

Official Policy Race Track Safety/Conditions




Unless extraordinary circumstances exist, the following procedure is to be followed to determine the suitability of race track safety or racetrack conditions on race day regardless whether any concern with the racing surface is before the first race on any given race day or whether a race or races have already been run on the track -

A - Where the Stewards have concerns regarding race track (racing surface) safety or other factors such as lack of visibility:

- The Stewards shall make all investigations necessary to be satisfied whether or not any aspect of the race track or its condition is safe for the conduct of a race meeting.
- In the case of visibility concerns owing to inclement weather or other circumstances, the Stewards shall make all investigations necessary to be satisfied whether or not the conditions are safe for the conduct of a race meeting.
- The Stewards, whilst such investigations are occurring, should keep representatives of the Club, the Riders and the Trainers informed as to their concerns and their attempts to investigate and/or rectify an issue.
- In the event the Stewards determine the track (racing surface) or visibility conditions to be unsafe for racing, the Chairman of Stewards officiating as such for the race meeting shall notify the representatives of the Club, the Riders, the Trainers, the Racing SA Chairman of Stewards/General Manager Integrity and the Racing SA Chief Operating Officer of the decision, as soon as practical.


B - Where a Jockey/Apprentice Jockey (Rider/s) expresses concern regarding race track (racing surface) safety or other factors such as lack of visibility:

1. At any race meeting should a Rider/s have a concern regarding the condition or the safety of the race track (racing surface) and/or the prevailing riding conditions (visibility), he/she should convey those concerns to the Chairman of Stewards officiating as such for the race meeting, at the earliest opportunity.
2. The Stewards will interview that Rider/s and seek other submissions from a representative appointed by the Riders present at the race meeting and another Senior Rider nominated by the Stewards. During this process the Rider/s who expressed concern will be interviewed and accompanied by the two other Riders referred to above. Where practical, only Riders who have already ridden at the meeting should be considered.
3. If following the interview the Stewards are of the opinion that an inspection of the relevant areas of the race track should occur, the Chairman of Stewards officiating as such for the race meeting will arrange for an inspection party to conduct an inspection. That party will include Stewards and all Riders with an engagement in the next Race, or a delegation of Riders with an engagement in the next Race, provided that the Stewards may in their absolute discretion direct that all Riders with an engagement in the next race participate in the track inspection, and/or any such other rider as they may determine. For the purpose of this subsection, riders who have already ridden at the meeting will also be included in the party, provided they have another engagement following the next race in question. Where practical the track curator shall also be present during the track inspection.

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4. For the duration of the track inspection, all Riders will be under the strict control of the Stewards and must comply with any directions or orders of the Stewards.
 5. During the track inspection no other Rider, Trainer or other person present on course, unless granted permission by the Stewards, may be present on any part of the race track surface.
 6. Following the track inspection, the Riders or the delegation of the Riders as the case may be, and the track curator will discuss carrying out any remedial work which may address the concerns in respect of any affected area. If remedial work is considered possible and practical, the track curator will be instructed by the Stewards to carry out that remedial work. Following any remedial work being performed on the track, the same parties who inspected the track prior to the remedial work must, unless specifically excused by the Stewards, again inspect the areas where the remedial work has been performed.
 7. Following the track inspection or any remedial work being performed as the case may be, the Stewards and the Riders or a delegation of the Riders who inspected the track will meet to consider their views and opinions on the track and its condition. This will be done *'in camera'* within the Stewards room or such other facility that may be considered suitable.
 8. The Stewards acting under AR 21(f) may then make a determination as to whether the race meeting will proceed or not.
 9. In the event the Stewards deem the race track surface is unsafe or not suitable for racing, and/or the prevailing weather conditions are not conducive to safe racing, then the Stewards shall notify representatives of the Club, the Riders, the Trainers, the Racing SA Chairman of Stewards/General Manager Integrity and the Racing SA Chief Operating Officer of the decision as soon as practical.
 10. In the event the Stewards deem the race track surface is safe and suitable for racing to continue, and/or the prevailing weather conditions is safe for racing, then the Riders will be asked to participate in a secret ballot to inform the Stewards whether each Rider considers it is safe to ride in the next race.

Note: In the event the track inspection was conducted by a delegation of Riders, then before any secret ballot is conducted, all Riders with an engagement in the upcoming Race will be required to attend the Stewards room or such other suitable facility with the Stewards and the delegation of Riders so that they may hear the views/opinions of the parties who inspected the track.

11. Where a secret ballot is conducted the Stewards will facilitate the secret ballot, and all Riders with an engagement in the next Race, and all riders with an engagement/s in a race or subsequent races following the race in question, and who have ridden in a race/s prior to the determination will be asked to cast a vote. The process for the secret ballot (vote) will be as follows;
 - Each Rider will be handed an appropriate ballot paper.
 - In completing the ballot paper, the Rider will be asked to indicate **Yes**” or **“No**” to the following question: “Do you believe that it is safe to ride in the next race based on the current condition of the track, and/or the prevailing weather conditions (visibility)?”
 - Once completed, the ballot will be given to the Stewards.
 - The Stewards will then collate and count the **“ Yes**” and **“No**” answers

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12. In determining whether to abandon/cancel or postpone the remainder of, or the entire race meeting based on Rider concerns; the following number of votes (in Table below) - which indicate that it would be unsafe to continue to ride at the meeting will be considered to be a vote in favour of such determination;

Number of Voters (Riders)	Number of Riders required to indicate in the secret ballot that it is not safe to ride in the next race for the race meeting to be abandoned/cancelled or postponed - If more than 50% of those eligible to vote consider that the meeting should not continue then the meeting will be called off.
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- If the requisite number of votes (as set out above) is not obtained for the race meeting to be postponed/cancelled/abandoned, and the Stewards decide to continue the race meeting, then the next race will go ahead. However, any Rider who did not wish to ride in the next race would not be required to do so, and other Riders prepared to ride would be offered the opportunity to ride the horses of those who did not wish to continue riding. If no Rider is able to be found, the horse (or horses) will be withdrawn from the race.
- Any Rider who elects to forego rides will be required to leave the racecourse immediately (without penalty), unless otherwise exempted by the Stewards.
- If the requisite number of Riders vote that they believe that it is not safe to ride in the next race due to the condition of the track, and/or owing to the prevailing weather conditions, the Stewards may, in their absolute discretion and pursuant to AR 21(f), make a formal determination as to postponement of the race or races (if this is reasonably practicable) or following consultation with Racing SA Management make a determination to abandon/cancel the race meeting, and will advise all Riders, Trainers, the Racing SA Chairman of Stewards/General Manager Integrity and the Racing SA Chief Operating Officer accordingly.

J. PETZER

General Manager Integrity/Chairman of Stewards

Policy adopted: 07/06/2022

