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## 1. PURPOSE

The Australian Trail Horse Riders Association is committed to providing a safe, healthy and enjoyable experience for all persons participating in ATHRA sanctioned events. This commitment includes a focus on eliminating risks associated with the adverse effects of alcohol consumption and the use of drugs in the recreational horse-riding environment.

## 2. SCOPE

This Policy covers all ATHRA affiliated clubs, all ATHRA members and all persons attending a sanctioned ATHRA event as a Ride Visitor or in any other capacity. In this context:

*Sanctioned ATHRA event* includes trail rides, trail ride challenges, charity rides, special events, regional camps, training days and clinics; and as defined in ATHRA's Code of Conduct. For the purposes of this Alcohol and Drugs Policy, it also includes horse riding or horse handling events covered by ATHRA's public liability insurance policy.

*Drugs* include any chemical substance that causes a change in a person's physiology or psychology when consumed which impairs their ability to control a horse. Those substances include alcohol, legal over-the-counter and prescription medications or medicines, and illicit drugs.

Under Australian Road Rules, a horse is considered a vehicle and therefore is permitted to be ridden on the road and in other public places. Accordingly, riders are subject to the same road rules and penalties as apply to other drivers.

Horse riding and managing and controlling a horse on the ground are inherently dangerous activities. This Policy recognises the risks associated with drug use are present regardless of whether the horse rider or horse handler is on a road or on private property.

## 3. POLICY

No person shall ride a horse or handle a horse on the ground at a sanctioned ATHRA event (as defined herein) if their ability to do so is impaired by the consumption of alcohol or the use of drugs. Impairment, and the period of exclusion arising from that impairment, shall be as defined by relevant Australian State and Territory laws.

In the absence of testing equipment to determine the level of impairment, event organisers may make a judgement as to whether and to what extent there is impairment by observation and assessment of the individual's behaviour, speech and appearance.

## 4. POLICY REVIEW AND CHANGE

This Policy in its entirety is to be reviewed annually by the ATHRA Board and the review date and outcome minuted for future reference.