

	POLICY	
RACING IN HOT WEATHER - EQUINE		
CONTROLLER: OPERATIONS TEAM	OWNER: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	
REVIEWED: OCTOBER 2023	SCHEDULED REVIEW: April 2024	

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To protect the welfare of horses competing in races during hot weather.
- 1.2 To outline when a meeting may be declared 'hot weather affected' and the procedures that will be implemented.
- 1.3 To outline when a meeting may be rescheduled, postponed, or abandoned.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1 All Tasracing, Office of Racing Integrity (ORI) and Club staff (including volunteers and contractors); and registered participants must comply with the requirements in this policy.

3. DECLARING HOT WEATHER AFFECTED

- 3.1 The ORI will declare a venue to be hot weather affected if:
 - a) the forecast maximum ambient temperature is 33°C or higher at the venue at any time on the scheduled race day.
 - b) the temperature on a scheduled race day is higher than forecast and reaches an ambient air temperature of 33°C or Wet Bulb Global Temperature (WBGT) of 28°C.
- 3.2 Once a venue has been declared Hot Weather Affected, the declaration will remain in place regardless of any change to the forecast or actual temperature on the scheduled race day.
- 3.3 Tasracing will provide notice of the Hot Weather Affected declaration to participants via SMS message, social media and a website press release.

4. OPTIONS FOR HOT WEATHER AFFECTED DAYS

Temperature	Options
Ambient Air Temperature 33°C – 37.9°C OR WBGT 28°C – 31.9°C (forecast or measured)	ORI will consult with Tasracing and the affected Club to either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) continue with the meeting as scheduled, b) delay or advance the meeting to an alternative time on the same day, c) bring forward or postpone the meeting to another day, or d) abandon the meeting. Consideration should be given to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Scheduling distance races for the anticipated coolest part of the day. b) Reducing gaps between races to reduce the overall duration of the meeting. c) Postponing or cancelling a meeting where participants must travel through areas of severe to catastrophic fire danger (as per Tasmania Fire Service Warnings). d) Availability of an additional veterinarian to provide enhanced monitoring of competing horses.
Ambient Air Temperature 38°C or higher OR WBGT 32°C or higher	The race meeting will be postponed or abandoned.

5. PROCEDURES FOR HOT WEATHER AFFECTED DAYS

Temperature	Procedures
Ambient Air Temperature 33°C – 37.9°C OR WBGT 28°C – 31.9°C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ORI will monitor the forecast weather conditions in the leadup to raceday. 2. The ORI will monitor ambient air temperature and WBGT readings at the venue for the duration of the race meeting. 3. WBGT readings should be taken in two locations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) In a tie up stall in the shade b) In the vicinity of the mounting yard (in full sun)

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Engaged horses will only be required on-course one (1) hour prior to the scheduled race time.5. Sprinklers to be used on stall roofs (where possible).6. Misting sprinklers to be used in the stalls (where possible).7. 'Chiller bins' – a minimum of one 'chiller bin' to be available at all race venues.8. Club to provide sufficient quantities of ice to charge 'chiller bin' at the beginning of the race day and recharge throughout the day as required.9. Additional water buckets, water scrapers and ice buckets to be available.10. Additional hoses to be available with adequate coverage to all stabling areas.11. Additional wash bays to be available (where possible).12. Horses to be stabled in shaded, breezy areas (where possible).13. Minimise time racehorses spend pre-race or post-race parading.14. Stewards to limit the time horses spend behind the barriers/mobile pre-race.15. Additional veterinarian to be provided (where possible). A veterinary nurse may be engaged if an additional veterinarian is not available.16. Ideally, veterinarian to monitor all horses closely:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upon arrival on course• Pre-race• Upon arrival at the barriers (Thoroughbred only)• Post-race• While detained in the swabbing area17. Where possible, a veterinarian or Steward to be positioned such that all riders/drivers pass the veterinarian/Steward on return to the saddling enclosure and can voice any concerns about their horses immediately.18. No horse shall leave the course without the approval of the on-course veterinarian.
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	<p>19. Horses selected for post-race swabbing to be given adequate time to cool down using available horse cooling facilities and to be carefully monitored throughout.</p> <p>20. Clerks of the Course to have a second horse available (where possible).</p> <p>21. Any participant concerned about the welfare of a horse must report their concerns to a Steward or veterinarian immediately.</p>
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6. SCRATCHINGS

- 6.1 If a venue has been declared Hot Weather Affected prior to the appointed scratching time for that meeting, a stand down penalty will not be applied to any nominated horse withdrawn (due to the hot weather) from racing between the time of declaration and the appointed scratching time.
- 6.2 If a venue has been declared Hot Weather Affected after the appointed scratching time for that meeting, the Stewards may, at their discretion, waive the stand down penalty if the horse’s withdrawal (due to hot weather) is notified to Stewards between the time of the declaration and up to 20 minutes prior to the scheduled race start time.

7. POLICY REVIEW CYCLE

- 7.1 This policy is to be reviewed by the Tasracing Operations Team annually, or when there is a significant change to the external environment or internal organisational structure.
- 7.2 The Tasracing Racing Rules and Policy Sub Committee (RR&PSC) is responsible for approving the Racing in Hot Weather – Equine Policy.

8. DOCUMENT CONTROL

Date	Version	Author	Endorsed by	Approved by
20/11/2023	1	Operations Team	CV&AWO	RR&PSC