

# **SAFETY & RISK HANDOUT FOR DRESSAGE CLUBS**

## **REPORTING INCIDENTS- BE PREPARED**

- If a severe injury happens get medical help immediately (ambulance or first aid). Know your location, nearest cross roads, and GPS in case the helicopter is required (longitude, latitude). That can be very important in the event of a medical emergency.
- Make sure you report it to Gow Gates. (see Safety & Risk resource handout).
- Report the incident within 24 hours to DNSW. The best contacts are [dnsw.admin@equestrian.org.au](mailto:dnsw.admin@equestrian.org.au) and [toni.venhaus@bigpond.com](mailto:toni.venhaus@bigpond.com). Tracey and Toni will ensure that ENSW and EA are informed of the incident in a timely manner.
- Even if the incident is not severe it is a good idea to DNSW know. Lessons can be shared amongst clubs for continuous improvement of the sport in order to prevent similar incidents occurring in future.

## **THINK ABOUT PREPARING A RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP)**

- Check out CCDA's RMP. It's good and they are happy for you to copy it. Be sure to include any obvious hazards particular to your event in there (such as keeping the gate closed on a busy road, ensuring neighbouring alpacas are locked up out of view of competition horses, electrical cables not put where horses can stand on them, star posts having caps, etc).
- Update it or at least review it every 12 months at your AGM.
- Consider having a rider safety rep nominated for every event. Post this person's name on the noticeboard. That way if any rider is concerned about a safety issue they have a safe / confidential reporting pathway. At very least be aware that DNSW have a rider rep on their committee. Refer to their website.

## **USE THE GOW GATES INFORMATION – IT'S FREE!**

- Display their Safety Equestrian Poster on your noticeboard.
- Report any incidents to them asap.
- Use their iphone App or their event day checklist at the start of every event (or have your own).
- See the Safety & Risk Resource handout for where to get these items.

## **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ADEQUATE FIRST AID**

- A trained first aid company on the day (such as St John Ambulance) or at very least a first aid kit and someone trained in first aid.

## **TRAIN YOUR COMMITTEE TO ACT**

- Don't tolerate cruelty to animals by competitors. Speak up. Let EA or DNSW know. Welfare of the horse is important.