



Anti-Doping

The Showing Council supports anti-doping and recommends that its Member Bodies also adopt anti-doping policies to ensure clean and fair competition. This aligns with broader efforts across UK equestrianism, which operates under the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) and UK Anti-Doping (UKAD).

The Showing Council's position

- **Adoption:** The Showing Council's website lists "Anti-doping" as one of its common policies, indicating its commitment to the cause.
- **Member body independence:** While the Showing Council works to advance policies beneficial to its members, including anti-doping, it does not hold authority over the sovereignty of individual member organizations. This means that each member body is responsible for adopting and enforcing its own specific policy.
- **Executive oversight:** The Showing Council's anti-doping policy is overseen by its Executives.

Wider equine anti-doping framework in the UK

The anti-doping rules followed by the Showing Council's members are part of a larger national framework:

- **British Equestrian Federation (BEF):** The BEF has its own set of rules, the National Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules (BEFAR), which mirror the regulations of the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI). As an Associate Member of the BEF, the Showing Council and its members are subject to these rules.
- **UK Anti-Doping (UKAD):** This is the national organization responsible for implementing and managing anti-doping policy across all sports in the UK. UKAD works with national sports bodies to ensure compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code.
- **Scope:** Equine anti-doping rules apply to all affiliated members of BEF disciplines at every level, from grassroots to national championships. Random testing can occur at any competition.

Key aspects of equine anti-doping

To ensure a level playing field and protect the welfare of competing horses, policies typically cover several key areas:

- **Prohibited Substances List:** A list of banned substances is used to determine anti-doping violations. The FEI list, which divides substances into "banned" and "controlled medication," is widely adopted at the national level.
- **Strict Liability:** The person responsible for the horse (such as the rider, owner, or trainer) is held strictly liable for any prohibited substance found in a horse's sample, regardless of intent.
- **Testing:** Competition horses may be randomly selected for testing, and the sample collection process is strictly regulated to ensure validity.
- **Consequences of violation:** Penalties for a positive test can include disqualification, suspension, fines, and forfeiture of prize money.