

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDANCE (THOROUGHBRED CLUBS)

MOVEMENT AND POSITIONING OF VEHICLES AND PERSONNEL DURING A RACE

There are risks associated with the movement and positioning of vehicles, barriers and club personnel in the vicinity of the race track during a race (including when horses are pulling up after a race).

Such movement and positioning may present a 'spooking hazard' for horses, potentially compromising rider and club personnel safety.

Racing Queensland (**RQ**) and Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (**QRIC**) wish to remind thoroughbred clubs of their obligation to provide a safe working environment for riders and club personnel.

To assist these clubs in managing such risks, RQ and QRIC recommend the following risk control measures:

1. Vehicles

The only vehicles that should be in motion during a race are those that are required to 'follow the field' – being the ambulance and the incident response vehicle.

With the exception of these vehicles and the tractor (which is to be connected to the barriers and operated in accordance with point 2 below), all other vehicles and motorised equipment should:

- cease operating;
- remain stationary; and
- be positioned in a location that does not present a visual spooking hazard for horses.

Such vehicles should not be moved until all horses have been safely pulled up and have commenced their return to the mounting yard. The driver of any vehicle that is positioned between a returning horse and the mounting yard should wait until all such horses have passed before moving the vehicle.

All vehicle doors should be closed, with lights switched off, to minimise any visual distractions. No person should be seated on the tray of a utility vehicle.

2. Barriers

Where the barriers are situated in the home straight for the start of a race, or in any other location that forms part of the course or pull up area for the race, they should be promptly removed from the track once the start has been effected.

Clubs should have a process in place that will ensure the safe movement of the barriers in these circumstances, which includes (without limitation):

- ensuring the tractor is connected to the barriers and operating before the start of the race;
- confirming that no obstacles are present that may prevent the barriers from being removed promptly after the start; and
- repositioning the running rail well before the field reaches that part of the track.

Care should be taken to position the barriers in a location that does not present a spooking hazard for the horses either during or on pulling up after the race, giving particular attention to avoiding areas where horses may be turning.

3. Barrier Attendants and Other Staff

Barrier attendants and other staff who are not required to 'follow the field' should be monitoring the race for incidents, and should be prepared to respond if directed by the starter.

Their movements should otherwise be kept to a minimum, particularly when in the line of sight of an oncoming field.

Note: Raceday officials including the Starter, Clerks of the Course and barrier attendants are required to work under the direction of, and report to, the QRIC Stewards. Nothing in this guidance is intended to override any such instruction or direction given by the Stewards which, for the avoidance of any doubt, shall prevail in the event of any inconsistency.

4. Static Hazards

Care should be taken to ensure that there are no static hazards (eg fixed conditions) in the vicinity of the race track which may present a spooking hazard for horses.

This guidance is provided to support clubs in meeting their WHS obligations. It is general in nature and not intended to replace the need for clubs to undertake their own risk assessments and implement measures to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, a work environment that minimises risks to health and safety. This guidance is not to be construed as legal advice or a substitute for legal advice.