

STABLING AREA AWARENESS COURSE

PARTICIPANTS



STABLING AREA AWARENESS

Introduction:

A compulsory course for all children in the 6-14 year old age group who wish to have access to stable complexes of New Zealand Harness Racing Clubs operating this programme for their race meetings.

No person under the age of 15 years will be permitted to access the stabling areas without having taken the course. **On being granted a SAAC Pass, the holder must present it whenever entering the stable complexes and be under the supervision of an authorised adult.** All course participants must provide a named passport style photo on receipt of their temporary pass (this will be printed on the official pass)

The course highlights the potential hazards and dangers of being in a stabling area on a racecourse.

A **'Temporary Pass'** will be issued on course completion and will be valid for up to one month or until a permanent one is issued.

- Horses are unpredictable - they can kick and bite
- How to move around a horse safely
- You need to be aware of what all the horses are doing at all times
- No running and playing in the stabling area
- Horses are 'flight animals'
- Hazards in stabling area
- Being aware of the differences in stabling complexes eg: Rubber flooring at Addington Raceway
- Understanding risks associated with horses in the stable - eg: loose horse
- Wash bays - the floor can be slippery
- Be aware and understand raceday protocol - remember that 15 minutes before and straight after a race there will be horses moving onto the track and back to their stalls, keep out of their way
- Hazard Identification - anything lying on the ground - this includes harness, gear bags, water buckets, shovels, wheelie bins, hoses

HORSE BEHAVIOUR



PEOPLE

These are the people you may come into contact with in the stable area.

Trainers

The people who work with the horses teaching them how to race, feeding and caring for them everyday. They bring the horse and all of the gear, including the sulky, to the races. They may be helped by stablehands on race days/nights.

Drivers

The people who drive the horses on the track in the races. They wear safety gear including special vests and helmets, white trousers and either the trainer's or owners special set of distinctive colours. These help the public and the commentator to identify them in a race.

Vet

These are professionals employed by the Club to assist the RIB staff, inspect horses for soundness, treat any horses injured on or off the track and to check some horses after they race.

Owners/Visitors

The people who either own the horses which are racing or are guests of the Club. Usually, they will be wearing a ticket allowing access to the stabling area for that race meeting only.

Journalists/Photographers/TAB Camera Operators and Presenters

These are professionals who work in the media and often have expensive cameras and other equipment with them. **KEEP CLEAR** of these people.

These people have authority over all people in the stabling area and if they ask you to do something, for example to move outside – DO IT STRAIGHT AWAY.

Clerks of the Course (on horseback)

The people, often wearing the 'Huntsman's' bright red jacket and black safety helmet, who are there to assist getting the horses onto the track on time and, if help is required on track before, during and after a race.

Security Guards

The people who allow entry to particular areas such as the Stabling area or Stands for spectators. They will want to see your SAAC pass every time you want to enter the stabling area. Go to them if you are lost.

RIB staff

These people are employed by the Racing Integrity Board to preserve the honesty and integrity of all involved in the Racing Industry. You may see them pre-race testing horses about to race or talking to people involved with horses.

Stipendiary Stewards

The people employed by the RIB to make sure that the Rules and Regulations are followed by all people and involved with the horses, the track and betting.

Club Stewards/Committee/Officials

These people are responsible for all matters concerned with running the raceday.

VEHICLES

Float Park – Is a Containment Area

Horse trucks and cars with trailer floats are used to transport horses to and from the races. You need to keep out of the float park as vehicles are moved, backed up and towed throughout the race meeting. Keep out of the Float Park unless you have an adult with you.

Mobile Gate

This is usually on the track and is used to give the horses a fair and even start at speed. The Starter is in control of the mobile gate as well as being in charge of Standing Starts where the horses line up and begin from standing still.

Water Cart

A vehicle used to spray the track with water to reduce dust and keep the track in good order for the horses to race on.

Tractors

These are used for a variety of purposes on the track and around the stabling area.

Crash Crew Vehicle

This is the vehicle that follows the race field with trained staff to assist in the event of a race accident.

Ambulance

A race meeting cannot be run without an Ambulance being at the course. This is for the safety of all on course including the Drivers.

Horse Ambulance

The Horse Ambulance attends all harness race meetings and is used if a horse gets injured in a race. You will usually see this parked either in the middle of the track or near the outside of the track.

REMEMBER

- Horses have the right of way
- Only walk – no running or playing around
- Don't walk up behind horses – they can't see you! Remind the group of the horse's 'field of vision'
- Stairs are only to be climbed for a specific purpose
- Manure bins/pick up shovels/gear bags are all potential hazards to be tripped over
- Out of Bounds areas – Swabbing Area, Veterinarian's box, entrance/exit ways

**REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST HAVE YOUR PASS AT ALL TIMES
AND BE UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION**





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