

ROYAL A&P SOCIETY New Zealand

YELLOW CARD

Points to follow before/when issuing a Yellow Card

- a) Consider the situation – can it be handled in another way? For example - a quiet word to the person advising their behavior is inappropriate and ask them to stop, and if applicable, to apologise.
- b) Do not rely on hearsay – if a yellow card is to be issued – a statement of the incident should be written up and signed by the person/people who witnessed the situation. This can then be kept on file should the person reject the Yellow Card and RAS Head Office require more details
- c) Abusive behaviour over a telephone is a difficult one as it becomes one person's version versus the other person's version to which there may be no witnesses. Unless the conversation has been recorded, and can be used as evidence, this is a situation where the issuing of a yellow card needs to be considered carefully.
- d) If issuing a yellow card at the time of the event, always have two people present the yellow card (one presenting, one support/witness). Ideally the card should be presented discretely and in a non-threatening manner. Request the PR to sign to say they have received it. This does not mean they have accepted it (they still have their 10 days as outlined below). If they refuse to sign, the RAS Resolution Process is automatically initiated. It would be wise to add a note to the show office file if they refuse to accept the YWC and the information about what they need to do, in case it needs to be referenced to later.
- e) If there is not the opportunity to deal with the matter at the show, deal with it immediately afterwards. You have 10 days to issue after the event, and this needs to be done by registered mail. Equally the PR also must have 10 days to respond.
- f) The new format of the Yellow Card (booklet with carbonated copy) is to ensure that all parties have a copy of the applicable information – original to PR, 2nd copy RAS Head Office, 3rd copy retained by Show/Event/Measuring Stand). The full original page needs to be given to the PR - it is to ensure the PR has the necessary information to make an informed decision about accepting or rejecting the Yellow Card, and should they wish to reject, what procedure they need to follow.
- g) When you send the YWC (2nd copy) to RAS Head Office, please also include any supporting information – witness statement, notes to file etc.

Royal Agricultural Society of NZ Yellow Warning Card System

The following outlines the rules and implementation of the RAS Yellow Warning Card (YWC) System.

1. The President of the Show/Show Official/Committee Member and/or the Chief Steward of the Section/Stand may issue a yellow warning card instead of fines or other penalties applicable as indicated in the RAS affiliated Show or Event own Rules and Regulations, to the Person Responsible (PR) – (see definition of PR at conclusion) in the following instances:
 - i. Abuse of animals in any form as provided for
 - a. Equine - Rule 52 (RAS Equestrian Competitors & Judges Rule Book & Guidelines) and Article 142 (FEI General Regulations)
 - b. Dairy – as per the RAS Showing Rules & Regulations for Dairy Cattle.
 - c. Any other livestock including equine and dairy – as per rule 3 under Health & Safety, RAS Showing Rules & Regulations.
 - ii. Inappropriate behavior towards show officials, judges, fellow competitors or any other third party connected with the RAS affiliated Show/Event, including registered Measuring Stands and their grounds, bringing the A&P movement into disrepute, or cases which are of a less serious nature to the above in accordance with the Conduct of Members, Owners, Lessees, Competitors and/or

Exhibitors as provided.

- a. Equine – refer to RAS Equestrian Competitors and Judges Rulebook
- b. All Persons Responsible, including equestrian – refer to rule 8 under Disruptive or Unacceptable Behaviour, RAS Showing Rules or Regulations
- c. Rule 5.4 b) and 9.3 of the RAS Constitution.

Inappropriate behaviour constitutes any behaviour deemed by the President of the Show/Show Official/Committee Member and/or the Chief Measuring Steward of the Section/Stand involved that brings the A&P movement into disrepute including but not limited to inappropriate language, swearing, cheating or deliberately attempting to work outside of the generally accepted show rules and protocols. This also extends to inappropriate written communication via Facebook, twitter, text, on-line forums and the like

2. A YWC may be issued at the time of the offence or within 10 days of the offence
 - a) A yellow warning card may be delivered to the PR by hand if the matter is dealt with at the time of the offence. It is advisable that the person who is presenting the YWC has a witness. Any presentation of a YWC should be done as discretely as possible and both the presenter and witness need to sign the form. The PR will also be asked to sign as receipt of the YWC only; they still have the option to reject it within 10 days of the show/event/measuring stand. If they refuse to sign, it will be taken they have rejected it and the RAS Resolution Process will automatically be implemented.
 - b) If a yellow warning card is delivered by registered mail to the PR after the Show/Event or registered Measuring Stand and their grounds to which the yellow carding card relates, this must be done within 10 days of the event/show/measuring stand giving rise to the incident.
3. If the PR accepts a yellow warning card, no other penalty recorded in the RAS Bylaws or Rules & Regulations will be imposed against the Person Responsible in respect of the actions for which the yellow warning card was issued with the exception the Show/Event may reserve the right to withhold prize money and ribbon, or request the return of both.
4. A PR may reject a Yellow Warning Card within 10 days of having received it. They can do this by notifying RAS Head Office by email (enquiries@ras.org.nz) or by registered mail (PO Box 54, Woodend 7641). At the time of notifying RAS Head Office they are rejecting the Yellow Warning Card, the PR must note the show/event/measuring stand and date, and include a reason why they are rejecting the Yellow Warning Card. At that time the matter will follow the RAS Resolution Procedure.
5. **Immediately after issuing a yellow warning card, the Show/Event/Measuring Official concerned shall forward the second copy of the yellow warning card to RAS Head Office along with any notes or witness statements. The RAS will support this by maintaining a register of yellow warning cards and record such details on that register.**
6. If a person receives a second yellow warning card at the same or at any other Show/Event/ registered Measuring Stand and their grounds within 12 months of the first yellow warning card being issued to that person, the case shall be follow the RAS Resolution Procedure. In deciding the penalty to be imposed on the Person Responsible the RAS Resolution Committee will take into consideration whether the offence for which the first yellow warning card was issued is similar to the offence causing the second yellow warning card to be issued to the same person within 12 months of the first.
7. Notwithstanding this warning card system, cases of repetition in the same type of offence within two years from the first offence shall be penalised by up to the maximum penalty foreseen for the offence in question.
8. Any rejected YWC that is upheld through the RAS Resolution Process is publicly notified.

TIME OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS

1. Decisions against which there cannot be an appeal shall be effective from the date of the notification to the persons or bodies concerned.
2. Decisions to which the parties concerned have formally renounced their right of appeal, shall become effective on the date when the renunciation reaches the RAS.
3. Decisions taken by *President of the Show/Show Official/Committee Member/Chief Measuring Steward OR Disputes, Protests or Hearing Committee* shall be effective from the moment the time limit for lodging an appeal has expired.

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Definition of Person Responsible

– the person committing the offence whether it be abuse of animal or inappropriate behavior. In the case of the specific dairy cattle rules, the PR will be as referred to in those rules.