



## **EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA (Administrator appointed) COACHING COMMITTEE (EACC)** **UPDATE**

**Meeting Held: Tuesday 12 May 2020**  
**Below is a summary of the meeting**

### **MEETING DISCUSSION**

#### **Update from EA office**

- **Changes to the EA Board** - Equestrian Australia Chair Ricky MacMillan and Director Gillian Canapini resigned from the Board 11 May. There are now three casual vacancies and 1 athlete vacancy. The EACC expressed great concern over this.
- **Changes to office operations** - The EA office is now closed Fridays until 25 September as part of a financial mitigation response to Covid-19.
- **On-line learning** - Kellie Hayes is working on ensuring the theory components of the 'Orientation to EA and the Coaching Scheme' and 'Coach Updates' are drafted and available to be delivered online.
- **Syllabus review meeting (29 April) and update** - The first syllabus review meeting, with all working group members, was held 29 April. The working groups were advised that this is Phase 1 with content to be reviewed and sent back to the EA office by 26 June 2020.
- **Concussion protocol** - The EA office is working hard on the development of a Concussion and Incident reporting platform for all Officials, Coaches and Clubs. The platform will allow for reporting of these things but also provide a search function to ensure that an athlete has been cleared of concussion before being permitted to participate in equestrian activities.

#### **High Performance Discussion – Will Enzinger**

Will explained his role as High Performance Pathways Manager with a focus on the discipline of Eventing. The HP team have been successful in achieving a grant for 1. Workforce and 2. Pathway Development projects. As part of this, Will is in the process of developing education materials for athletes in the Performance Pathway to ensure that all athletes have a sound foundation and consistent learning in what have been identified as critical success areas for elite equestrian athletes. The project is funded by the AIS and is focussed on learnings off the horse.

This project is about development and education programs and setting a standard throughout Australia - focussed at state squad program level. The aim of developing a syllabus for eventing riders and an educational pathway for athletes is to support progression from participation to podium level - they will understand the philosophy, approach and culture from start to finish.

This is not to replace the coaching scheme – this is about developing athletes and allowing athletes to explore what works for them.

### **Riding and Horse Management Booklets (SK)**

The EACC confirmed that the Horse Management and Riding provide a pathway in their own right and should be promoted as such. We should be encouraging all EA members to consider and undertake accreditation in these areas.

### **Lungeing certificate (SK & SB)**

The separation of lungeing as a standalone accreditation has been discussed by the syllabus working group. It was discussed by the EACC and there was unanimous support that this should occur.

It was also noted that if EA remove lungeing from the existing syllabus to a standalone accreditation, younger athletes can start Introductory Riding and Horse Management before the age of 12 which is the current restriction. The starting age for Introductory Riding and Horse Management should be competency and merit based as should the commencement of the (to be developed) lungeing accreditation.

### **Second delegates as per the Charter (SK)**

SK raised that referring to EACC delegates as 'alternate' was incorrect according to the EACC Charter. This should be changed to 'Second' delegate.

### **Driving, Vaulting and Show Horse assessment requirements (GvME)**

A question was raised about who can sign the coaching assessment slips for Driving, Vaulting and Show Horse Level 1 when there is no Level 2 syllabus (and therefore no, or very few, Level 2 Coaches and Coach Educators within the disciplines).

It was advised that this is addressed in the 2004 Coach Educators Procedures Manual. The information in the manual should be used to update the existing documents.

*Show Horse states:* A Show Horse SSTA is qualified to sign the Sport Specific Assessment units of the Level 1 Show Horse resource in the appendix to the syllabus with the exception of the units relating to trotting poles which should still be signed by a Coach Educator with jumping experience.

*Vaulting states:* A Vaulting SSTA will sign the Sport- Specific Assessment slips in the supplement attached to the Level 1 Vaulting syllabus. Candidates will have all other assessments in the Assessment Guide signed by Coach Educators.

*Driving states:* A Driving SSTA will sign the Sport-Specific Assessment slips in the supplement attached to the Level 1 Driving syllabus. Candidates will have all other assessments via the Assessment Guide signed by Coach Educators.

### **Familiarisation process (GvME)**

It was confirmed that a lapsed coach is still required to connect with a Coach Educator and complete an 'update' to ensure they are familiar with any changes to the scheme etc and to demonstrate competency for the level of coaching that they are wishing to reaccredit for. This can be completed in person, via 'live training' or the process will need to be delayed until restrictions ease.

### **Coach of the Year (SB)**

The NSW Board have asked the NSW Coaching Committee for feedback on the Coach of the Year Criteria. NSW representatives, Robert Stewart and Sally-Ann Barbera brought the idea to the EACC as they feel this is an opportunity to align nationally.

The EACC agreed that they would like to align State Coach of the Year Criteria. This includes the number of awards offered, the name of the award, the criteria and the assessment criteria.

### **Business Services (RS)**

The idea of including business education in the Coaching Syllabus was discussed. The EACC felt strongly that there is a place for educating the EA coaching community in this space.

Kellie Hayes suggested that the syllabus was not the appropriate location as the syllabus is about assessing competency in coaching. If education in business skills is to be offered to EA coaches, this should be through a series of professional development opportunities.

It was suggested that there are many skilled people within the EA community who may be able to assist or who would like the opportunity to link with EA coaches to offer assistance in the areas they specialise in eg IT, HR, small business development etc. This can provide a networking opportunity for businesses and the development of a 'business hub' or 'business connect' was discussed where members of the EA community can promote their business eg accounting, employment law, IT, marketing etc and EA Coach will be provided a number of specialised industries who understand the equestrian world.

### **Joint Chairs Meeting (RS)**

Robert Stewart was invited to a discussion with all NDC Chairs regarding EAs position on Virtual Activities during the Covid-19 situation.

At the meeting it was unanimously agreed that online competitions should not be supported but Virtual Activities that encourage participation in an educational context would be.

Meredith Chapman, National Safety Manager has developed a policy in support of this position which will be available shortly.

### **Level 2 coaching assessment**

There was intense and robust discussion regarding who can sign what assessment slips for Level 2 Coaching. Some argued strongly that the current document was incorrect whilst others argued that it was not.

The EACC were assured that this information had been circulated to all syllabus working groups and it will be assessed in due course and cross referenced against any other changes that are made. Now is not the time to make changes but to offer recommendations to be included in the review.

### **Syllabus Review References and Recommended Reading**

Kellie Hayes advised that as part of the syllabus review, all resources will be reviewed for relevance and they will then be listed electronically to ensure that the list is able to be updated regularly so it remains relevant at all times. All references to recommended reading in the resources will be removed.