

Title

Subject:

Vaccination Rule and how it affects 2020 VSC Competitions

This will be our second year presenting dual sanctioned Equestrian Canada Bronze and Horse Council BC competitions.

Vaccinations have always been a part of responsible horse ownership but now it has been recognized as such an important issue for the welfare of the horse, that our competition licensing bodies, Equestrian Canada and all Provincial Organizations (HCBC) have made it clear in their 2020 competition rules that vaccinations are expected.

Equestrian Canada General Rules now state:

ARTICLE A519 VACCINATIONS

All horses attending Equestrian Canada sanctioned competitions must have been administered Equine Influenza and Equine Herpes Virus (1&4) vaccinations within 6 months (+21 days grace period) before arrival at the event. No horse shall receive vaccination within 7 days prior to arrival at the event. Horses not in compliance with this rule may be asked to leave event site at the discretion of Competition Management.

The frequency of vaccine administration should be as recommended by the vaccine manufacturer or veterinarian. It is recommended that vaccines be administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian. Competition management may request supporting documentation confirming a horse's compliance with mandatory vaccination requirements.

In the case of a horse that is unable to receive either of the vaccines, a letter from a veterinarian on official letterhead must be provided with the entry form, stating the horse cannot be vaccinated due to medical concerns. At the discretion of competition management, a log of the horse's temperature prior to arrival at the event site or during the event can be requested.

* Note that on all entry forms the 'Person Responsible' must certify that every horse listed on the entry form has met the requirements of Article A 519. It is not necessary to provide a certificate proving the vaccination but, competition management may request supporting documentation.

**Horse Council BC now includes this statement in their 2020 Rule Book:
Horse Welfare Statement 2020 HCBC Rule Book**

Horse Council BC members are responsible for the well-being and humane treatment of any equine entrusted to their care. Every horse at an HCBC approved event shall, at all times, be treated humanely and with dignity, respect, and compassion. The welfare of the horse is paramount. Any inhumane treatment or the abuse of a horse by any person at an approved HCBC show is forbidden.

The obligation and responsibility to handle horses you own, use or that are in your care, with skill and compassion; ensuring, regardless of value, that they are not subjected to abuse, neglect or mistreatment.

Horses used in competition, spectator events, shows, or exhibitions must not be subjected to unscrupulous use of medications, non-nutritive agents, equipment or procedures that may alter performance, appearance or natural function.

It is strongly recommended that horses be up to date on vaccinations and in good health to perform.

The standard by which conduct or treatment will be measured is that which a person who is informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and competition practices would determine to be neither cruel, abusive, nor inhumane.

*Note that there is no requirement at HCBC competitions to certify that vaccinations are up to date but rather a clear understanding that vaccinations are recommended.