

28 May, 2020

To our valued WDA-AUS Members, State Associations, Club Affiliates & Branches,

In further response to the current ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, the WDA-AUS Board has extended their decision to **suspend all WDA-AUS COMPETITION events** for the remainder of the current WDA-AUS membership year (June 30th, 2020). Therefore, the official end to the 2019/2020 National Point Score Year will be March 27, 2020 - all National & State Level Year End Awards will be calculated as such.

There will be no WDA-AUS competition events approved up to & including June 30th, 2020 (this also includes Virtual Shows).

The Federal Government has issued a 3 step Framework for a Covid safe Australia in regard to sport:

Stage 1

- DOES NOT support the return of community sport or club organised events
- SUPPORTS small group gatherings of up to 10 people for outdoor, non contact activities
- SUPPORTS travel for recreation purposes of up to 150km for day trips (500km in the outback)

Stage 2

- SUPPORTS outdoor community sport and coordinated activity in groups of up to 20 people

Stage 3

- SUPPORTS outdoor community sport competition and activity of up to 100 people

In regard to organising and holding clinics, club days, training/practice days and eventually competitions

In line with the above Framework and keeping in mind that our Affiliates/Branches are from all different States/Territories, you must abide by your respective Government's restrictions on such gatherings, each Government will have different dates for each stage. Affiliates/Branches are strongly advised to conduct any meetings/discussions/gatherings in accordance with their State/Territory Governments' social distancing regulations.

Our WDA-AUS return pathway will look like this:

STAGE 1

Affiliates/Branches are NOT able to organise any kind of sport/event/clinic/training day however you may hold club meetings/committee meetings etc as long as social distancing and hygiene practices are maintained. Individual WDA-AUS members are able to gather in small groups of up to 10 people for outdoor, non contact activities within 150km of their home (not a club organised event), ie., travel to attend a horse riding lesson or meet some friends to go riding together informally.

STAGE 2

Affiliates/Branches may hold clinics, club days, training/practice day (But NOT competition) with certain restrictions in place (as follows).

An application to hold such days must be submitted a MINIMUM of 2 weeks prior to the proposed date and WDA-AUS approval (approx. 48hrs) must be granted for them to be allowed to proceed. All advertising of such days must state "Subject to WDA-AUS Approval".

If a WDA-AUS Affiliate/Branch would like to hold a gathering, (not a competition) the following rules/advice must be undertaken for the WDA-AUS to sanction this event (and therefore be covered by the appropriate insurance). Participants (riders) in any events held during Stage 2 must be a WDA-AUS financial member or pay the relevant day/event membership fee. Spectators are not permitted. Parents, carers, guardians and support people may attend with a rider and are subject to temporary membership requirements (ie., pay a

day/event membership) if not a current financial member of the Affiliate/Branch or WDA-AUS themselves for COVID-19 insurance requirements.

An appropriate application form will be made available to Affiliates/Branches asap.

- **Number of total people in the gathering**
 - **20 or less (During Government Stage 2 Framework)**
 - **This may vary across each State/Territory**
- **All state travel restrictions must be adhered to (Eg. 150km for day trips only)**
- **A Health & Safety Officer (a member of the Affiliate/Branch committee) must be appointed for the gathering and they must be responsible for:**
 - Ensuring all equipment is sanitised before and after the event
 - Collect/keep list of Name, Address, Phone numbers of all attendees and if requested provide this list to their respective health department in the event of a COVID-19 positive test or outbreak surrounding the event
 - Ensure all persons attending the event maintain the 1.5m social distancing requirements
 - Ensure that Hand Sanitiser is available at all entrances/exits to amenities including the Toilet facilities, Stable/Yard Block, Arena
 - Ensure everyone has received notification of hygiene requirements to attend the event (Signs at venue, advice on booking/sign up forms etc)
 - Ensure any person that may arrive and is unwell, is asked to leave immediately
 - Ensure all people on the grounds in attendance must be current members of WDA-AUS or of the Affiliate/Branch holding the event
 - No catering to be provided

STAGE 3

Affiliates/Branches may now organise and hold competitions and events with up to 100 people. All Government social distancing and hygiene and health requirements must be adhered to all times

Applications will be accepted for events to be held in the new show year (Beginning July 1st 2020), each application will be assessed on an individual basis taking into consideration State/Territory Government regulations, however we cannot guarantee that they will be allowed to proceed depending on the advice from the Australian Government in regard to the ongoing COVID 19 Pandemic at that time.

We would encourage Branches/Affiliates/Members to be mindful of following the Australian Government Department of Health (<https://www.health.gov.au>) directions including;

- Washing hands regularly and maintaining appropriate hygiene practices
- Keeping gatherings to 10 people or less
- Avoiding close personal contact with other people (1.5m Social distancing)
- Self-isolating in the event that you have recently returned from Overseas, feel sick or have been in contact with someone who has contracted COVID 19

We recommend that you all read the AIS document at <https://www.ais.gov.au/> "Framework for rebooting sport in a COVID 19 environment" for further information.

The pandemic is constantly evolving and the board will continue to monitor the situation and may change/amend this advice accordingly.

We thank you for your cooperation and understanding in these trying times and look forward to progressing positively along the path to having Western Dressage competition and events safely in full swing across all of Australia.

Take care,
The WDA-AUS Board