

Harness Racing Victoria Guidelines for Access to Horses on course

Objective:

HRV's intention is to ensure that the organisation and all Registered Clubs comply with the Victorian OHS Act (2004) by ensuring that the standard of health and safety throughout the racing environment (and its operations) is managed to a high level.

Section 1 – General Overview

Horses and non-accredited persons should be separated on course

Maintaining integrity and safety at racetracks includes ensuring that non-accredited persons are restricted from access to horses on course.

Commencing 2 March 2008, Clubs throughout Victoria will adopt procedures to exercise control over horse movements and access to horses on course to accredited persons and officials only.

Measures to be implemented by Clubs will include:

- Defining and controlling horse movements and access to horses on course
- Restricting access to horses on course to accredited persons and officials only with the exception of those persons identified in Section 3.
- Separating horses from all non-accredited persons on course
- Employment of appropriate staff to monitor access into restricted access zones, ensuring
 - only accredited persons gain access to horse movement areas
 - all persons in restricted zones are appropriately accredited
- Suitable training be undertaken by officials responsible for monitoring access to restricted access zones with particular emphasis given to the Victorian Occupational Health and Safety Act (2004).
- Separating the general public entrance to the course from the horse entrance to the course
- Erecting and maintaining appropriate physical barriers between horse-only areas and other on-course areas
- Ensuring that appropriate signage is placed on course to clearly identify restricted access areas
- Maintaining registers of all *Stable Access Passes* distributed (see section 3)

**Section 2 –
Restricted Access Zones and entry to course via horse entry gate**

Only accredited persons and officials will be permitted to enter restricted access zones.

To ensure consistency, HRV has requested that Clubs ensure that restricted access zones are clearly designated.

Persons wishing to gain entry to or remain in the restricted access zone must display an approved Identification/Accreditation Card at all times. The following are HRV approved forms of accreditation

- Trainers Licence
- Drivers Licence
- Stablehand Licence
- HRV Staff Card
- Country Club Official Pass (Includes employees and committee)
- Secure Area Access Pass
- Media Pass/Accreditation
- Stable Access Pass – As outlined in section 3 (only valid for date of issue)

Non-accredited persons will not be permitted to enter the course via the horse entrance.

It will be incumbent on all accredited persons to ensure that any non-accredited passengers who may be travelling to the races with them enter at the appropriate public entrance point. Non-accredited persons will be refused entry at horse entry points by Clubs with the exception of children of participants as outlined in section 3.

Section 3 – Minors, Media, Owners, Sponsors & Dignitaries

HRV and the Club acknowledge the importance of key stakeholders being able to access horse movement areas including owners, sponsors, dignitaries and children of participants. As a general rule these groups, as non-accredited persons, are prohibited from entering horse movement areas. However, HRV and its registered clubs have devised the *Stable Access Pass* permitting conditional and controlled access to horse movement zones in the following manners:

Who	When	Accompanied by	Accreditation Details
Children of Participants	Parent/s have horse/s engaged	Licensed Parent at all times who must also sign the child in at the horse entrance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passes available at the horse gate only. • To be displayed at all times. • Names of recipients to be logged in clubs Stable Access Register. • Only valid for date of issue
Owners (plus 1 guest per owner, over 15 years of age)	Horse owned is engaged at the race meeting.	Trainer or licensed stablehand must accompany the owner at all times in stabling area. The trainer or licensed stablehand is also required to sign the owner (and guest, if applicable) in at the Secretaries Office in order to be provided with the Stable Access Pass.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passes available a the secretaries office only • Name to be checked off owners list detailing ownership details of each horse • A total of 6 owners (inclusive of guests) will be permitted access to the stables at any one time • Identification maybe requested • To be displayed at all times • Names of recipients to be logged in the clubs Stable Access register • Only valid for day of issue
Sponsors, Dignitaries & others	As required from time to time for the promotion of harness racing	Accredited Club or HRV official at all times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passes available from nominated club or HRV official • Only valid for day of issue

Further to the aforementioned conditions:

- A colour scheme will be implemented to help control and restrict the use of Stable Access Passes to the day of issue
- Clubs must maintain a register both at the horse gate and secretaries office. The register needs to document the name of recipient, date, horse (owner) and be signed for by accredited person responsible for accompanying them while in the restricted zone
- Club and HRV officials retain the right to rescind a *Stable Access Pass* at any time

- An unsupervised person with a *Stable Access Pass* will be asked to leave the horse movement area immediately

The above guidelines are not intended to be an exhaustive list of matters that Clubs and HRV will attend to in ensuring the separation of horses and non-accredited persons from 2 March 2008. Furthermore they will be continually reviewed in an aim to improve on-course safety for racing participants, employees and members of the public.