

**AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES COUNCIL of N.S.W. Ltd.**  
**ASC RULES FOR DISCIPLINE ON SHOWGROUNDS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE,**  
**DURING AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER SHOWS (including IN HORSE SECTIONS).**

**(Rules to be followed when the ASC assists Shows with management of this issue.)**

**PRELIMINARY**

1. For the purpose of these rules, except in so far as the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires:

“ASC” means Agricultural Societies Council of NSW Ltd;

“Attendant” means any person apparently in charge of an animal at any show conducted by a Show Society;

“Award” means any item awarded in recognition of achieving a certain standard at a Show and includes a certificate, prize, cash prize, trophy, medal, ribbon and rosette.

“Board” means those persons from time to time comprising the Directors and the President of the ASC ;

“Committee” means the ASC Disciplinary Committee;

“Competitor” means a person who participates directly or who intends to participate in any competition at a Show;

“Event” means the Show in which it is intended that a competitor will compete;

“Exhibit” means any object, animate or inanimate, entered in a competition at a Show;

“Group” means the organizations identified as comprising each of Groups 1 to 15 in the ASC’s then current publication providing the dates for agricultural shows (“Show Dates Booklet”);

“Inquiry” includes an investigation or other proceeding;

“Misconduct” includes any behaviour by a person or persons that is inimical to the interests of the ASC, a Show Society or a Group, or which is, or may be, prejudicial to the health or wellbeing of any person or animal at a Show, and also includes:

(a) any breach of these rules;

(b) any conduct considered by the Committee to be unsportsmanlike, or to be contrary to the manner in which a person ought to behave;

c) any conduct that induces, or may induce a breach of the peace or which is, or may be, a nuisance;

(d) any conduct which does, or might, prejudice the smooth running, or interfere with the conduct of, any meeting of the ASC (or any committee of the ASC) or of any Show;

“Owner” means the person in whose name the horse or other animal is registered with any organisation, or the person whose proprietary rights to the animal are otherwise evident;

“Prohibited Substance” means any substance referred to in the Schedule to these rules;

“Show” means any event conducted by a Show Society at which people, horses and other animals compete or are intended to compete;

“Show Official” means any person who, with the authority of the relevant Show Society, is involved in judging, conducting, directing or running a Show or any part of a Show;

“Show Society” means an organisation (whether or not incorporated) that is affiliated with the ASC;

“Suspension” means a specified period of disqualification of the animal and/or the person or persons concerned from any form of participation other than as a spectator at any agricultural show in NSW.

The singular includes the plural and vice versa.

2. Subject to Rule 3, all inquiries, investigations and appeals shall be conducted in accordance with these rules which apply to behaviour on Showgrounds from 24 hours before a Show commences until 24 hours after the Show concludes.
3. Any person who is or whose actions are the subject of an inquiry (referred to in these rules as the “person concerned”) may agree to the procedures provided for herein being varied in any respect and any such agreement shall be binding on the person concerned for all purposes connected with the inquiry or arising therefrom.

## **BODIES THAT MAY CONDUCT INQUIRIES**

4. All inquiries shall be conducted by the ASC Disciplinary Committee with a panel of at least 3 members of the committee arranged, actually to sit in each inquiry.
5. The Committee, which shall not include the President, shall comprise such persons (being not less than 3 nor more than 7) as the Board may from time to time appoint (one of whom shall be nominated by the President as chairman), but no more than 2 members of the Committee shall be members of the same Group.

## **HOW INQUIRIES ARE INITIATED**

6. An inquiry may be initiated by the Committee:
  - (a) Upon receipt by the ASC Office of a written complaint that a person may have committed misconduct;
  - (b) Upon resolution of the Committee on its own motion;
  - (c) A decision of the Committee pursuant to (a) or (b) may be by means of electronic communication.
7. An inquiry may not be initiated in respect of any matter that the Committee considers:
  - (a) is of a domestic nature relating only to the internal affairs of a Show Society or a Group, or
  - (b) is principally concerned with legal rights between members of a Show Society where the courts are a more appropriate venue, or
  - (c) is a police matter.

## **CONDUCT OF INQUIRIES**

8. The Committee may require that any matter the subject of an inquiry be, so far as possible, reduced to writing.
9. The person concerned shall be informed in writing of any complaint and be provided with a copy of all documents in possession of the Committee necessary to enable the person to understand the nature of the complaint and of any case he/she may have to answer.

10. (a) The Committee shall conduct a hearing at such time and place as it considers appropriate provided that at least 21 days' written notice thereof is given to the person concerned and to the person or persons (if any) who made the complaint the subject of the inquiry and to any witnesses of the events in question and all such persons shall be entitled to appear and be heard at the inquiry and to give such evidence as shall be relevant in the circumstances.
- (b) Where the person concerned or a witness in relation to the matter the subject of an inquiry resides more than 100 kilometres by road from the place at which the inquiry hearing is to be conducted and that witness has presented a written statement to the Committee, the Committee may (but need not) permit the person concerned and the witness to give evidence and be cross examined by means of a telephone conference.
11. (a) Subject to (b), all persons who constitute the Committee panel for the purpose of an inquiry must be present at the inquiry or hearing at all times.
- (b) Despite (a), with the consent of the person concerned, the Committee may conduct an inquiry or hearing, or part of an inquiry or hearing, by teleconference.
12. The Committee may conduct the inquiry notwithstanding that any person (including the person concerned and a witness) who has been given notice fails to appear at the inquiry.
13. (a) The Committee may from time to time on its own motion adjourn the conduct of the inquiry to such time and place as it considers fit but notice of such adjournment shall not be required to be given to persons not present at the inquiry when the adjournment is announced.
- (b) The Committee shall only grant an application for an adjournment by a person concerned in circumstances where to fail to do so would in the Committee's opinion constitute a denial of natural justice.
14. The Committee is not bound by rules of evidence and shall conduct the inquiry with the minimum of formality and in such manner as it sees fit.
15. (a) The Committee may require any person to attend a hearing before the Committee and to furnish such information and evidence and to produce such documents relevant to the matter the subject of the inquiry as the Committee sees fit.
- (b) The Committee may of its own motion call evidence from experts.

16. (a) No person shall be legally represented before the Committee.
- (b) The Committee may, at the expense of the ASC, obtain legal advice concerning any matter or thing relevant to the inquiry but any such advice shall, unless the Committee otherwise resolves, be and remain confidential to the Committee.
17. All deliberations of the Committee are and must remain confidential to the Committee. Any breach of this rule may be deemed by the Board to be conduct that is prejudicial to the interests of the ASC and thus constitute an Expulsion Event within the meaning of the ASC Constitution.

### **DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE & CERTAIN PENALTY GUIDELINES**

18. (a) The Committee may announce its decision orally or in writing. A decision that is announced orally shall have effect in accordance with its terms.
- (b) The Committee may, but is not obliged to, publish a written report on the facts as found by the inquiry and the penalty (if any) the Committee considers appropriate to impose in the circumstances.
- (c) If the opinion of the members of the Committee is not unanimous, the decision of the majority shall prevail. If the members of the Committee are equally divided on any question concerning the guilt or innocence of a person concerned, the question shall be resolved in the person's favour.
19. If the Committee considers that the imposition of a penalty may be appropriate, the Committee:
- (a) must have regard to any submission on penalty that the person concerned may wish to make;
- (b) may have regard to any previous instance in which the person concerned has been found guilty by any Organisation of a breach of the rules, or of misconduct, provided that the Committee shall not be made aware of any such previous instance until after the Committee has reached the decision that the person concerned is guilty in respect of the matter then before the Committee. For the purpose of this paragraph (b), "Organisation" includes the ASC, any Show Society, the Show Horse Council, the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and any other kindred body.
20. It shall be the duty of the ASC Office to cause to be provided to the Chairman of the Committee, prior to the Committee's consideration of the question of penalty, an envelope in which shall be contained a paper on which shall be written either

information concerning any such previous instance or a statement to the effect that there has been no previous instance. The information shall not make reference to any occasion when the complaint was dismissed or not found proved.

21. (a) If the Committee considers that the imposition of a penalty is appropriate, the following table of suspensions and monetary penalties shall apply as non-mandatory guidelines applicable to matters that do not involve or include the presence of a Prohibited Substance:

- i) Denigration of a competitor, an exhibit, a judge, a Show Official or a spectator during a Show – 3 to 12mths and/or \$150 to \$1000;
- ii) Abuse of a competitor or spectator - 12 to 24mths and/or \$500 to \$1500;
- iii) Abuse of a judge or Show Official - 24mths to life and/or \$1000 to \$3000;
- iv) Excessive discipline of an animal – 3 to 12mths and/or \$150 to \$1000;
- v) Causing hurt or undue stress to an animal – 12 to 24mths and/or \$500 to \$1000;
- vi) Causing injury to an animal - 24mths to life and/or \$1000 to \$3000.

(b) In the case where the person concerned has not previously been found guilty of misconduct or a breach of the rules, the Committee should consider whether or not a reprimand is an appropriate penalty.

(c) Where a penalty comprises both a suspension of a person and a monetary penalty, the suspension will continue beyond its specified completion until the other penalty requirement has been completed.

22. If the Committee, having conducted any inquiry, is of the opinion that that any complaint or allegation which led to the institution of the inquiry was made:

- (a) frivolously,
- (b) without sufficient evidence to justify the making of the complaint or allegation, or
- (c) out of ill will, spite or in bad faith,

the Committee may decide that:

- (i) financial compensation be provided to the person concerned in respect of expenses actually incurred in dealing with the matter,
- (ii) there be a penalty imposed on the person considered by the Committee to have acted in any manner described in (a) to (c) of this

rule, and the ASC shall take all such action as may be necessary to give effect to such a decision of the Committee.

23. Decisions of the Committee are final and there is no right of appeal.

### **PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES IN HORSES**

24. The Committee shall arrange for any test for a Prohibited Substance to be carried out in accordance with such procedures as the Committee may from time to time determine.

25. (a) A person must not enter at a show any horse to which a Prohibited Substance has been administered, or permit a horse to which a Prohibited Substance has been administered to compete.

(b) The Competitor, the Owner and an Attendant of any horse in which a Prohibited Substance is detected is deemed to be in breach of these rules.

26. (a) Subject to (b), a horse to which a Prohibited Substance has been administered may not compete, and is not eligible to compete.

(b) Despite (a), if a horse has had a Prohibited Substance administered to it and:

(i) prior to the horse competing, the Competitor discloses that fact (such disclosure to be in such form as the ASC may from time to time require) and

(ii) satisfactory evidence is provided that the performance of the horse will not be affected by the presence of the prohibited Substance, then at the entire discretion of the Show Society conducting the Show, the horse may be permitted to compete.

27. The Board may in its discretion appoint person(s) (who is/are practising veterinary surgeon(s)) to cause an examination to be made at any time of any horse at any Show conducted by a Show Society. In the course of such examination, the person(s) may:

(a) take such samples (including, without limitation, urine, blood, saliva and faeces) from such horse as are considered by that person necessary or advisable;

(b) examine, test, trot up and flex the horse.

28. The opinion of any such person(s) as to whether a Prohibited Substance would not, or could, affect the performance of the horse at the time of competition, shall be final.

29. Any horse that is found to have a limb, or any part thereof, desensitised is deemed to have had a Prohibited Substance administered to it.
30. Any person who fails to permit, or seeks to prevent or hinder, an examination of a horse is deemed to have acted in breach of these rules and at the discretion of the Board and without the need for inquiry by the Committee, may be:
- (a) banned from participating in any Show conducted by a Show Society for a period not exceeding 2 years; and/or
  - (b) fined an amount not exceeding \$1,000.

There is no appeal from a decision of the Board pursuant to this rule.

### **MINIMUM PENALTIES FOR PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE OFFENCES IN HORSES**

#### **31. Level 1 – Use of a Prohibited Substance which would not have affected the performance of the horse at time of competition.**

1<sup>st</sup> offence – Warning – Award not affected – Official position not affected;

2<sup>nd</sup> offence - \$200 fine – Loss of Award – Loss of position;

3<sup>rd</sup> offence - \$500 fine – Loss of Award – Loss of position;

Further Level 1 offence – Proceed to Level 2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> offence.

#### **Level 2 – Use of a Prohibited Substance which could have affected the performance of the horse at the time of competition**

1<sup>st</sup> Offence - \$500 fine – 12mths suspension-Loss of Award – Loss of Official Position;

2<sup>nd</sup> Offence - \$1000 fine – 12mths suspension-Loss of Award - Loss of Official Position;

3<sup>rd</sup> Offence - \$1000 fine - 24mths suspension-loss of Award - Loss of Official Position.

In addition, and in respect of both Level 1 and level 2, a person who has been found guilty of a breach of Rule 25 (a) may be required to reimburse the ASC all costs incurred by the ASC in relation to the detection of the Prohibited Substance in question.



In respect of a Level 2 offence, the suspension may be of the horse concerned and/or the Competitor and/or the Attendant and/or the Owner, as the Committee may in the particular case determine.

32. (a) Where a penalty comprises or includes the payment of a monetary penalty, that amount must be paid no later than the date nominated by the Committee as the date for payment. Except with the express permission of the Committee, a horse to which the penalty relates is deemed not eligible for and may not be competed in any Show until the monetary penalty has been paid.

(b) Where a penalty comprises both a suspension of a person and a monetary penalty and return of awards (with or without reimbursement of ASC costs), the suspension will continue beyond its specified completion until all the other penalty requirements have been completed.

#### **PUBLICATION OF RESULTS AND CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES.**

33. (a) The Committee may, in its entire discretion, publish any decision of the Committee, including any penalty imposed, to the members of the ASC, Show Societies and Royal Show Societies throughout Australia, Equestrian Australia, the Show Horse Council of Australasia Inc. and to such other organizations conducting shows as express a clear interest in supporting ASC penalties. Where appropriate such publication may strongly recommend that relevant bodies support ASC penalties by extending any ASC suspension to include the shows held during that time by those relevant bodies.

No action shall lie against the ASC, the Board or any member of a Committee in respect of any such publication.

(b) The Committee may determine by resolution that, when notified by another body of the suspension of an animal and/or a person (or persons) under the rules applicable to that body's showing rules, the suspension will be extended to include NSW agricultural shows, and the societies will be notified accordingly.

## SCHEDULE

A PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE is any substance or drug originating externally to a horse (and whether or not it is endogenous to the horse) capable of affecting the performance or behaviour of a horse including without limitation:

Drugs acting on the central nervous system

Drugs acting on the autonomic nervous system

Drugs acting on the cardiovascular system

Drugs affecting the gastro-intestinal function

Drugs affecting the immune system and its response

Antibiotics, synthetic anti-bacterial and anti-viral drugs

Antihistamines

Anti-malarial and anti-parasitic agents

Antipyretics, analgesics and anti-inflammatory drugs

Diuretics

Local anaesthetics

Muscle relaxants

Respiratory stimulants

Sex hormones, anabolic agents and corticosteroids

Endocrine secretions and their synthetic counterparts

Substances affecting blood coagulation

Cytotoxic substances

Any substance other than a normal nutrient which by its nature may affect the performance of the horse as a whole.

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