



**PONY CLUB**  
NEW SOUTH WALES

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## **Pony Club NSW – Strangles Prevention Plan**

**(Biosecurity and Disease Prevention Policy for Events)**

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### **Purpose**

This plan outlines the **preventative measures and biosecurity controls** required to minimise the risk of **Strangles (*Streptococcus equi equi*)** entering or spreading at Pony Club NSW events, rallies, camps, and activities.

The goal is to protect the health and welfare of all horses and to uphold Pony Club NSW's commitment to strong biosecurity standards across all events.

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### **1. Objectives**

- Prevent the introduction and spread of Strangles within Pony Club NSW activities.
  - Promote consistent biosecurity practices among riders, parents, and officials.
  - Ensure early detection of illness and responsible reporting before attendance at events.
  - Provide a framework for clubs and zones to implement standard prevention protocols.
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### **2. Scope**

This plan applies to **all Pony Club NSW-sanctioned events**, including:

- State Championships
- State Camp
- Club and Zone competitions, rallies, and training days
- Clinics and coaching sessions

All participants, coaches, officials, and volunteers are expected to comply with this plan.

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### 3. Key Responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities
<b>Event Organiser / Chief Steward</b>	Ensure this prevention plan is implemented at every event, including signage, declarations, and visual checks.
<b>Biosecurity Officer (if appointed)</b>	Oversee horse arrivals, maintain cleanliness of stabling and tie-up areas, and monitor compliance with biosecurity procedures.
<b>Riders / Owners</b>	Monitor horse health daily, complete health declarations honestly, and refrain from attending events if a horse is unwell or has been exposed.
<b>Clubs / Zones</b>	Promote education around Strangles prevention, reporting procedures, and post-event monitoring.

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### 4. Pre-Event Prevention Measures

- Horse Health Declaration:**
    - Mandatory for all horses attending any Pony Club NSW event.
    - Must confirm that horses have not shown signs of Strangles or been in contact with an infected property within the past **6 weeks**.
  - Health Monitoring:**
    - Riders must check their horse's **temperature, appetite, and behaviour** in the days leading up to the event.
    - Horses showing **fever, nasal discharge, coughing, or lethargy** must not attend.
  - Communication:**
    - Clubs must share event biosecurity requirements in pre-event information packs and entry conditions.
    - Encourage participants to familiarise themselves with signs of Strangles.
  - Clean Transport & Gear:**
    - Floats, trucks, feed bins, and tack should be disinfected before travel.
    - Avoid transporting horses with unknown health status.
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### 5. Arrival Procedures at Events

- All horses must **check in on arrival** before unloading.
- Health Declarations to be **sighted and collected** by event staff.
- Horses showing any signs of illness must not be permitted to unload and will be directed to return home.

- Maintain records of all horse arrivals, property of origin, and contact details for traceability.
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## 6. On-Ground Biosecurity Practices

1. **Separation of Horses:**
    - Avoid nose-to-nose contact between horses from different properties, if possible.
  2. **No Shared Equipment:**
    - Each horse must have its own water bucket, feed bin, and grooming gear.
    - Communal hoses should not be inserted into buckets—fill from above only.
  3. **Hand Hygiene:**
    - Handwashing or sanitising stations must be available near stabling, canteens, and entry areas.
    - Encourage all participants to sanitise after handling horses.
  4. **Clean Facilities:**
    - Stable and yard areas to be kept clean and free from manure accumulation.
    - Wash bays and shared areas cleaned/disinfected daily at multi-day events.
  5. **Feed and Water Sources:**
    - Use individual feed containers and avoid shared troughs.
    - Dispose of leftover feed and water after use.
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## 7. Education & Awareness

- Promote awareness of Strangles symptoms and prevention through:
    - Website resources and social media posts
    - Event briefings and pre-start announcements
    - Posters displayed around event grounds
  - Encourage reporting of any suspicious symptoms to event officials immediately.
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## 8. Post-Event Procedures

- Clubs should retain **health declarations and attendance records for 8 weeks** after each event.
- Encourage riders to **monitor their horses** for symptoms in the days following the event and report any illness to their club or Pony Club NSW.
- Event organisers to conduct a **post-event hygiene clean-up**, including disinfecting stables, tie-up areas, and wash bays.

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## 9. Club & Zone Responsibilities

Each Club and Zone should:

- Maintain an **Isolation Area** ready to use if a horse becomes unwell during an event.
- Keep disinfectant and cleaning supplies available at all times.
- Nominate a **Biosecurity Officer** for larger events.
- Ensure volunteers and officials are familiar with biosecurity protocols.

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## 10. Communication

- Clear and factual information should be provided in all event correspondence.
- Avoid public naming or identifying individuals or properties in any communications.
- Use official Pony Club NSW channels for updates guided by veterinary and DPI advice.

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## 11. Resources & References

- NSW DPI: *Strangles – Streptococcus equi equi*
- Pony Club NSW Biosecurity Policy
- Pony Club NSW Horse Health Declaration Form
- Australian Veterinary Association Guidelines

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## 12. Summary of Key Prevention Controls

- ✓ Mandatory health declarations for all horses
- ✓ No shared gear or water sources
- ✓ Physical separation between horses if possible
- ✓ Clean and disinfected transport and stables
- ✓ Active participant education and awareness
- ✓ Record-keeping for traceability
- ✓ Immediate exclusion of unwell horses

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Sample of Horse Health Declaration on next page

## Pony Club NSW HORSE HEALTH DECLARATION FORM

**Owner and/or person in charge of horse - Please provide details of both if different** **Date:**

<b>Full name:</b>			
<b>Full address:</b> (residential)	<b>Postcode:</b>		
<b>Phone number:</b>		<b>Mobile number</b>	
<b>Email:</b>			

**Property of Origin of Horse**

<b>Full address: if different to above</b>	<b>Postcode:</b>		
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<b>PIC number:</b>					
Breed	Description/Sex	Microchip No/ Brands	Registered name	Stable Name	Current HeV vaccination date:

Are you stabling horse/s overnight? (Please tick)  Yes  No

**Declaration by owner or person in charge of horse/s**

I, declare that the horse/s named above has/have been in good health, eating normally and not shown signs of illness during the last 3 days leading up to this event. I give my authorisation for the Event committee/TD to call for veterinary inspection of the horse/s named above, should they be showing signs of illness at any time during the course of the event. I agree to pay any veterinary fees incurred as a result of this veterinary examination.

I AGREE TO ENSURE THAT:

1. If required before movement, all horses will be shampooed, rinsed and allowed to dry, and their hooves will be picked clean of all solid material and washed with shampoo.
2. All vehicles and equipment accompanying the horses shall be in a clean condition at the start of travel to the above mentioned event.
3. The information contained in this Horse Health Declaration is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
4. I agree to abide by all conditions and directions of the PCA NSW rules and regulations and Event organisers.
5. I acknowledge that failure to comply with the above may result in refusal of entry to the venue, disqualification or other disciplinary action as decided by PCA NSW Judiciary / Disputes Committee.
6. In the event of horse movement restrictions, each participant will be responsible for the full care, maintenance and cost of their horse including feeding, agistment and veterinary costs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Printed Name Date

**This section for event organizers to complete:** The above horse has undergone a visual check and at this stage is deemed to be fit to enter the venue. If at a later time this horse shows any symptoms which may pose a biosecurity risk this horse will be re-accessed and may be quarantined.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed Printed Name

