

VICTORIAN ENDURANCE RIDERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

MINUTES - STATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Date 13 January 2022
Time 8.00 pm

1. WELCOME BY PRESIDENT

Linda welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for being available at short notice.

2. PRESENT

Linda Tanian, Ellen Prestage, Kerrie Gabb, Paul Nugent, Russell Gillingham, Mezcal Manners, Russell Robinson

Paul experienced internet difficulties and left the meeting at 8.22 pm.

3. APOLOGIES

Nil

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Committee Member	Point of Conflict	Reason
Kerrie Gabb	Mark Gabb (Webmaster) Tom Quilty 2023	Personal relationship Committee Member
Linda Tanian	Tom Quilty 2023	Committee Member
Paul Nugent	Bek Williamson Lancefield Ride	Personal Relationship Ride Organiser

5. VISITORS

The following members attended the meeting:

- Nil

6. POLICY FORMULATION FOR RIDE VACCINATION STATUS

The meeting was called to discuss the formation of a policy for running endurance rides with specific regard to vaccination status, considering the Government definition of community sport. This is to be developed as a strategy for how all endurance rides are to be run rather than focussing on specific rides.

The current Government definition of Community Sport is:

Community sport refers to competitions and training for the purpose of competition overseen by a state sporting association or equivalent governing body, such as country football and netball competitions overseen by AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria.

The SMC unanimously agreed that endurance riding met the requirements for being defined as a community sport based on the above definition.

According to the Government definition, vaccination requirements do not apply to community sport and this includes participants, workers, volunteers and spectators.

The SMC agreed that we need to provide early advice on the vaccination status of the rides to allow riders the opportunity to make decisions about keeping their horses in work if they are unable to attend an event due to vaccination requirements.

It was agreed that a policy would be prepared covering the following points:

- Endurance riding in Victoria is correctly classified as a community sport and, as such, our members or volunteers do not need to be vaccinated to attend events
- The SMC expresses its support for both our members (regardless of vaccination status) and for our ROs
- Acknowledgement that endurance rides are bound by requirements placed on the event by regulatory authorities, such as councils, that may alter this approach
- These regulatory authorities are legally able to apply additional covid requirements for the events
- In these situations, there may be a requirement that excludes non-vaccinated members and this is outside our control
- ROs will be required to provide advice and evidence to VERA a minimum of 6 weeks out from an event on the requirements imposed by Councils on the vaccination requirements
- VERA will make the announcement on these requirements (this is to protect the RO from any heat that may come from the membership)
- The RO will be required to continue to keep us apprised of any changes to requirements and we will announce those requirements
- VERA will approach Councils who impose higher levels of restrictions that a RAT regime for non-vaccinated people be adopted so that they can attend with only those people who return a negative result being allowed entrance to the event

Linda will prepare the policy and distribute it to the SMC for discussion/amendment and adoption.

7. MEETING CLOSED

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm.