

INVASIVE TREATMENT - EXPLANATORY NOTES

Please read these explanatory notes prior to completion of any Invasive Treatment forms.

DEFINITIONS

Table 2 of the General Rules defines 'invasive treatment' as any action involving the puncture or incision of the skin or insertion of any instrument or any foreign material into the body of the horse, excluding the use of oral electrolytes by way of syringe, or the use of a thermometer to take temperature.

Table 2 of the General Rules defines 'veterinary control' as follows. A horse is deemed to be under veterinary control when the horse commences its pre-ride veterinary inspection, and remains under veterinary control until all the following have been satisfied:

- a) the horse is either eliminated from or successfully completes the ride
- b) the head veterinarian signs off the horse's logbook or vet card
- c) The ride secretary has signed and released the horse's logbook or vet card.

The rider of any horse that receives 'invasive treatment' whilst the horse is under 'veterinary control' is required to complete and sign the appropriate Invasive Treatment form and return it to the Chief Steward before leaving the ride base. The treating veterinarian is also required to complete AERA Form 4 and record the treatment provided in the 'Event Treatment Record' at the rear of the horse's Logbook.

GRADING

Every Invasive Treatments must be classified as either:

- a) **MODERATE** - metabolic disorders such as Ty-Up (Exertional Rhabdomyolysis), other mild muscle conditions, synchronous diaphragmatic flutters (Thumps), mild heat distress, very mild GIT conditions; or
- b) **SEVERE** - metabolic disorders such as exhaustive horse syndrome (fatigue related), endotoxaemia, the more severe GIT crises i.e. Diarrhoea, colitis, impactions, paralytic ileus, hyper/hypomotility colics, moderate to severe heat stroke.

CONSEQUENCES

General Rule 51.3 provides that if invasive treatment is administered to a horse whilst under veterinary control:

- a) Before the horse has completed the final veterinary inspection for the ride, the horse shall be eliminated by the head or treatment veterinarian.
- b) After the horse has successfully completed the ride, the horse may be eliminated, if the head or treatment veterinarian consider the invasive treatment was necessary to ensure the immediate welfare of the horse.

REST ORDER GUIDELINES

General Rule 52.1 provides that the head or treatment veterinarian may impose a 'rest order' on a horse, if in the opinion of the head or treatment veterinarian, the horse is injured and/ or stressed and the imposition of a rest order is in the best interest of the horses' welfare. A horse does not necessarily need to receive invasive treatment for a rest order to be imposed on the horse.

Refer to General Rules Clause 52 for further details relating to Rest orders.

The issuing of a rest order is a mechanism to ensure that the horse has time to recover and obtain sufficient fitness prior to its next ride. It is not a form of disciplinary action.

It is difficult to link the length of a rest order to the level of treatment provided due to the high degree of variability between cases. The length of the rest order should take into account the time that will be required for the horse to recover from the condition(s) of concern and also the time required to resume training in preparation for the next ride.

In all cases, it is required that the head veterinarian, in consultation with the treating veterinarian, talk to the rider to obtain a clear picture of the conditions surrounding the horse's demise. It is ideal that the reasons for the rest order being imposed is discussed with the rider.

Generally, rest orders should not be given for lameness because a diagnosis and therefore prognosis may not be made, nor given for mild tying-up, when to go back into regular work is part of the management regime. A horse with a metabolic condition such as colic, severe tying up, or the thumps, should get a rest order of one to three months, allowing time for rest before the horse returns to training and then competition.

CHIEF STEWARD NOTES

The completed IT forms from both the treating veterinarian and the rider must be attached to the Chief Stewards Ride Report and lodged with your State SMC.

When a rest order has been imposed on a horse, the chief steward shall:

- a) Ensure that the length of the rest order is written in weeks in the appropriate place on the relevant page in the *logbook*.
- b) Place a highly visible red sticker to the top of the relevant page in the *logbook* so that it is easily noticed when the horse enters the next ride.
- c) Retain the logbook and forward it to the relevant SA relating to the person responsible for the horse at the ride.