

**The Equestrian Federation of Australia**  
**HORSE MEDICATION CONTROL/SWABBING**  
**(Adopted by a Board decision on 24 November 2003)**

**Policy**

Horses and ponies ridden or driven in EFA competition must not compete under the influence of prohibited substances. The FEI defines in the FEI veterinary regulations what a prohibited substance is. The EFA agrees and uses the same definition. The EFA Anti-Doping and Medication Control By-Laws describe requirements for the drug testing of athletes (riders) and horses and ponies.

**Drug Testing**

The EFA maintains a Medication Control Program (MCP)/Swabbing Program that ensures that sampling (swabbing) is carried out during official competition in conformance with requirements listed below.

**Medication control sampling** (swabbing) is **compulsory** at the following events/occasions:

- All FEI events (refer FEI Rules and Regulations).
- All National Championships or equivalent (at least three horses or three percent of the horses taking part, whichever is the greater).
- All State Championships or equivalent (at least three horses or three percent of the horses taking part, whichever is the greater).
- Upon any horse that dies/euthanased at an EFA National Championship Competition

**Medication control sampling** (swabbing) is **recommended/permitted** at the following events:

- At all selection or qualifying event for Championships or Finals.
- At least once a year at official events that are run regularly and more than six times a year.
- At any EFA event or competition that holds “graded” competition
- At any EFA affiliated club/body that holds “graded” competition
- At any EFA Official Measuring Day
- Or at any other EFA/FEI sanctioned/affiliated/sponsored event

**Qualification of Swabbing Stewards**

All sampling for prohibited substances as per Medication Control Sampling (swabbing) procedures must meet the minimum standards and protocols that are defined in Appendix A. Swabbing must only be carried out by appropriately trained or supervised personnel in accordance with procedures outlined in Appendix A of this Policy.

From 2005, all Stewards in charge of Medication Control Sampling of horses (swabbing) at official events must be accredited through the **EFA National Officiating Accreditation Scheme** (EFA NOAS). Other assisting stewards must be briefed in the procedures to which they have been assigned.

**Procedures**

Appendix A sets out the procedure to be followed for the selection of horses for medication control sampling (swabbing), for the notification of the rider/person responsible and the taking and processing of samples.