

UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR EQUESTRIAN COMPETITION ACTIVITIES IN A COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT – 1 FEBRUARY 2021

ALL ATHLETES COMPETING AT SHOWS MUST BE REGISTERED AND PAID UP WITH THE SAEF FOR 2021

These guidelines aim to provide an operational framework to support members, in facilitating a healthy and safe return to all equestrian shows and events.

It is important to note that the resumption of the various equestrian disciplines must be in accordance with the SA Government regulatory requirements, along with the South African Equestrian Federation's COVID-19 document approved by government to resume training and competitions . These processes have been developed with the best interests of all participants, their families, and communities in mind.

These guidelines will continuously be updated as and when necessary.

A. Responsibility of Riders and Athletes

1. All SAEF members are required to take personal responsibility for their own health, safety, and wellbeing and the 'impact on others' during the resumption of all equestrian training and competition activities.
2. All SAEF members must comply with all SAEF COVID-19 requirements to participate in the resumption of equestrian training and competition activities.
3. Adhere strictly to the SAEF and SA Government Covid-19 regulations and protocols to protect others and stop COVID-19 spread by:
 - a. practising good hygiene, sanitising
 - b. Wear a facemask,
 - c. physical distancing,
4. If you are or have experienced any of the following, it is your responsibility to declare to the designated COVID Compliance Officer if:
 - a. you are experiencing flu-like symptoms, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, cough, shortness of breath or high temperature
 - b. you have been in contact with an unwell person in the past 14 days, please stay at home and do not attend a show or event
5. If you become unwell following attendance at an equestrian training or competition activity it is your responsibility to:
 - a. seek medical advice
 - b. contact the event organiser to ensure contact tracing can be done.
6. Riders may only be accompanied by:
 - a. 1 Groom per horse
 - b. the driver of your horse box/trailer, who must remain in or at the vehicle during the show. A Parent or Guardian in the case of members under 18

7. When unmounted, all prescribed COVID-19 hygiene and physical distancing protocols must be maintained, e.g. wearing of masks.
8. Riders must be checked upon entry of venue and information regarding temperature, masks, etc must be recorded in the SAEF Covid-19 Compliance register.
9. Riders must ensure that they complete and submit the SAEF pre-screening document for each show or event.
10. Riders may warm-up and compete without a mask. Riders must return to his/her parking spot upon completion of his/her round to untack. A cool down period of 15 minutes is allowed, and the rider should then leave the premises as soon as possible afterwards, except for horses in Endurance Riding.
11. For Endurance horses, the following will apply:

Release of horses
 - All horses shall, before they are removed from the ride venue, be presented to the veterinary panel for a final examination. This is done to ensure that the horses are fit to travel.
 - This examination will be done after at least two, but not more than three hours have passed after the horse completed the ride, or was eliminated, or after the rider retired, was disqualified, or stopped the step ladder. The chief veterinarian doing duty at the ride can, after considering the specific circumstances, give permission that this can be deviated from.
 - The rider or person responsible shall bring the horse to the veterinary area and shall hand the last timecard (as proof of time of completion) to the veterinarian involved.
 - The ride committee shall make release cards, specifically designed for this purpose, available to the veterinary panel. The veterinarians will keep these cards with them and will, after the horse was examined and found fit to travel, enter the horse's particulars on the release card, sign the card and hand it to the rider or responsible person.
 - Should the veterinarian believe a specific horse is not fit to leave the grounds, the horse is to be referred to the treatment veterinarian for a complete clinical examination and, if required, treatment.
 - Rider logbooks and horse passports shall only be handed to a rider after completion of the ride if the rider can present a properly completed and signed (by a member of the veterinary panel) release card. The horse must then leave the venue.

12. Riders may cross borders for training and competitions/events/rides.
13. Overnight camping and stabling are allowed within strict guidelines.

B. Organising Committees, Officials, Clubs and/or Coaches

Planning of shows or events

1. Ensure that you have a designated and appropriately trained person appointed as your Compliance Officer. He/she will handle the implementation and monitoring of all agreed and documented COVID-19 Safety requirements.
2. Effective planning supports proactive COVID-19 safety management processes. Consider the number of riders for each class, bearing in mind that there may only be the maximum individuals attending as indicated for the venues as per the schedule below, including grooms, instructors, media, officials, technical officials, and support staff. This will require planning and management of human interactions to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 contamination.
3. Ensure that schedules reflect information as set out in ***'What must be included in your Show Schedule'*** below.
4. Ensure that the Covid-19 compliance register is prepared for all riders and support personnel to sign upon entry of the venue, in order to undertake swift contact tracing if required. **This register must be emailed to the SAEF by the Tuesday following your show/event to admin@saef.org.za. NO EXCEPTIONS**
5. Ensure that the COVID-19 pre-screening form is made available to all attendees.
6. Vendors are allowed - adhering to strict Covid-19 guidelines
7. Ensure that signage is placed around the venue to ensure everyone is aware of the current regulations, designated areas, and protocols at the events.
8. Ensure that sanitising stations are put in place and are highly visible.
9. Ensure that arrival and departure times of all attendees are monitored to reduce traffic congestion, promoting a COVID-19 safer environment.
10. Meticulous scheduling of classes is important to ensure you can accommodate maximum participation for your show to be viable. There may not be more than the maximum individuals attending as indicated for the venues as per the schedule below, including riders, instructors, technical officials and officials, support staff, grooms, medical and media, on site at any given time. **No spectators.**

11. Take special note of:
 - a. arrival and departure times of riders
 - b. warm-up requirements
 - c. cool-down and horse welfare needs
 - d. leaving the venue timeously
12. All documentation and payments (entries, prizemoney, etc.) should be online where possible.
13. Disseminate relevant COVID-19 procedures that will be used during a show prior to the day to all riders, either online, or via email.
14. Camping is allowed - maximum 4 per tent/caravan - tents/caravans 10m apart
15. Coaches and /or officials may travel permit for work or generating an income.
16. Encourage all attendees to comply with all COVID-19 specific equestrian show protocols and guidelines.
17. Ensure that all relevant surfaces are sanitised before the show/event/ride starts.
18. Overnight stabling is allowed - adhering to strict Covid-19 regulations

During Show or Event

1. Venue/Show arrival / departure require restricted access and risk management protocols
2. All facility (venue) entry and exits points and toilets require access to hand sanitising stations. All riders must be informed (either directly or through signage) to thoroughly clean these areas before and after entry/exit with suitable COVID-19 deep cleaning products.
3. The Showholding Body must constantly reinforce the importance of physical distancing and strict hygiene protocols during the show/event via announcements.
4. Prominent signage must be displayed which communicates physical distancing requirements, traffic flow, hygiene stations and venue specific rules.
5. A distance of 2m should be maintained between riders, officials, and all other individuals at all times while at the venue.
6. No more than 8 horses in the warm-up arena if the arena is a 40m x 20m, and no more than 12 horses if the arena is a 60m x 20m.

7. Spectators are not permitted.

8. All riders and attendees must be encouraged to bring their own drinking water (both horse and human) and pre-packaged food.
9. The sharing of any tack or equipment is to be discouraged.

Food Facilities during shows/events/rides

1. Canteen type facilities must comply with Government regulations.
2. Where a food facility is required the following guidelines must be followed:
 - a) Food Facilities during shows/events/rides
 - b) Canteen/station/kiosk type facilities must comply with Government Health and Safety regulations, e.g. Health Certificate
 - c) Kitchen staff must be kept to the minimum: social distancing and the wearing of masks are compulsory.
 - d) All physical distancing measures as well as the wearing of masks are compulsory for individuals serving the food.
 - e) Food prepared must be sealed in a container.
 - f) All food facilities must be thoroughly deep cleaned according to COVID-19 cleaning requirements.
 - g) The food canteen/station/kiosk must ensure that there is hand sanitiser available.

Show Administration and Official Safety

1. Ensure that items that are regularly touched in the show office are cleaned and sanitised regularly during the show, e.g. clipboards, pens, writing surfaces, computers, tablets, two-way radios, cell phones, microphones, etc.
2. Ensure that there is hand sanitiser for show officials and adminstaff.
3. Shows/events should be run on a 'show and go' basis.
4. It is advised that food and water are delivered to the officials in pre-packaged containers, to maintain hygiene and physical distancing requirements.
5. Ensure that stewarding processes, announcing, record keeping, scribes, results handling etc. are streamlined to minimise person-to-person contact and maintain physical distancing.

Arriving at and Leaving the Show/Event

1. Riders and support staff should not arrive early (or change their scheduled arrival time) unless discussed with the showholding body and approved.
2. All riders and support staff are required to immediately vacate the grounds following the completion of their class/round.
3. All unnecessary group collaboration must to be discouraged

C. What must be included in Showholding Schedules

This show will be run under COVID-19 restrictions.

1. All riders, officials, staff, support staff and medics agree and confirm to comply with the SA Government and SAEF Covid-19 guidelines and protocols as set out on the SAEF website www.saef.org.za when entering a show/event.
2. A rider may only be accompanied by the driver trucking the horse and a groom. Where the rider is trucking the horse themselves, then only the groom may accompany the rider. Where necessary additional groom/s to attended horse/s. In the case of underage riders, they may be accompanied by one parent or guardian. **No spectators are allowed.**
3. All attendees will be obliged to report to the COVID 19 Officer/employee, upon entry of the premises to sign the register, sanitise their hands, and have their temperature taken and recorded. The name of the Compliance Officer will be indicated on the schedule. Showholding bodies to get clearance and permission from the Compliance Officer to add their contact number to the schedule as well.
4. It is compulsory for all attendees to wear masks on the property at all times and adhere to social distancing protocols.
5. There will be no traditional prize giving ceremony allowed, prize money by EFT- at the discretion of the show holder. Results will be posted online or provided by email.

The following relaxation may be implemented at shows or rides.

- a) Podium may only be used if 1st, 2nd and 3rd place 'boxes' are placed 2m apart
- b) Riders may be handed their winning daysheet outside the arena and then a lap of honour is allowed for the first 3 horses.
- c) Rosettes may be placed in a designated area clearly marked for the riders' attention.
- d) Dressage test may be placed in a designated area clearly mark for the rider's attention.
- e) Riders are cautioned to wear masks and adhere to strict social distancing guidelines.
- f) The designated area must be provided with hand sanitiser for recipients to use.
- g) Riders are also requested not to gather at the collection point.

6. Although the Showholding Body has taken all necessary precautions to ensure compliance to Covid-19 protocols and guidelines as stipulated by the Department of Health, it is important to note that neither the Showholding Body, nor SAEF can be held responsible for any person contracting COVID-19 at the said venue. All attendees are entering the venue at their own risk.
7. Should any attendee at the show contravene any of the Covid-19 regulations, then he/she will be asked by the Covid-19 Compliance Officer to leave the venue immediately.
8. There will be no refunds for show entries. Should any attendee at the show contravene any of the Covid-19 regulations, then he/she will be asked by the Covid-19 Compliance Officer to leave the venue immediately. There will be no refunds for show entries.
9. Riders may warm-up and compete without a mask. Riders must return to his/her parking spot upon completion of his/her round to untack. Riders should leave the premises as soon as possible after their rounds. Endurance Riding have different protocol as mentioned above.
10. Catering will be available under extremely strict COVID-19 protocols.

