GUIDELINES FOR RESUMING EQUESTRIAN COMPETITION ACTIVITIES IN A COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT

These guidelines aim to provide an operational framework to support members, in facilitating a healthy and safe return to all equestrian shows and events.

It is important to note that the resumption of the various equestrian disciplines must be in accordance with the SA Government regulatory requirements, along with the South African Equestrian Federation’s COVID-19 document approved by government to resume training and competitions. These processes have been developed with the best interests of all participants, their families, and communities in mind.

‘Complacency and simply not disclosing any illness are the key factors likely to disrupt our sport. Remember, the spread of COVID-19 is preventable, provided we all take responsibility and be accountable for our own actions’.

Responsibility of Riders and Athletes

1. All SAEF members are required to take personal responsibility for their own health, safety, and wellbeing and the ‘impact on others’ during the resumption of all equestrian training and competition activities.

2. All SAEF members must comply with all SAEF COVID-19 requirements to participate in the resumption of equestrian training and competition activities.

3. Adhere strictly to the SAEF and SA Government Covid-19 regulations and protocols to protect others and stop COVID-19 spread by:
   a. practising good hygiene, sanitising
   b. Wear a facemask,
   c. physical distancing,
   d. adhering to the limit of 50 people for public gatherings.

4. If you are or have experienced any of the following, it is your responsibility to declare to the designated COVID Compliance Officer if:
   a. you are experiencing flu-like symptoms, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, cough, shortness of breath or high temperature
   b. you have been in contact with an unwell person in the past 14 days, please stay at home and do not attend a show or event

5. If you become unwell following attendance at an equestrian training or competition activity it is your responsibility to:
   a. seek medical advice
   b. contact the event organiser to ensure contact tracing can be done.

6. Riders may only be accompanied by:
a. 1 Groom per horse  
b. The driver of your horse box/trailer, who must remain in or at the vehicle during the show  
c. A Parent or Guardian in the case of members under 18 (person will be counted as part of the 50 riders allowed)  

7. When unmounted, all prescribed COVID-19 hygiene and physical distancing protocols must be maintained, e.g. wearing of masks.  

8. Riders must be checked upon entry of venue and information regarding temperature, masks, etc must be recorded in the SAEF Covid-19 Compliance register.  

9. Riders must ensure that they complete and submit the SAEF pre-screening document for each show or event.  

10. Riders must wear masks during warm up, but riders may compete without a mask. Riders must return to his/her parking spot upon completion of his/her round to untack, load and leave immediately.  

Organising Committees, Officials, Clubs and/or Coaches  
Planning of shows or events  

1. Ensure that you have a designated and appropriately trained person appointed as your Compliance Officer. He/she will handle the implementation and monitoring of all agreed and documented COVID-19 Safety requirements.  

2. Effective planning supports proactive COVID-19 safety management processes. Consider the number of riders for each class, bearing in mind that there may only be a maximum of 50 participants, excluding grooms, officials, and support staff. This will require planning and management of human interactions to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 contamination.  

3. Ensure that schedules reflect information as set out in ‘What should appear on your Show Schedule’ below.  

4. Ensure that the Covid-19 compliance register is prepared for all riders and support personnel to sign upon entry of the venue, in order to undertake swift contract tracing if required.  

5. Ensure that the COVID-19 pre-screening form is made available to all attendees.  

6. Ensure that signage is placed around the venue to ensure everyone is aware of the current regulations, designated areas, and protocols at the events.  

7. Ensure that sanitising stations are put in place and are highly visible.
8. Ensure that arrival and departure times of all attendees are monitored to reduce traffic congestion, promoting a COVID-19 safer environment.

9. Meticulous scheduling of classes is important to ensure you can accommodate maximum participation for your show to be viable. There may not be more than 50 riders on site at any given time. Take special note of:
   a. arrival and departure times of riders
   b. warm-up requirements
   c. cool-down and horse welfare needs
   d. leaving the venue timeously

10. All documentation and payments (entries, prizemoney, etc.) should be online where possible.

11. Disseminate relevant COVID-19 procedures that will be used during a show prior to the day to all riders, either online, or via email.

12. Travelling to shows must be done within the Government guidelines. No crossing of provincial borders is allowed.

13. Some coaches and/or officials may be able to apply for a travel permit under the provision of travelling for work or generating an income.

14. Encourage all attendees to comply with all COVID-19 specific equestrian show protocols and guidelines.

15. Ensure that all relevant surfaces are sanitised before the show/event/ride starts.

**During Show or Event**

1. Venue/Show arrival / departure require restricted access and risk management protocols

2. All facility (venue) entry and exits points and toilets require access to hand sanitising stations. All riders must be informed (either directly or through signage) to thoroughly clean these areas before and after entry/exit with suitable COVID-19 deep cleaning products.

3. The Showholding Body must constantly reinforce the importance of physical distancing and strict hygiene protocols during the show/event via announcements.

4. Prominent signage must be displayed which communicates physical distancing requirements, traffic flow, hygiene stations and venue specific rules.
5. A distance of 2m should be maintained between riders, officials, and all other individuals at all times while at the venue.

6. Spectators are not permitted.

7. A distance of 5m should be adhered to for parking between floats, trucks, and other vehicles. A parking plan would assist in reducing unnecessary people interactions.

8. All riders and attendees must be encouraged to bring their own drinking water (both horse and human) and pre-packaged food.

9. The sharing of any tack or equipment is to be discouraged.

Food Facilities during shows/events/rides

1. Canteen type facilities must comply with Government regulations.

2. Where a food facility is required the following guidelines must be followed:

   a) All physical distancing measures must be implemented for food service.
   b) Pre-packaged or hot foods and beverages only to be available.
   c) Food to be ordered and caterer to package in sealed container and deliver.
   d) All food facilities must be thoroughly deep cleaned according to COVID-19 cleaning requirements.

Show Administration and Official Safety

1. Ensure that items that are regularly touched in the show office are cleaned and sanitised regularly during the show, e.g. clipboards, pens, writing surfaces, computers, tablets, two-way radios, cell phones, microphones, etc.

2. Ensure that there is hand sanitiser for show officials and admin staff.

3. Shows/events should be run on a ‘show and go’ basis.

4. It is advised that food and water are delivered to the officials in pre-packaged containers, to maintain hygiene and physical distancing requirements.

5. Ensure that stewarding processes, announcing, record keeping, scribes, results handling etc. are streamlined to minimise person-to-person contact and maintain physical distancing.
Arriving at and Leaving the Show/Event

1. Riders and support staff should not arrive early (or change their scheduled arrival time) unless discussed with the showholding body and approved.

2. All riders and support staff are required to immediately vacate the grounds following the completion of their class/round.

3. All unnecessary group collaboration must be discouraged.

What should appear on Showholding Schedules

This show will be run under COVID-19 restrictions.

1. All riders, officials, staff, support staff and medics agree and confirm to comply with the SA Government and SAEF Covid-19 guidelines and protocols as set out on the SAEF website www.saf.org.za when entering a show/event.

2. A rider may only be accompanied by the driver trucking the horse and a groom. Where the rider is trucking the horse themselves, then only the groom may accompany the rider. Where necessary additional groom/s to attended horse/s. In the case of underage riders, they may be accompanied by one parent or guardian. Please note that a parent/guardian is counted as one of the maximum of 50 athletes allowed on the premises. No spectators are allowed.

3. All attendees will be obliged to report to the COVID 19 Officer/employee, upon entry of the premises to sign the register, sanitise their hands, and have their temperature taken and recorded. The name of the Compliance Officer will be indicated on the schedule.

4. It is compulsory for all attendees to wear masks on the property at all times and adhere to social distancing protocols.

5. There will be no prize giving ceremony allowed, award certificates will be sent by email, prize money by EFT- at the discretion of the show holder. Results will be posted online or provided by email.

6. Although the Showholding Body has taken all necessary precautions to ensure compliance to Covid-19 protocols and guidelines as stipulated by the Department of Health, it is important to
note that neither the Showholding Body, nor SAEF can be held responsible for any person contracting COVID-19 at the said venue. All attendees are entering the venue at their own risk.

7. Should any attendee at the show contravene any of the Covid-19 regulations, then he/she will be asked by the Covid-19 Compliance Officer to leave the venue immediately. There will be no refunds for show entries.

8. Riders must wear masks during warm up, but riders may compete without a mask. Riders must return to his/her parking spot upon completion of his/her round to untack, load and leave immediately.

9. Catering will be available under extremely strict COVID-19 protocols. Orders must be placed and then order will be delivered to you in a sealed container.

Regards

[Signature]

Wessel Strauss
Secretary General – SAEF