



TRNT BOARD POLICY NO: 014

Date Introduced: 29 April 2010

Date Varied: 1 March 2024

RACING IN HOT WEATHER

The NT stewards will consider the following policy when conducting meetings in the NT.

On days when the actual temperature is higher than normal and especially if it is combined with high humidity the stewards should take additional steps to ensure the safety of riders and horses.

It is unrealistic to set an actual temperature or level of humidity or combination of the two as a temperature of 39 degrees with low humidity can be far more acceptable than 33 degrees with very high humidity. There are other factors which should be considered as well such as whether the day is particularly hot/humid in comparison to the days leading up. That is to say that if there was a period of similar weather leading up to the raceday horses and riders may well be acclimatised and not feel it's effects as much as if it was following a period of cool weather.

Whilst stewards should always be vigilant to ensure that horses and riders are not adversely effected by the heat on days where it is considered hotter/more humid than normal they must be additionally vigilant.

On such days the veterinarian should inspect horses prior to racing to ensure that they are not stressed by the conditions. If it is considered that any horse is feeling the effects, then they should be withdrawn. All horses are inspected by the veterinarian subsequent to racing however when the weather is hot special attention should be paid to whether horses are unduly stressed. If the veterinarian is of the opinion that horses are returning stressed by the weather conditions, consideration should be given to stop racing.

Measures that are currently in place for all race days include:

- Fans in each race day stall.
- Ice cooled water connected to hosing bays.
- Ice cooled water accessible in saddling enclosure.
- Designated cooling stalls for post race recovery (Alice Springs).
- Second air conditioned swab box for post race recovery (Darwin).
- Insulated roofing in race day stalls (Darwin).
- Reduced times for parading thoroughbreds in the saddling enclosure prior to and after competing (on hot/humid days).

Hot/humid conditions may also have an adverse effect on jockeys and this should be monitored by the stewards and medical attendants. Ice vests and the likes are useful aides for jockeys to use in these conditions to combat the effects of the heat. Also cold water should be provided at the start so that they can have a drink if they wish. If any jockey becomes unwell due to the hot/humid conditions they should be attended to by the medical staff and replaced for all their rides on that day. Stewards should then carefully monitor all other riders and continue to monitor whether the conditions are such that racing should cease for the day.