

1. OBJECTIVE

- 1.1.** The objective of this policy is to outline the process required to be undertaken if a rider suffers a concussion following a race, trial or trackwork accident.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1.** This policy applies to Jockeys, Apprentice Jockeys, Approved Trial Riders and Stablehands licensed to ride.

3. DEFINITION

- 3.1.** 'Concussion' occurs when, after a blow to the head, there is brain injury with some immediate, or delayed disturbance to cerebral function.

4. COGNITIVE (CONCUSSION) TESTING

- 4.1.** All Jockeys, Apprentice Jockeys and Approved Trial Riders must complete a Cognigram Cognitive test as part of their annual licence renewal in the presence of an authorised person from the Tasracing Integrity Unit (TIU) or their delegate.
- 4.2.** Unless otherwise approved by the TIU Stewards, any rider who has not undergone the cognitive test will not be permitted to ride in races or trials.
- 4.3.** Interstate Jockeys and Apprentice Jockeys must undergo the test in their home state in accordance with their PRA's licensing requirements.
- 4.4.** Testing **must not** be completed on race day. To help achieve an acceptable result, riders should be feeling well, refreshed, hydrated and have had a good night's sleep. It is also recommended that riders avoid alcohol for 48 hours prior to the test.

5. POLICY

- 5.1.** In making an assessment, a Medical Officer must refer to the Assessment of Concussion document (Appendix 1) in the event of a rider fall where a head injury may have occurred.
- 5.2.** Where a rider is transferred to hospital following a fall that renders them unconscious, that rider will automatically be stood down for a period of no less than twelve (12) days. That rider must be cleared subject to the below provisions as directed by the Stewards and such medical practitioner must issue a certificate of clearance.

- 5.3.** Where a rider is involved in a fall that involves their head striking the ground or any other object that renders them dazed or unconscious, and the on-course medical officers consider there is a possibility the rider may be suffering from concussion, the Steward-in-Charge will stand that rider down until they are examined by a Medical Practitioner and passed clear to resume riding. If that diagnosis determines that a concussion may have occurred, the rider will be stood down for a period of no less than twelve (12) days and be required to gain a clearance as described in clause 5.5.
- 5.4.** In cases where there is any doubt in the determination of concussion, the rider should be referred for further medical examination and stood down from riding immediately and until such time as they receive a clearance from a Medical Practitioner.
- 5.5.** A rider who after being diagnosed with concussion must obtain clearance to resume riding in accordance with the following provisions.
- 5.5.1.** Application to resume riding to be made to the TIU Stewards no less than twelve (12) days following the day of the incident.
- 5.5.2.** The rider is to be reviewed by a Medical Practitioner, Specialist Neurosurgeon or Neurologist and be passed asymptomatic and cleared to ride, which shall be detailed by the issuing of such certificate by the consulting specialist.
- 5.5.3.** Jockey's, Apprentice Jockey's and Approved Trial Riders must complete a Cognigram Cognitive test. This test is to be conducted in the presence of an authorised person from the Office of Racing Integrity or their delegate.
- 5.5.4.** Any rider that is subject to the provisions of clauses 5.2, 5.3 or 5.4 within two (2) months of the first application may be required to receive a clearance from a Specialist Neurosurgeon or Neurologist before being permitted to resume riding.
- 5.6.** A rider wishing to ride in Tasmania, who has been deemed to have had a concussion by another jurisdiction, will not be permitted to ride for twelve (12) days from the date when the concussion was first diagnosed, and proof of a medical clearance has been provided.
- 5.7.** If a rider is deemed to have been concussed in Tasmania, they cannot ride in another jurisdiction for a minimum of twelve (12) days from the date of the concussion being diagnosed and proof of a medical clearance has been provided.