



**Equestrian Western Australia Incorporated**  
ABN: 53 591 481 584

Policy:	Equine Welfare Working Group
Policy Area:	Governance
Date Approved:	20 September 2023
Replaces Policy dated:	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2020

At a time when all animal activities are coming under the microscope Equestrian WA (EWA) has decided to -re- establish an Equine Welfare Working Group.

This is to ensure that EWA is proactive and genuinely cares for the horses that engage in our sports.

**WELFARE WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- (a) The business of the EWA Equine Welfare Working Group (EWWG) shall be managed by the EWA Welfare Working Group, under the direction of the EWA Board. In particular, the EWA Welfare Working Group shall be responsible for:
  - (i) Ensuring that EWA is proactive and genuinely cares for the horses that engage in our sports.
  - (ii) Developing education programs for members to undertake and review rules, policies, and practices to ensure they are consistent, policed and practical.
  - (iii) Where National Rules or Policies are found to be inconsistent or not appear to be supporting the general welfare of the horse, then, through the EWA Board these concerns would be relayed to the EA Board, for noting and action.
  - (iv) Recommend potential new rules and policies to support Animal Welfare to the EWA Board.
  - (v) Provide advice on how EWA Officials can be empowered and supported to implement the highest standard of horse welfare to our participating horses.
  - (vi) Incorporating good governance and ethical standards into daily activities.
  - (vii) Selecting the Chair, Vice Chair and other office bearers annually.

- (viii) Ensuring all risks are identified and managed appropriately.
- (ix) Ensuring the development and implementation of policies and procedures to help reduce risks, and the potential for member complaints and insurance claims.
- (x) Ensuring compliance with EA and EWA policies, bylaws and regulations.
- (xi) Developing and maintaining a Horse Welfare strategic plan that aligns to EWA's Strategic Plan.
- (xii) Promoting the use of safe and appropriate training techniques, taking into consideration the welfare of the horse.
- (xiii) Collaborating with the EWA Coaches Committee to educate coaches and athletes to protect the welfare of horses.
- (xiv) Making recommendations for EA rules and policies to EA through EWA.

#### **EWA WELFARE WORKING GROUP STRUCUTRE**

- (a) The EWA EWWG will consist of;
  - Up to three (3) Appointed EWA Members who will contribute suitable skills (Desirable skills can range from a qualified steward, qualified TD, and a veterinarian).
  - Each Sports Committees and the EWA Coaching Committee must appoint one (1) Sports representative.
  - One (1) EWA Board member representative.
- (b) Sport representatives shall be appointed to the EWA EWWG for a twelve (12) month period and will be nominated by the Sport Disciplines after the EWA Sport Committees annual elections.
- (c) The EWA EWWG shall seek to avoid (where possible) duplication in the representatives on each Committee.
- (d) Appointed members shall be appointed to the EWA EWWG for up to twelve (12) months, or until the next election of members (whichever is soonest) after which time they may be reappointed for a further term.
- (e) A working group member may serve a maximum of nine (9) years or any part of out of any twelve (12) year or a part of period, unless otherwise set out in these Regulations or determined by the Board.

## **EWA EQUINE WELFARE WORKING GROUP APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES**

### **Appointed EWA Equine Welfare Working Group Members**

- (a) Appointed EWA EWWG Members shall be appointed from each of the Sports Committees (each sports committee will appoint one person). Appointed members nominated by the Sport Coaching require approval by the Board of such appointment.
- (b) The EWA EWWG will call for nominees for three (3) appointed working group members. When calling for nominations the EWA EWWG shall provide details of the necessary qualifications, skills and job descriptions for the positions. Qualifications, skills and job descriptions shall be determined by the Board, in conjunction with the EWA EWWG, from time to time.
- (c) The nominee is to agree with the EWA Code of Conduct for Working Group members and provide a signed EWA Code of Conduct for working group member with their nomination.

### **Grounds for termination of members**

- (a) The office of a working group member becomes vacant if that member:
  - (i) dies, or for any reason ceases to have legal capacity;
  - (ii) becomes of unsound mind or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under any law relating to mental health;
  - (iii) resigns their office in writing to EWA or Working Group Chair;
  - (iv) fails to attend any meeting without providing prior reasonable notice in writing;
  - (v) holds any office of any employment with EWA;
  - (vi) holds any office of profit with EWA, without the prior written consent or ratification of the Members of EWA in General Meeting;
  - (vii) is directly or indirectly interested in, or benefiting from, any contract or proposed contract with EWA and fails to declare the nature of that interest;
  - (viii) in the Board's opinion, in its sole discretion:
    - (A) has acted (individually or in concert with any other Working Group member) in a manner unbecoming or prejudicial to the objects and interests of EWA or EA;
    - (B) has brought EWA, EA, any EWA Member or equestrian sport into disrepute in any way;
  - (ix) is removed by Special Resolution of the members eligible to vote for membership of the Working Group called to consider such a resolution;
- (b) in the sole discretion of the Board, breaches:

(A) these Regulations; or

(B) any Rules or By-Laws, whether established by EWA or EA; or

(ii) would otherwise be prohibited from being a director of a corporation under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) or be ineligible for those reasons set out in section 39 of the Act