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The Showing Council

Guidance on Equine Anti-Doping Policy

Background

The Showing Council recommends that all its Member Body Organisations should have an equine anti-doping policy. Such a policy maintains the integrity of showing by ensuring everyone can participate in fair competition on a level playing field and protects the welfare of horses competing in our sport.

The Showing Council is also an associate member of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF).

As the National Federation (NF) for horse sport in Great Britain, BEF has its own equine anti-doping rules and procedures in place (called '**BEFAR**') which meet the Federation Equestre International (FEI) requirements for the FEI disciplines (currently dressage, showjumping, eventing, endurance, carriage driving and vaulting). Those disciplines therefore have both an international level testing programme (under the FEI) and a national level testing programme (under BEFAR).

BEF manages and administers the national level programme on behalf of those member bodies that participate in the scheme.

BEFAR divides substances into **'banned substances' and 'controlled medications'**, in line with the FEI. Banned substances (e.g. anabolic steroid) have no place being used in competition. Controlled medications may have a legitimate use for the welfare of a horse but should not be present in a horse's system when they compete (e.g. bute).

Our current position

In the absence of a current unified scheme, The Showing Council continues to strongly endorse the principles behind Clean Sport and encourages Member Body Organisations to consider whether they can implement a scheme similar to BEFAR in their own activities. We strongly recommend that you seek independent legal advice as part of this process.

In 2020 the Showing Council investigated a possible umbrella membership under BEFAR, but at the time its member bodies considered that it proved too costly; the average overall cost of undertaking a testing session at a show would have been in the region of £2,000.

Should the Showing Council Member Bodies now wish to revisit this **or a similar unified scheme**, please express interest in the first instance to **info@theshowingcouncil.co.uk**

An effective programme may include; clear rules and operating procedures, secure testing kits, attending veterinarians and technicians, facilities for sample collection (e.g. appropriate stabling),

laboratory analysis services, couriers, and a fair process for enforcement in the event of a positive test.

Clean sport best practice

In the meantime, we encourage all member bodies to support and share the adoption of clean sport best practice to minimise the risk of contamination and maintain the responsible, ethical use of medication. More information on this is available via: **Clean sport best practice - British Equestrian**

You can also listen to BEF's podcast on clean sport best practice, and which includes top tips for yards on avoiding cross-contamination : **British Equestrian Podcast / Clean Sport and NOPS**. Please share these links with your membership.

Review due date: September 2027