

ANNEX 7

MINIMUM STANDARD OF MEDICAL CARE

Rider Identity

It is compulsory that riders, during the Cross-Country Test, carry visibly on their person a medical card including any relevant medical history of serious illness, injury (particularly to the head), tetanus immunity status, drug allergies, current medication and blood group. Organising Committees need to collect all riders' Medical cards upon their arrival at the event. These cards must then be checked by the Organising Committee's Medical Officer. It is recommended that a copy be kept during the event by the OC Secretariat. Each rider should also provide the contact numbers of two persons close to kin at this time.

Medical Fitness

In the event of a fall in which a competitor is apparently injured or concussed, such that he cannot immediately resume riding his horse, he must be examined by an official medical officer, who will advise the Ground Jury whether in his opinion the competitor is fit to continue.

In such circumstances, the time during which the competitor is held and examined shall be recorded and deducted from his total time for the test concerned if he is permitted to continue.

Medical Arrangement in case of Accidents

The provision of medical cover must be for the whole duration of the competition and must include the training areas, stables and on-site accommodation. First aid must also be provided for spectators.

At least during the Cross-Country and Jumping Test, full specialist trauma and resuscitation skills, equipment and vehicles must be available on site; the latter should have the capability of rapid deployment to any part of the arena or course in adverse conditions. Radio communication should be made available to alert the emergency services instantly and a telephone line reserved for immediate communication with the designated accident and emergency hospital.

The Cross-Country Test will require several qualified doctors experienced in dealing with trauma, the number depending on the layout of the courses and the accessibility of the site. However, there must be at least one doctor present throughout all the tests.

A Chief Medical Officer, suitably experienced and with local knowledge must be appointed well in advance, to act in liaison with the Organising Committee and the emergency services for the adequate provision of medical resources.

A Medical Centre should be established on site for the treatment of minor ailments and for the observation and initial treatment of serious injuries or illness. Rapid routes for access and departure must be prepared and safeguarded for the expeditious transfer of the seriously injured to hospital. Depending on the access to the site and the distance to hospital, helicopter evacuation may be required. A suitable area adjacent to the medical centre should be provided. The provision of a suitably equipped helicopter is in any case recommended.