



# NSW Endurance Riders Association Inc

## State Management Committee

ABN: 66 856 011 605 Inc  
Y0039547

Website: [nswera.asn.au](http://nswera.asn.au)

### To the NSW-ERA Membership

Following the open meeting of March 29, 2022 as agreed by the NSW-SMC we would like to put forward this timeline of events concerning the matter currently being discussed by the membership.

At the meeting held on July 1, 2021, the NSW-SMC were informed via the Chief Stewards report from the Mt Lagoon ride, of an incident where a rider was seen administering an oral paste to their horse. This was witnessed by the rides Head Vet, approximately 2 hours after the rider had withdrawn their horse from the event, following successfully completing the first leg. When questioned by the Head Vet as to what the substance was that they had administered, the rider stated it was Phenylbutazone. Their reason for administering this was to assist in the recovery of their horse for the long float journey home.

Neither the Chief Steward nor the Head Vet approached the rider to discuss this matter further.

The administration of this substance becomes a breach of AERA rule #51.1, as the rider had not collected the withdrawn horse's logbook before they administered the substance, which meant the withdrawn horse was not officially released from veterinary control.

The rider was requested by the NSW-SMC to state their version of the event at the NSW-SMC meeting held on July 1, 2021. During this statement they admitted to administering a controlled medication and their reasoning for doing so. Their main concern was their horses' welfare and they were very remorseful for their breach of AERA rules. They realized they had made a mistake by not collecting the withdrawn horse's logbook prior.

After this statement was made by the rider, they were asked to leave the meeting whilst the NSW-SMC discussed what action was to be taken.

The SMC took into consideration the following - that the rider did not dispute events, the horse had been withdrawn, the paste was a controlled medication not a banned substance and the matter was not as the result of a positive swab. Also taking into consideration no official report was sent to the committee by either the Head Vet or the Chief Steward at either the ride or post event.

After much deliberation the members of the SMC came to a unanimous decision that a letter of reprimand was the appropriate action to be taken by the NSW-SMC.

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### Timeline of events

- July 5, 2021 - the NSW-SMC wrote a letter of reprimand to the rider. The NSW-SMC regarded this matter as closed.
- February 1, 2022 - Zone One wrote a letter to AERA seeking clarification that the appropriate action had been taken by the NSW-SMC in regard to this matter.
- February 8, 2022 - NSW-SMC received correspondence from AERA requesting a report on what process was followed in regard to this matter. AERA informed NSW-SMC they were corresponding with Zone One.
- February 8, 2022 - AERA sent Zone One correspondence acknowledging their request and that they would look into this matter.
- February 14, 2022 - NSW-SMC met to discuss the correspondence received from AERA.
- February 15, 2022 - A report on the handling of the matter by NSW-SMC was forwarded to AERA.
- February 17, 2022 - NSW-SMC received correspondence from AERA stating their decision on this matter was appropriate and in-line with the AERA rule book. AERA considers this matter closed.
- February 17, 2022 - Zone One was forwarded correspondence from AERA stating their conclusion. NSW-SMC AERA delegates were informed of this correspondence.
- The NSW-SMC at this time felt this matter was finalized, well before the 2021 AGM.

Following the 2021 AGM and election of new committee members, this matter was once again brought to the committee table.

- March 1, 2022 - Zone One sent a letter regarding the matter to NSW-SMC executive committee only.
- March 2, 2022 - Teleconference held between NSW-SMC executive and Zone One representatives.
- The NSW-SMC executive and Zone One representatives sent correspondence to two members on this matter. This resulted in legal advice being sought by the two members which means any further details cannot be discussed.
- March 21, 2022 - The entire NSW-SMC received detailed information on this matter during a lengthy meeting regarding this matter and the cohesiveness of the 2022 committee. The majority of the committee felt that this matter was concluded and felt the SMC could move forward for the benefit of our sport.
- March 22, 2022 - The NSW-SMC received written resignations from three NSW-SMC members and one Zone delegate.

The NSW-SMC hopes this statement of events satisfies the memberships request for information regarding this matter and will allow the NSW-ERA to move forward with the 2022 season.