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## ABCRA ANIMAL WELFARE CODE - RODEO

The ABCRA supports and adheres to the Australian Rodeo Association's (ARA) Code of Conduct for the Care and Treatment of Rodeo Livestock. Copies of the Code are available through Head Office.

The following are some general rules for guidance but, the ARA Code of Practice is to be read in conjunction with the ABCRA Rodeo Rules.

### CODES OF PRACTICE PERTAINING TO THE USE OF LIVESTOCK

#### **AWC.1. Selection of Stock**

- 1) All animals shall be bovine or equine species.
- 2) All horses used in Rodeo to be sound and healthy and of mature age.
- 3) Dangerously horned stock to be avoided. All bulls used in bull riding events to have their horns tipped to a minimum diameter equivalent to a 20cent piece. If requirements are not met, animal may be removed from competition until requirement met.
- 4) All stock, either bovine or equine, which are used for an Open Riding event, must have the permanent incisor teeth at the time of their use.
- 5) All stock used in roping events to be sound, healthy and strong. Weight to be minimum of 100 kilos and a maximum of 140 kilos. Stock in fat body condition should not be used.
- 6) All Steer wrestling and Team Roping steers to be sound and healthy with minimum weight being 180 kilos and the maximum being 300 kilos. Steer Undecorating steers to be minimum weight of 300 kilos.
- 7) Female stock which are in an obvious pregnant condition must not under any circumstances be used in any Rodeo or Campdrafting event.
- 8) The minimum weight applying to cattle used in riding events is 200kg with a maximum rider weight of 40kg. (This is a legislative requirement under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act)

#### **AWC.2. Assembly of Stock**

- 1) Assembly of stock must be carried out in stock proof yards and all chutes and loading ramps are to be leg proof.
- 2) If animals remain in yards for more than 24 hours before loading or if animals are to travel for 24 hours, feed as well as water should be provided.



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- 3) Shelter from heat, wind and cold is not considered necessary for cattle and horses except in extreme conditions of climate.

### **AWC.3. Care and Treatment of Animals**

- 1) At the completion of unloading stock a representative of the promoting committee to inspect stock and any injured animals to be treated and placed in a situation to relieve stress as soon as practical.
- 2) During each and every event, a representative of the committee will supervise the use of stock to ensure the continued suitability of stock for use during such event.
- 3) No artificial stimulants or drugs to be used unless prescribed by a Veterinary Surgeon.
- 4) Contract cattle used for steer wrestling and roping may be used on no more than three occasions in each day. Non contract cattle used for steer wrestling and roping may be used on no more than two occasions in each day. Cattle used for Campdrafting may be used on no more than one occasion per day excepting Team/Penning/Yard drafting. Non contract bucking animals may be used no more than twice in one day, with the exception of re-rides. Bucking animals owned by contractors approved by the ABCRA may be used no more than four times in one day.
- 5) All bucking horses and bucking bulls used in NSW Rodeos must be supplied by a stock contractor approved by the ABCRA
- 6) Committees must ensure that they have access to a recognised veterinarian (NSW, QLD or WA) or DPI Inspector (QLD), Stock Squad Inspector (QLD) or Department of Agriculture WA Stock Inspector.
- 7) At the completion of each event and prior to the loading of stock for transport to respective return destination all stock will be inspected by a representative of the committee to ensure stock are healthy and sound and suitable for such transportation.
- 8) If available, services of a veterinary surgeon will be procured to provide the humane destruction of any animal which is deemed to be in a state of distress requiring such treatment. If a veterinary surgeon is not available, any competent paramedic and/or stock contractor may be procured to provide such services.

### **AWC.4. Loading and Unloading of Stock**

- 1) Loading facilities should be constructed so that they are not likely to cause injury to animals.
- 2) The ramp should be wide enough to allow for the hips of mature animals, but narrow enough to prevent animals turning around. The inner rails should be smooth with no sharp projections which may injure animals.
- 3) Animals should be loaded in a way that does not cause them injury.
- 4) One standard electric prod only shall be used as little as possible and may be powered by battery or dynamo only.
- 5) Flappers are ideal as they encourage movement in response to sound.



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- 6) The use of sticks, metal piping, wood or heavy leather belts should not be permitted as methods of encouraging stock to move.
- 7) Different animal species i.e. horses and cattle should not mix during transport.
- 8) Loading should be supervised by experienced personnel. Supervisors should ensure that spectators do not interfere with the smooth loading of animals.

### **AWC.5. Humane Treatment of Livestock**

- 1) Animals for all events will be inspected before the draw and no sore, lame, sick or injured animals shall be permitted in the draw at any time. Should an animal become sick or injured between the time it is drawn and the time it is scheduled for competition, that animal shall be withdrawn from competition.
- 2) No animals shall be cruelly prodded or beaten. Standard electric prods shall be used as little as possible and shall only be used by an experienced operator. Only one (1) prodder to be used on any bull or horse in the chutes, on the area of the animal as designated in the Code of Practice. Animals shall only be touched on the hip or shoulder area with the prod. Prod must not be used inside the arena.
- 3) Chutes must be constructed as to prevent injury to stock. Maintenance men shall be stationed at chutes to assist in removal of any animal should it become caught.
- 4) Any animal that becomes excessively excited so that it gets down in the chute repeatedly, or tries repeatedly to jump out of the chute or in any way appears to be in danger of injuring itself should be released immediately.
- 5) No stock shall be confined in vehicles beyond a period of 24 hours without being unloaded, properly fed and watered. When animals are carried in conveyances in which they do have proper food, water, space and opportunity to rest, the provision for unload shall not apply.
- 6) A conveyance must be available and used to remove animals from the arena in case of injury.
- 7) Livestock are to be removed from the arena after completion of contest.
- 8) No small animal or pets allowed in arena where restraint is necessary or subject to injury or attack by another animal.
- 9) No dogs or 'hot shots' will be allowed in the arena at any time during the contests.
- 10) Use of fireworks to frighten animals is prohibited. Should fireworks be used, all livestock must be removed from inside the arena.
- 11) The arena shall be free of holes, rocks and obstacles.
- 12) Weights - refer 'selection of stock'.
- 13) Any contestant, stock contractor, pick up man guilty of mistreatment of livestock, may be fined by the Board of the Association with the fine not to exceed \$500. Contestants will be disqualified for any mistreatment of livestock.
- 14) The Association recognises the R.S.P.C.A., the Animal Welfare Advisory Councils of NSW, QLD and WA and the N.S.W. Animal Welfare League as the sole authorities for the Humane Treatment of Animals in Australia.



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These rules are intended to ensure the humane treatment of rodeo animals and shall be in effect for all ABCRA sanctioned events. No animal shall be treated inhumanely by any member.

### **AWC.6. Contract Stock.**

All stock for Bareback, Bronc Ride, Bull Ride, Steer Wrestling, Rope and Tie, Team Roping and Breakaway Roping must be supplied by approved stock contractors.

### **AWC.7. Stock Numbering.**

All contest stock must be numbered by either ear tag or freeze, fire brand after being tried and proven with a minimum of three runs with paint brand numbering. Failure of contractors in possession of livestock to meet these criteria, will result in \$10 fine per animal. Fine to progressively double. After 3 infringements in one rodeo year (per rodeo), contractor will be suspended.

Animals for all events will be inspected before the draw, and no sore, lame, sick or injured animal, or animal with defective eyesight, shall be permitted in the draw at any time. Should an animal become sick or incapacitated between the time it is drawn and the time it is scheduled to be used in competition, that animal shall not be used in competition and another animal shall be drawn for the contestant.

Committees must ensure that they have access to a recognised veterinarian (NSW, QLD or WA) or DPI inspector (QLD), Stock Squad Inspector (QLD) or Department of Agriculture WA Stock Inspector.

Any injured livestock shall be humanely removed from the arena before continuing the rodeo contest or performance.

No locked rowels, or rowels that will lock on spurs may be used on bareback or saddle bronc horses. Spurs must be dulled. Violation of this rule shall result in a \$100 fine, immediate disqualification and/or expulsion from the ABCRA.

All flank straps to be lined with sheepskin or approved lining. Flank straps shall be placed on the animal so the covered portion is over both flanks and belly of animal. Only stock contractors, or a competent person duly appointed by same, shall be allowed to pull flank straps.

The use of electric prods is restricted to the minimum for effective handling of livestock. Prods may only be used once loading of chutes has occurred on known chute stalling animals. Cattle and horses may only be prodded on the shoulder in this instance, and then only by the stock contractor or his nominee (with contestant consent). Violation of this rule will result in a \$200 fine upon the stock contractor.

### **AWC.8. Arena.**

Chutes must be constructed as to prevent injury to stock. Maintenance men shall be stationed at chutes to assist in removal of any animal shall it be entangled.





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The arena shall be free of holes, rocks and obstacles. The arena surface should be suitable and should also be softened to a minimum depth of approximately 75 mm to provide a shock absorbing surface for bucking and timed event stock. The arena shall be no smaller than the minimum size of 35 metres from bucking chutes to the opposite fence and a minimum of 70 metres from time event box to opposite fence.

No small animals or pets allowed in arena, unless part of a contract act.

Animals must be removed from the arena after the completion of entry in contest, except in the case of steer riding, where used animals may remain if the contractor, or owner of the animals, so requests. Campdrafting cattle may remain if the committee or owner so decides.

### **AWC.9 Rope and Tie**

A neck rope on a contestant's horse must be used in the rope and tie event. The placement of such a neck rope must be in the vicinity from the head, to no more than half-way down the roping horse's neck. Neck rope, rope, reins and jerk line must be adjusted in a manner that will prevent the horses from dragging the calf.

Approved roping devices must be used in rope & tie to avoid abrupt stopping of calves. If a "jerk down" occurs, that contestant involved will be fined \$50 and disqualified. (A jerk down will be designated as a calf coming vertically over backwards with all four feet leaving the ground simultaneously, irrespective of how the calf lands.)

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If animals remain in yards for more than 24 hrs before loading, or if animals are to travel for 24 hrs, feed as well as water, must be provided. Failure to abide by this rule shall subject the stock contractor or person involved to a \$250 fine for first offence and a progressive doubling for offences thereafter.

If a member abuses an animal by any unnecessary non-competitive or competitive action they may be disqualified for the remainder of the rodeo and fined \$100 for the first offence with that fine progressively doubling with each offence thereafter.

All timed event stock shall run through the event chutes and through the arena prior to the start of the contest, where conditions permit.



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### **AWC.12. Stock Status.**

All stock used in open rough stock events must be tried and proven in three novice events before being eligible for open event status.

In the event of stock shortage the stock contractor or rodeo committee shall be fined as follows. First offence of the rodeo year - \$25 for each animal short. Second offence - \$50 for each animal short. Third offence - \$100 for each animal short.

An event representative may declare particular animals unsatisfactory. Upon notification, either written or verbal, the stock contractor or rodeo committee shall eliminate such animal(s) from competition draw. Continued use of said animal(s) after notification shall result in a \$50 fine per competition levied against offending party.

If an animal has been declared unsatisfactory for an event, that animal may not be used for another event without the approval of event representative.

An animal used in the contest events of a ABCRA rodeo may not be used in any other way until after the last time that animal has been used in the contest events of that rodeo. Failure to abide by this rule shall result in \$25 fine per head per competition, levied against the party concerned.

All horses used in roughstock events must have been tried at least once as a bucking animal before being put in the draw.

### **AWC.13. DRUGS and WELFARE POLICY FOR HORSES USED IN RODEO**

The Australian Bushmen's Campdraft & Rodeo Association recognises the importance of sound animal welfare policies, which prevent the use of animals which are not fit for competition. Fitness may be gauged as appropriate physical fitness or lack of suitability for competition due to injury or disease.

The ABCRA recognises that animals used in competition must be treated in a humane manner and that the ABCRA does not condone the ill treatment or abuse of any animals whilst competing at Campdrafts or rodeos.

- 1) The following provisions regarding conduct shall apply to any event whether in competition or practice.
  - a) Inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse in any manner whilst in the arena or on the grounds is prohibited. Inhumane treatment includes, but is not limited to, the following:
    - i) Riding of a crippled, injured or lame animal.
    - ii) Riding of a horse with a health abnormality, which could result in the horse's undue discomfort or distress.
    - iii) Abuse of an animal which includes excessive jerking, spurring, whipping or any other act intended to cause trauma or injury to the animal.
  - b) Any act of abuse or intent to abuse an animal whilst in the Campdraft or Rodeo arena or on the grounds or the vicinity which could also endanger the safety of other persons or animals will not be tolerated and the persons may be subject to disciplinary action.
- 2) If the Campdrafting and Rodeo Committee discovers inhumane treatment or abuse of a horse it may immediately bar the responsible party and horse from further participation from the event. This decision should be based on consultation with a



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veterinary surgeon. In the event that a Veterinary Surgeon is not available then the committee shall consult with the judge(s) of the event before any action is taken under this rule.

- 3) Administration of a drug or drugs while on the grounds or the vicinity of Campdrafting and rodeo grounds, including the arena, practice area or stables is strictly prohibited with following provisos:
  - a) Any horse winning an event may be swabbed. Other horses will be chosen at random before the running of an event and they will be swabbed at the completion of the event. The number chosen will depend on the number of entries in the event.
  - b) All testing will be by blood sample. Entry to any event will be contingent on permission for such blood samples to be obtained. The blood test will be an accurate determination of drug levels in the blood stream (not a screening test). A registered drug-testing laboratory will perform the test. Blood samples will only be taken by veterinarians using tamper proof sample kits supplied by the testing laboratory.
  - c) A veterinarian must gazette all drugs that he has prescribed and administered to a horse up to 10 days prior to competition. This information must include ***a statement that the horse is fit for competition, the reason the drug has been given, the drug administered, the dose, the route of administration and the date and time that the last dose of the drug was administered.*** All of these conditions are mandatory. Any horse found to have a positive swab in the absence of a veterinarian's certificate will be reported to the governing Associations Drug Committee.
  - d) The result of drug tests will be reported to the governing Associations Drug Committee who on advice from the testing laboratory will determine whether any offence has been committed and what penalty will be imposed. Drug levels that are not high enough to have influenced the performance of the horse will not attract any penalty. These levels will be taken from internationally published data. All results of negative tests will be destroyed.
  - e) The cost of these tests will be borne by the governing Associations except where such a test is positive in which case the cost will be borne by the Owner. In the event that a committee discovers or has a complaint made to them regarding inhumane treatment, abuse or any drug administration not in accordance with the above rules, the governing Associations shall be notified and a hearing to consider disciplinary action against the responsible party (s) shall be scheduled.