

Annex C - Hot weather policy

C.1 Horses

Horses exercising and competing in hot environmental conditions can be affected by heat stress. When environmental heat conditions are adverse, exercising horses require appropriate cooling measures to safeguard their welfare. The primary responsibility for the welfare of horses competing and exercising during hot weather lies with the rider of the horse. Riders must always take action to prevent, manage and treat heat stress in their horses. Event organisers are responsible for providing adequate facilities and information that riders need to safeguard the welfare of horses. Access to ice and cooling water during competition is a compulsory requirement that arises under certain environmental conditions.

To assess the risk of heat stress in horses, the FEI uses the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) Index. WBGT information is published on the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website under their Thermal Comfort Observations webpages (see http://www.bom.gov.au/info/thermal_stress/.) WBGT information is published on the BOM website for each Australian state and territory with regional indices.

Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) from Temperature and Relative Humidity																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
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Note: This table is compiled from an approximate formula which only depends on temperature and humidity. The formula is valid for full sunshine and a light wind

WBGT	Example °C: RH%	Recommendations for competitions	Required cooling Facilities/methods
<28	30:45	No changes needed to the competition format or timing.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to least 2 wash bays with freely running water via hoses. 2. Shaded areas/shelters. 3. Not: each horse may need to be hosed with 2 hoses for 20–40 minutes if heat stressed.
28–30	29:60	Some precautions to reduce heat load on horses will be necessary such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use shaded areas for competition and warm up areas • avoid non-grassed riding surfaces • reduction in overall effort (shorter distance, less jumping efforts, etc) • competition PA announcements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to least 2 wash bays with freely running water via hoses. 2. Shaded areas/shelters. 3. NOTE: each horse may need to be hosed with 2 hoses for 20–40 minutes if heat stressed.
30–33	30:65	Additional precautions to those above to limit overheating of horses will be necessary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timing of events/competition should be considered. Competitions should be held in cooler parts of the day (between 7 am – 11 am and/or after 4 pm). • Avoid non-grassed riding surfaces • Competition PA announcements. • CCI ** and CCI ***Eventing horses require AGGRESSIVE COOLING MEASURES 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to least 2 wash bays with freely running water via hoses. 2. Shaded areas/shelters. 3. Mandatory provision of ad lib ice for use in cooling horses. AGGRESSIVE COOLING MEASURES ARE COMPULSORY FOR CCI **/*** EVENTING HORSES 4. NOTE: each horse may need to be hosed with 2 hoses for 20–40 minutes if heat stressed.
>33	32:60	These environmental conditions are very high risk and are probably not compatible with safe competition. Further veterinary consultation/advice will be required before continuing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timing of events/competition should be considered. Competitions or the 'high exertion phase' of the event must be held during cooler parts of the day (between 7 am – 11.00 am and/or after 4 pm). • Higher level competitions should be run in the coolest part of the day. • Schedule the most demanding competition/competition phases when it is cooler. • The lower level competitions generally make lower demands on horses. • Avoid non-grassed riding surfaces • Competition PA announcements – frequently repeated. (See below) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to least 2 wash bays with freely running water via hoses. 2. Shaded areas/shelters. 3. Mandatory provision of ad lib ice for use in cooling horses. AGGRESSIVE COOLING MEASURES ARE COMPULSORY FOR <u>ALL</u> HORSES <p>Additional requirements for eventing competitions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. A shaded area with misting fans 5. A veterinarian to monitor horses.