

New Zealand Miniature Horse Association Inc



Safety Policy

Definitions

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| <i>Event</i> | • Miniature Horse Events including but not limited to, Shows, Fun Days, Measuring Days, Exhibitions and any other "event" involving Miniature Horses |
| <i>Discipline</i> | • A section of an event (eg. at shows - Halter, Harness, Obstacle & Jumping are four distinct "Disciplines") |
| <i>Exhibitor</i> | • Any competitor, handler, exhibitor or active participant at an <i>Event</i> |
| <i>NZMHA</i> | • New Zealand Miniature Horse Association, Affiliated Clubs, NZMHA Council and any employees (including volunteers and contracted personnel) working on behalf of "NZMHA" |
| <i>Event Management</i> | • Any person involved in the running of an <i>Event</i> be they paid or volunteer |
| <i>General Public</i> | • Any person who is not an member of <i>Event Management</i> or an <i>Exhibitor</i> |
| <i>Unsafe Behaviour</i> | • Any behaviour on the part of the Miniature Horse or <i>Exhibitor</i> that is deemed to put <u>any</u> Miniature Horse, <i>Exhibitor</i> , member of <i>NZMHA</i> , member of <i>Event Management</i> or <i>General Public</i> at risk |

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to record NZMHA's policies for the safe running of Miniature Horse related *Events* (eg. shows) and to document the procedures.

Policy Statement

Horses are and will remain unpredictable animals and it is impossible to anticipate their every reaction to stimuli. As far as is reasonably possible due care and consideration will be taken in regards to safety in order to protect Miniature Horses, *Exhibitors*, *NZMHA*, *Event Management*, the *General Public* and the property of the aforementioned.

NZMHA will accept no responsibility for any accident or other event that gives rise to damage, or loss to horse, vehicles or other property; or to death, injury, or illness (including mental anguish) to any person whether an *Exhibitor*, member, of the *General Public* or *Event Management* or otherwise, whilst participating at or attending an *Event*;

Responsibilities

- *NZMHA* will ensure that the *NZMHA* Show Rules facilitate the holding of a range of classes in a variety of *Disciplines* at *Events* that as far as is reasonably practicable minimise the risk to the Miniature Horses, *Exhibitors*, *Event Management* and the *General Public*;
- *Event Management* must act, as is reasonably practicable, in such a way as to be minimise the risk to all. This includes:
 - Provision of safe equipment for use at *Events*,
 - Safe arrangements for the use, handling, storage, transportation and installation of equipment,
 - The provision of all necessary instructions, training and supervision to ensure the health and safety of all members of the *Event Management* team and *Exhibitors*,
 - The provision of a safe environment for spectators and members of the general public (ie. non *Event Management* or *Exhibitors*);

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- *Exhibitors* must supervise and control their Miniature Horses at all times and shall be liable for any hazards created or accidents, illness or damage caused by the action or inaction of themselves or their Miniature Horses at any *Event*. *Exhibitors* must comply with the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 and any subsequent revisions to this Act;

Risk/Hazard/Incident Management

The following steps will be taken whenever the majority of *Event Management* deem a Miniature Horse or *Exhibitor* has demonstrated *Unsafe Behaviour* regardless as to whether damage or injury occurred;

1. The *Event* will be halted and the *Exhibitor* will be required to remove themselves and their Miniature Horse from the staging area of the *Event* (eg. show ring, *Event* building etc.). The Miniature Horse or *Exhibitor* (dependent on which has been deemed to be guilty of *Unsafe Behaviour*) will be ineligible to compete in any other part of the *Discipline* at the *Event* (eg. *Unsafe Behaviour* in a Harness class will result in the Miniature Horse or *Exhibitor* being unable to compete in any other Harness classes at the *Event*);

If *Event Management* deem the situation to be serious enough to warrant such action the *Exhibitor* can be required to remove themselves and their Miniature Horse from the *Event* thereby foregoing any right to participate further in the *Event* (eg. the Miniature Horse or *Exhibitor* will not be able to compete in any other classes at the show);

2. *Event Management* will file a formal written incident report to NZMHA Council within seven (7) days including details of the *Unsafe Behaviour*, the name of the Miniature Horse, the name of the *Exhibitor*, the action taken, any damage/injury caused and their recommendations as to any further action. This report must be signed by those members of the *Event Management* who made the decision;
3. *Event Management* will confirm their actions in writing to the *Exhibitor* within seven (7) days including details of the *Unsafe Behaviour*, the name of the Miniature Horse, the name of the *Exhibitor*, the action taken and any damage/injury caused;
4. NZMHA Council will investigate the incident to confirm that *Unsafe Behaviour* was demonstrated and will determine at its discretion whether any further action against the Miniature Horse or *Exhibitor* is warranted. NZMHA Council will notify the *Exhibitor* as to the outcome of its investigations within thirty days of the incident.

Stand Down Periods

The following stand down periods are mandatory:

- Any Miniature Horse or *Exhibitor* that demonstrates *Unsafe Behaviour* **twice** in the same *Discipline* at *Events* within the same season (April 1 to 31 March inclusive) will be suspended from being able to participate in that *Discipline* at any *Event* until the next season
- Any Miniature Horse or *Exhibitor* that demonstrates *Unsafe Behaviour* at **four** *Events* regardless of the *Discipline* within the same season (April 1 to 31 March inclusive) will be suspended from being able to attend any *Event* until the next season

Repetitive Unsafe Behaviour

- Any *Unsafe Behaviour* that results in the same Miniature Horse or *Exhibitor* being suspended in two consecutive seasons will result in the Miniature Horse or *Exhibitor* being permanently excluded from participating in the *Discipline* or *Events* (eg. if a harness horse demonstrates *Unsafe Behaviour* on two occasions in two consecutive show seasons (ie. a total of four incidents across two years) it will be ineligible to compete in harness classes again)