



Youth Protection Policy

Executive Summary

This is summary of the Youth Protection Policy. For a detailed explanation of the terms and references in this summary please refer to the policy document.

Purpose of the Youth Protection Policy

The purpose of the Youth Protection Policy (YPP) is to protect Holstein Australia (HA) and youth participants involved in HA events by providing a comprehensive and practical set of guidelines, procedures and rules for:

- Responsible participation
- HA to act in accordance with its rules and bylaws, commonwealth, state and territory Working with Children (WWC) legislation as well as recommendations and guidelines from lawyers, insurers & other relevant agencies
- Appropriate response, recording and reporting regarding and/or relating to any/all serious allegations of incidents of abuse, injury or harm involving youth.

The primary objective of the YPP is to provide a safe and supportive environment for youth participants involved in HA activities and events.

The policy outlines the procedures that support HA's commitment to eliminating discrimination, harassment, child abuse and other forms of inappropriate behaviour from our activities. HA will take disciplinary action against any person or organisation found to be in breach of this policy.

Introduction and Scope

The YPP is determined by the Board; reviewed and updated at the Federal AGM. The scope of this policy is to protect participants, including youth, in events that have been sanctioned, organised and run by HA members at national, state and sub branch level. This policy does not intend to replace the policies, terms or conditions for those activities and events (or use of venues for those events) that HA does not have direct responsibility or liability.

Who this Policy Applies to

The YPP applies to people participating in or representing HA in HA events including board members, state and sub branch committee members, members including honorary and resigned, employees, youth event co-ordinators, officials, participating adults, youth and spectators or any other individual, group or organisation involved with an HA youth event.

HA state and sub branches are required to adopt and implement this policy and to provide proof to HA of approval of this policy by the relevant board in accordance with its own constitution. HA state and sub branches must also undertake to ensure that their individual members are bound by this policy and are made aware of this policy and what it says.

What this Policy provides.

This policy provides a set of responsibilities, guidelines, procedures and rules for the Association and individuals who participate in HA youth events including:

- Codes of conduct and expected behaviours
- Position statements on child protection, anti-discrimination, harassment and the reporting of allegations of child abuse or harm
- Identifies HA members who have the responsibility to ensure the YPP is adhered to.
- Procedures to follow in the event of a policy breach including complaints and disciplinary measures
- Working with Children Checks and screening requirements that comply with legislation
- Rules for event participation
- Adult declarations and event entry forms that protect both HA and participating individuals

Working With Children legislation

Child protection means keeping children safe from abuse or harm. Child abuse is illegal, and all states and territories have their own systems and laws and legislation that cover screening and/or the reporting and investigation of cases of child abuse. It also means avoiding putting children into dangerous or potentially harmful situations.

Working with Children Check (WWCC) laws operating in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria and South Australia aim to prevent people who pose a risk from working with children as paid employees or volunteers (paid or unpaid). The ACT and Tasmania do not have WWCC but do require screening of people who work with children.

This policy recommends that HA event coordinators complete and maintain an up-to-date WWCC and that sub branch Presidents and Secretaries assume the role of an HA event coordinator.

Rules of Event Participation

The YPP aims to be specific when it comes to setting rules about protecting young participants in HA events that involve animals. The policy also explains what state and sub branch responsibilities are in ensuring that the event they are running does not contravene WWCC legislation.

In summary, the rules of event participation for youth handler and animal age categories are:

Age Group 1:

Youth Handlers: under 8 years

Animal: less than 12 months old

MUST be accompanied and controlled by a Parent/Guardian/Carer in the competition/presentation arena/ring.

Age Group 2:

Youth Handlers: over 8 and under 11 years

Animal: less than 12 months old

Parent/Guardian/Carer may (or may not) choose to accompany the Youth-Handler in the competition/presentation arena/ring.

Age Group 3:

Youth Handlers: over 11 and under 15 years

Animal: less than 20 months old.

Youth handler and Parent/Guardian/Carer may choose if accompaniment is required in the competition/presentation arena/ring.

Age Group 4:

Youth Handlers: 15 years and Over

Animal: Any age

Youth handlers ARE NOT to be accompanied in the competition/presentation arena/ring.

Youth handlers between 15 and 18 require parent/guardian/carer permission to compete in this age group.

Practical application – what it means for members

Apart from complying with the YPP theoretically, there are now practical implications for members. Some of these practises may already occur such as entry form distribution and collection.

Sub branches responsibilities:

- Nominate at least one Youth Event Coordinator (or designated alternative) at their sub branch AGM for 12 months. (These can be President or Secretary or even non-members, for example)
- Ensure Youth Event Co-ordinators (or designated alternative) are aware of the Youth Protection Policy
- Ensure that sub branch youth events are conducted within the terms of the policy
- Ensure at least one youth event coordinator (or designated alternative) attends each youth event.

Youth event coordinators are responsible for:

- Coordinating HA youth events, HA event participating adults, HA youth event participants, HA event officials, HA event spectators and the related HA event paperwork and forms.
- The distribution and collection of entry forms and declarations prior to event commencing. *Note: The sub branch Secretary may already perform this task which is why it might be practical for the Secretary to be one of the Youth Event Co-ordinators.*
- Ensuring that on the day of the HA youth event, each animal entered in the Youth Event shall be deemed as being:
 - i) female
 - ii) off-heat /out-of-season
 - iii) matched to the Youth Handler age group.

Members and participants, regardless of age are responsible for

- obtaining, completing and returning entry forms and declarations prior to event commencing, noting in particular if they are accompanying a youth handler and
- ensuring that any animals provided complies with eligibility for participation and youth handler age categories.