

INTERNATIONAL HORSE SPORTS CONFEDERATION
HORSE WELFARE CHARTER
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The IHSC believes that the protection of the welfare of the horse is the highest priority for all horse sport administrators and participants around the world. The IHSC strives to promote and drive the implementation of the highest standards of health, safety, welfare and quality of life of competition horses throughout their lives. Continuous review of those standards is essential to ensure highest standards are maintained.

The IHSC therefore supports all horse sports authorities in ensuring that their rules, regulations, guidelines and policies deliver these welfare objectives. If athletes and their entourage, owners, and governing bodies do not put welfare as the first consideration in how the care, training and competition of horses are carried out, the future of all horse sports will be in jeopardy.

The IHSC considers the following areas as key priorities for the protection and maintenance of horse welfare:

- **Provision of safe, high quality venues and facilities including training and competition surfaces** in order to reduce the risk of acute and chronic injuries which impair the quality of life for competition horses.
- **Strict requirements for suitability to compete** to ensure that horses do not participate with pre-existing veterinary conditions which may compromise their safety and welfare.
- **Development of systems for monitoring injury and disease** to implement preventative measures to minimise those factors which compromise the health and safety of competition horses.
- **Implementation of rigorous anti-doping and medication controls, including performance-enhancing drugs and practices, supported by sanctions which are a deterrent**, in order to ensure fair competition and to prevent any abuse of competition horses.
- **Strong support for relevant scientific research** to identify the scientific basis for veterinary services, and for horse management, nutrition and training and to identify risk factors which can be managed by the sport.
- **Comprehensive education programme of all relevant stakeholders involved in horse sports** to engender a culture of care and respect for the horse.
- **Efficient cross-border movements and safe, high quality transportation** to protect horses' health and wellbeing during travel for competition and for all other purposes supported by increased awareness of all relevant stakeholders of the significant impact which travelling can have on a horse's health and welfare. This will include the need for horses to be adequately rested between travel and competition, and vice-versa.
- **Implementation of comprehensive systems of horse identification and traceability** so that the safety, welfare and health status of all competition horses at all stages of their lives can be monitored and improved whenever necessary.

- **Proactive management of transition from competition** to alternative careers, with a requirement on horse owners to ensure a comfortable retirement, the highest possible welfare, and humane end of life management.
- **Active engagement** with breeders to ensure responsible practices and behaviour across all aspects of breeding.