

28 February 2021

COVID-19 EMERGENCY REGULATIONS – ALERT LEVELS 1 and 2

This Directive applies to race or trial meetings while the New Zealand Government’s Alert Level 1 and Alert Level 2 variously prevails.

A full overview of New Zealand’s COVID-19 Alert Levels is provided via [this link](#). Please familiarise yourself with this, and in particular the restrictions relating to Travel and Workplaces.

As a professional sport and industry, we must continue to prove that we can keep all participants safe and eliminate, or mitigate to the greatest possible extent, the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

The purpose of this Directive, and requirements on employers and workers (PCBUs):

The core principle behind this Directive is to protect the health and safety of all workers required to perform duties during the COVID-19 crisis, including related health and safety impacts on operations related to operating under a COVID-19 environment, as well as protecting the wider New Zealand population from transmission and spread of the virus. Another key principle is to maintain the WorkSafe three pillars of good work throughout all operations: leadership, risk management, and worker engagement as expressed below.

This Directive contains minimum measures that are necessary to mitigate or eliminate the risk of passing on the COVID-19 virus at a race meeting. These include:

- supporting people with flu-like symptoms to self-isolate;
- ensuring physical distancing as may be recommended by the Government;
- regular disinfecting of surfaces; and
- maintaining good hygiene, particularly hand hygiene and good cough/sneeze etiquette.

Trainers, Clubs, staff, RIU and other racing officials, and Jockeys are expected to work positively and cooperatively to ensure:

- the effective implementation of these minimum COVID-19 protocols, and
- that the health and safety of workers and other people aren’t put at risk from changes that are made to work arrangements because of this pandemic.

Notes:

- **This directive has the effect of NZTR Rules of Racing and is binding on PCBU’s (as defined by the Health & Safety at Work Act, including racing clubs, racing officials (including RIU) and Trainers (and employees and contractors) and Jockeys.**
- **This directive is subject to any government regulations or requirements as relevant to COVID-19 Alert Levels 1 and 2.**

NZTR DIRECTIVE FOR COVID-19 ALERT LEVELS 1 and 2

This Directive (and the protocols set out below) are binding on all Clubs, licensed persons, owners and all other persons to whom the Rules of Racing apply. Failure to adhere to this Directive (and the protocols set out below) constitutes a breach of the Rules of Racing (Rule 801 - Serious Racing Offences).

This Directive may be updated by NZTR and re-released if the government announces substantive changes to the measures required under COVID Alert Levels 1 or 2.

1. Definitions

1.1 For the purpose of this Directive:

Meeting means a race or trial meeting, or jumpouts where jumpout heats are run over set distances.

1.2 Any term used in this Directive shall have the meaning given to it in the Rules of Racing unless the context requires otherwise.

2. Meetings

2.1 *Admission to Meetings*

- (a) In regions where Alert Level 2 prevails, nobody shall be admitted to a racecourse when a Meeting is in progress, except for:
- (i) Licensed trainers with horses entered at the Meeting and Licensed stable staff employed by trainers with horses entered at the Meeting (including horse float drivers whether the horse float is a trainer's or a float company), if that employee's or person's presence at the racecourse is essential;
 - (ii) Licensed jockeys engaged to compete at the Meeting (and if the Meeting is a trial meeting, probationers engaged to ride at it);
 - (iii) Clerks of Course, Stipendiary Stewards, Starters and barrier attendants, St John ambulance officers, vets, farriers, attendants at jumps, horse ambulance drivers, Racing Investigators, swabbing attendants, gate security, commentators, Judges, accredited media/photographers (as approved by NZTR in writing), photo finish operators, Trackside Broadcasting team, TAB On-Course Control van engineers, Tote Operators, Clerks of Scale, Judicial panellists and typists, Medical staff, Club staff and other Officials if their presence is essential for the conduct of the Meeting, and any other persons deemed essential by NZTR or the club to the conduct of the Meeting and NZTR Authorised Bloodstock Agents provided that they hold the photo-ID card issued by NZTR and has made prior arrangement to attend the Meeting;-and
 - (iv) Where gatherings of up to 100 persons are permitted by the government, then owners of horses competing at the meeting, club members, sponsors, and ticketed guests are permitted to attend a meeting to be held on or after 18 February 2021, provided that:
 - the venue operator and the persons attending meet the conditions and requirements of the [COVID-19 Public Health Response \(Alert Level Requirements\) Order 2021](#), as described by government guidance ([link](#));

- the club has submitted a “Club COVID-19 Health & Safety Operating Plan Attendances at Race or Trial Meetings under COVID-19 Alert Level 2” in relation to the meeting and has received NZTR’s advance authorisation for those persons to attend the meeting; and
 - Owners and other attendees must remain in defined areas and must not enter the Bird Cage.
- (b) Each Club holding a Meeting must provide an isolation area for use at the Meeting and have isolation procedures in place if there is a case or suspected case of COVID-19 identified at the Meeting.
- (c) Jockeys and other persons who are in regular close contact with jockeys including RIU staff, Clerk of Scales and other club staff who work in the vicinity of the weigh-room must submit to a body temperature screening check (thermometers will be provided by NZTR via RIU), when they first arrive in the Weigh Room / Jockey Room. Persons so tested with a temperature of 38.0C or above will be required to present to a St John medic or the NZTR Medical Advisor for a further temperature check and an assessment of clinical and epidemiological symptoms of the COVID-19 virus.

If St John staff are requested to assess a patient against the COVID-19 case definition, they will be given prior notice so that they can wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

- (d) On the advice of a St John medic or the NZTR Medical Advisor, the Stipendiary Stewards or a Racecourse Investigator may require a person to stay in the isolation area for the Meeting until they can leave the Meeting or if practical to leave the racecourse immediately and on leaving the racecourse to immediately self-isolate until cleared by their GP, who must consider the prevailing NZ Government requirements. The person must also follow Ministry of Health advice and if diagnosed with COVID-19, assist in contact tracing.
- (e) All officials and licensed participants admitted to a racecourse for a Meeting must:
- (i) Observe personal hygiene requirements, particularly regular hand-washing with soap and running water and the use of hand-sanitisers;
 - (ii) Work co-operatively with each other and the relevant Club to aim to ensure a minimum 1 metre physical distancing from other persons, provided that this can be done without increasing personal health and safety risks;
 - (iii) Only enter those areas of the racecourse that they need to enter in order to perform their duties or their role at that Meeting, and comply with the requirements of the relevant Club regarding access to the various areas of the racecourse while the Meeting is in progress, and specifically Trainers and stable staff must not enter the Jockey Rooms;
 - (iv) Clearly display their NZTR issued photo-ID; and
 - (v) In regions where Alert Level 2 prevails, a face mask or suitable fabric covering the mouth and nose must be worn in or at the following areas:
 - Weighing room;
 - Parade Ring and Birdcage;
 - Swabbing box; and
 - Starting Gates.

In regions where Alert Level 1 prevails, the wearing of face masks in these areas is not mandatory but is encouraged.

Riders are permitted to lower their mask or face covering during racing (after loading up in barriers and before re-entering the birdcage).

- (f) For the purposes of these Regulations, a Meeting is *in progress* from 7:30 am on the morning of the Meeting until 30 minutes after the finish of the last race or trial conducted at that Meeting.

2.2 Expulsion from Racecourses or Training Facilities

- (a) Clubs or Racing Integrity Unit staff who believe, on reasonable grounds, that a person seeking entry to a racecourse or training facility, or who is present on a racecourse or training facility, is a person:
 - (i) whose presence on or at that racecourse or training facility is not permitted under this Directive; or
 - (ii) who has not complied with any Government requirement to self-isolate,shall immediately expel that person from the racecourse or training facility.

2.3 Conduct of Meetings

- (a) When holding a Meeting, each Club must implement procedures that eliminate the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to the maximum extent possible. Without limiting this obligation, each Club must:
 - (i) Display the NZ COVID Tracer APP QR code for the venue in prominent areas;
 - (ii) Engage sufficient cleaning staff to provide regular cleaning and disinfection of all common areas used during the conduct of the Meeting including, as a minimum, regular disinfecting during the Meeting all common surfaces used by attendees including, but not limited to, the Jockeys and Stewards rooms and all door handles, hand rails, lift call and internal lift buttons (if applicable) and light switches etc;
 - (iii) Provide or install hand sanitiser stations, or soap and running water and paper towels, for use by attendees at the Meeting and ensure that those stations and areas for handwashing are monitored regularly throughout the Meeting to ensure that they are properly stocked; and
 - (iv) Provide an isolation area for use at the Meeting if there is a case or suspected case of COVID-19 identified at the Meeting.

3. Rider welfare

- 3.1 Riders must at all times follow strict hygiene requirements in accordance with Ministry of Health guidelines. Any Rider who has concerns regarding their health status must contact the NZTR Medical Adviser, Dr Margaret Parle, immediately (e: mparle_3@hotmail.com; m 021 764 552). If a licenced jockey feels unwell at a Meeting they must immediately see the Medical Staff working at that Meeting and isolate themselves until their condition has been assessed and comply with any directions from the Medical Staff and Stipendiary Stewards.
- 3.2 On the advice of a St John medic or the NZTR Medical Advisor, the Stipendiary Stewards or a Racecourse Investigator may require a Rider to stand-down from riding at Meetings or trackwork and self-isolate until cleared by the Rider's GP, who must consider the prevailing

NZ Government requirements. A Rider must comply with any direction given by a Stipendiary Steward or Racecourse Investigator under this clause.

- 3.3 Should a Rider require a drink of water at the starting gates, the Rider should provide Barrier Attendants a bottle with their name written on it.
- 3.4 Riders must keep their areas clean and tidy and dispose of their own rubbish in bins provided.
- 3.5 Riders must wear their riding gloves whenever handling saddles and associated gear.
- 3.6 Riders must, whenever possible, use hand sanitiser or soap and running water between races.
- 3.7 Riders must minimise the time period that they are in the Jockey room using showers, tubs or clothes driers and comply with prevailing Government stipulated physical distancing requirements while using them.

4. Ongoing Health Assessments, Personal responsibility and wellbeing measures

- 4.1 Trainers, Stable staff, Club staff and Race Officials must continually assess their health and the health of each of their employees or colleagues. Matters that must be assessed regularly include:
 - (a) Have you, a staff member or colleague been close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, or a person who is awaiting the result of a COVID-19 test?
 - (b) Have you, a staff member or colleague returned from overseas travel in the last 14 days, or been in contact with another person who has returned from overseas travel in the last 14 days?
 - (c) Have you, a staff member or colleague had:
 - (i) a raised temperature or other indication of illness or fever? or
 - (ii) any indication of a cough, sneezing or runny nose, sore throat or shortness of breath? or
 - (iii) a loss of, or change in, your or their sense of smell?
- 4.2 If the answer to any of the questions in clause 4.1 is a 'yes', then you or the person must not attend a meeting until free of symptoms for 48 hours, or if the person is tested negative for COVID-19 then they may attend a meeting.
- 4.3 Any business, workplace, or site that has had a worker with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis must prevent any person entering the workplace or conducting work activities and must complete the following:
 - (a) Ensure that contact has been made with the Ministry of Health COVID-19 Healthline;
 - (b) Gather records of all persons who have been on site or involved with the person who has tested positive within the past four weeks;
 - (c) Gather information to identify those who have worked at the location or shared machinery, plant, materials or equipment with that person;

- (d) Be ready to present the information to the appropriate authorities;
 - (e) Inform the wider workforce of the situation while protecting the privacy of the individual where practicable so that further health monitoring can take place of potential contacts with the person;
 - (f) Clean and sanitise all site surfaces and equipment; and
 - (g) Follow any other directions from Ministry of Health.
- 4.4 A staff member must immediately report to their employer any concerns they may have as to the health status of any other person at their workplace.
- 4.5 When a staff member is unable to attend work due to concerns regarding COVID-19 symptoms, the employer and employer must work together constructively to ensure:
- (a) the wellbeing of the staff member;
 - (b) that a clinical diagnosis and testing of COVID-19 and all Ministry of Health measures are undertaken; and
 - (c) the staff member may return to work when their symptoms have resolved.

5. Dispensation:

- 5.1 NZTR may, on the request of a club, vary any of the requirements in these Regulations in relation to a specified race meeting.



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