



COVID Safe Events – Full Statement

The Board of Reining Australia would like to take this opportunity to inform all its members that the conducting of any Reining Australia Approved Show/Event will always and ultimately be determined by the relevant State & Territory Health Authority Mandates that are in place at such time due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

At present, community sport will be permitted to operate again in NSW & VIC from next weekend. Some enquiries have been made to Reining Australia in relation to our stance around the NSW & VIC health department policy on individuals being fully vaccinated (having received 2 x Covid 19 vaccinations) to attend such events.

The NSW and VIC State Governments and State Health Authorities have a very clear mandate – attendees **MUST** be double vaccinated to attend community sport activities (This includes horse related activities). There are medical exemptions available for eligible people. These exemptions **MUST** be applied for from the relevant State Health authority by the person seeking the exemption. Reining Australia (or its Affiliates) cannot apply for exemptions on behalf of a member.

At present only NSW & VIC are having to undertake & adhere to these stringent rulings. Other states however should still be aware of the current situation as it may pertain to other states in the future if circumstances were to change.

Reining Australia stands firm, that its Affiliates and its Members **MUST** comply with their relevant State Health Mandates. These mandates can and will change from time to time given the complexities of the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Reining Australia would like to urge its general membership, along with our Affiliate Executives to remain vigilant around any changes that may occur within Local and State Government jurisdictions around the rulings for “Community Sports Events”.

Reining Australia (and/or its Affiliates) – **DO NOT HAVE THE ABILITY OR POWER TO OVERTURN STATE GOVERNMENT MANDATES OR POLICIES.**

All information that is gathered using the QR Code System is sent directly to the relevant Health Authority. Reining Australia & its Affiliates **DO NOT** store any members medical or personal information.

Some Reining Australia Affiliates may request that competitors send a copy of their COVID Vaccination certificates with their entries. Those Affiliates are within their rights to do so.

A competitor **MUST** be able to supply evidence of double vaccination or provide a written medical exemption (hard copy or electronic form) otherwise they will not be eligible or permitted, **BY LAW**, to attend the event / show / clinic etc. If Affiliates are requesting copies of members vaccination certificates, they must ensure this information is securely stored and then destroyed after the event, for which they were gathered. The most effective system would be to have a list of members and once double vaccination evidence has been provided, a tick placed next to the member and the certificate handed back to the member or destroyed. This will reduce members concerns regarding the safe storage of their personal information.

If there is a situation where a member refuses to provide evidence of double vaccination or valid exemption, their entries will also be refused, as per State Health Mandates.

Reining Australia and its Affiliates will always comply with & uphold any State Health Authority Mandates that are in place at various times, across various locations.

Stay Safe,

Regards

The Board of Reining Australia