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**TO: Member Organisations & Equestrian Competitors**  
**FROM: RAS Executive**  
**DATE: 22 July 2017**  
**SUBJECT: SAFETY HELMETS & COMPLIANCE**  
**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

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The passing of the recent remit regarding the wearing of approved safety helmets has raised some questions from both competitors and the A&P Shows as to whether there is any exemption period, how will compliance be monitored, how will people know about this and so on.

The Executive have reviewed the remit, and the RAS Constitution. The Constitution is explicit in saying that any remits passed take effect immediately. The RAS Executive do have the power to withdraw any remit on legal reasons however, this particular remit does not fit that category. In fact, the matter of wearing approved safety helmets is coming in to line with legal regulations of other equestrian bodies (NZ Pony Club, ESNZ). The RAS signalled in 2016 they were following the lead of ESNZ and Pony Club and looking at the safety helmet issue. They put forward a remit that was made available on the RAS website on the 12 April 2017.

The RAS Executive understand some competitors feel the need to purchase compliant helmets, when they already have a helmet, may cause a financial strain. This is regrettable. However, a matter of Health & Safety cannot be put on hold for financial considerations, especially when a remit was passed by a large majority of the member organisations (69 For, 19 Against) recognising the need for Health & Safety reasons.

There has also been the question raised, how will competitors get to know about this, as well as people knowing what is compliant and what is isn't. Having consistent standards across the three major equestrian organisations will help considerably. RAS will be following the lead of the NZ Pony Club and ESNZ, and their compliant helmets, and utilising the same red tags. The tags have already been purchased, at the cost of the RAS, and arrangements have been made so Showing Competitors can utilise the ESNZ tagging days to get their helmets tagged. Some A&P Shows and Measuring Stands are also taking the initiative and holding opportunities for competitors to get their helmets tagged. The RAS will work with the Measuring Stands and A&P Shows to check on the willingness of the individual entities to offer further services in the future.

How do we get the word out there to the competitors so no competitor is disadvantaged by not knowing about this? It is vital if you are an A&P Association put the remit ruling in your schedule and catalogue, share this with your equestrian membership, ask them to share the link with their equestrian friends, post on Facebook pages and again ask them to share the post. Equally if this comes to the attention of you as a competitor, share it with your network and circle of friends, ask the local Pony Club to share it and so on.

Regarding the Clydesdale Society - the Clydesdale Society and the RAS Executive are working together to resolve some specific challenges in applying the rule as passed to this section.

See over the page for pertinent information, links and a question and answer session.

Questions:

1. Will there be any exemptions to the rule of all riders and harness drivers having to wear approved safety helmets, other than any resolution to the Clydesdale specific situation. **No**
2. Which helmets are compliant? **See diagram at bottom of page. Suggest all shows print this off and laminate it and put in each section box at the A&P Show so officials have a ready reference.**
3. How will A&P Show personnel (ring stewards, judges, equestrian convenors) know that a helmet is compliant? **It should have a red tag. This should be checked before the person enters the show ring.**
4. What should an A&P Show/Event equestrian personnel do if a competitor's helmet does not have a red tag? **Utilise the safety checking standard guide and check compliance. If it complies, advise competitor they must get it tagged immediately after the Show. If it does not comply the competitor should be asked to leave the ring.**
5. What should an A&P Show/Event do if a complaint is made about a person not wearing a compliant helmet? **If the above steps have been followed it should not be a problem, and there should be no cause for a complaint. However, if a mistake has been made, then steps need to be taken at that time to check the helmet – if it is found the helmet does not comply, then the complaint will need to be upheld. This would result in return of prize money and ribbons, and if necessary adjustment of placings for other parties.**
6. How will people find out what helmets are compliant and the fact they must wear them if competing at A&P shows/Events? **We all need to take responsibility for this and share this memo far and wide. RAS Head Office will put it on their website and will make repeated Facebook posts, asking all parties to share the post where possible.**
7. How do you get your helmet tagged? **Check out the link on the ESNZ website for all tagging days and opportunities -**  
<http://www.nzequestrian.org.nz/media/13678/helmet-tagging-schedule-9.pdf>  
 Competitors remember to thank the people tagging the helmets. They are volunteers and taking their time to help the equestrian sport and keep everyone safe. If your helmet is not checked and tagged you run the risk of not being able to compete at your A&P Show. **PLEASE GET YOUR HELMET TAGGED.**

RED TAG	
Compulsory from 1 August 2017	
HELMET STANDARD	SAFETY MARK
AS/NZS 3838 (1998, 2003 or 2006)	
VG1	
ASTM-F1163-04 or F1163-15	
PAS015:1998 or 2011	
Snell E2001	

**BE SAFE, NOT SORRY**

**GET YOUR HELMET TAGGED**

**REMEMBER A&P PEOPLE ARE VOLUNTEERS AND WANT YOU TO BE SAFE**

**SHARE THIS MESSAGE**

**SHARE THIS MESSAGE**

**P.S SHARE THIS MESSAGE.**