responsibilities and the inherent danger involved in equestrian activities.
* Are appropriately trained and supervised.
* Briefed on the day or previously briefed.

NCEC has on site on competition days:

* An incident book for recording potentially dangerous events.
* Basic first aid and veterinary kits.
* Phone numbers for the local veterinary surgery out of hours.
* Phone number for police, ambulance, and fire brigade (000).

The NCEC competition ground is within a reasonable distance from major hospitals and medical services.

As per EA rules a designated First Aid Officer will attend NCEC competitions.

Should an accident leave a rider or person unconscious, and therefore unable to advise NCEC Committee on how they wish to proceed regarding their medical attention/condition, NCEC will call an ambulance via 000.

## **Dogs**

Dogs must be always on a lead. Dogs that are a nuisance, e.g., barking or lunging at people, or animals must be removed from the premises if so directed.

Dogs are NOT allowed in the yard areas, warm up arenas or in the general competition arenas.

## **Arena Rules**

Riders must know and obey “arena rules” in the warmup arena.

# **Recommendations for Warm-Up Arena at NCEC Championships**

To maximise safety in warm-up arenas, NCEC has introduced the following recommendations:

* You may enter the warmup area at a **maximum of 45 minutes** prior to your scheduled test time.
* The warm- up area is divided into 4 arenas and where possible are to be utilised as follows:
  + **Elementary and above** – the 2 arenas at the back (closest to the creek)
  + **Prep to Novice** – the first 2 arenas (closest to the entry gate).

**F.10.2 Etiquette for the warm-up arena**

As there are many horses warming up in a restricted area it is important that all riders have knowledge of the etiquette required in group riding. This ensures safe riding and achieves harmony in busy areas.

a) safety is paramount, and a collision should be always avoided

b) before entering the warm-up area make sure the gateway and immediate track are clear

c) riders should pass left shoulder to left shoulder when on the outside track

d) when not on the outside track, e.g., on a diagonal line, riders should give way to horses on their left

e) the more progressive gait has priority on the track (e.g., horses trotting should give way to horses cantering)

f) a halt should not be on the track

g) walking should not be on the track and does not have right of way

h) trot has priority over walk

i) canter has priority over trot

j) lateral work has priority over all paces

k) when circling, anticipate your return to the track to not stop the flow of other riders

l) mounting, dismounting and gear adjustment should be done off the track

m) consideration should be given to behaviour of other horses in the arena that may upset your horse

n) it may be necessary to leave the area if your horse is upsetting others

o) if a horse is upsetting the majority, an official should be sought with a view to requesting that horse’s removal for safety’s sake

p) be aware of stallions wearing green stallion discs [https://www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/CLEAN\_NATIONAL\_DRESSAGE\_RULES\_1\_JULY\_2023.pdf](https://www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/CLEAN_NATIONAL_DRESSAGE_RULES_1_JULY_2023.pdf%20) (p130)

## **Horse Gear**

It is not the responsibility of the gear steward to check the safety of a horse’s gear. Gear safety is the responsibility of the rider. The function of the gear steward is to check that the horse’s gear complies with EA/FEI rules for dressage. Examples: whip length, correct bit, saddlery, and dress.

Ultimately, it is up to the rider to ensure their gear is safe, properly fitted and complies with the appropriate EA/FEI rules.

**Prohibited Gear** as listed in EA Dressage Rules 01/07/23, Section 5 p. 54 - 73”) must not be used in the warm-up area. <https://www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/CLEAN_NATIONAL_DRESSAGE_RULES_1_JULY_2023.pdf>

## **Smoking**

Smoking is both a health and safety hazard. A discarded cigarette can easily cause dry grass, hay, and the like to ignite. All persons who smoke are requested to do so well away from non-smokers and any flammable materials. Smoking is not permitted in the yards or any enclosed area.

## **NCEC Hot Weather Policy**

* Horse and rider welfare is paramount when competing at NCEC.
* There are several taps, a large wash bay area and plenty of shade at Equestrian Park for competitor use.
* Please bring a bucket & sponge to wash down / cool off your horse.
* During hot weather, riders may remove their competition jacket – shirts/tops must be worn as per EA rules.
* Riders can decide if they need to remove their jacket due to heat.
* Sunscreen is available at the Gear Check.
* Tap water is not for human consumption- please consider bringing your own drinking water.
* Water and cold drinks are available for a fee at the Catering Van.
* NCEC reserves the right to cancel / cut short any competition due to excessive heat.