



**EQUESTRIAN SPORTS  
NEW ZEALAND**

## **Strengthen & Adapt update**

Connecting the equestrian system  
for a horse and human centred  
future.



# Background to Strengthen & Adapt

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The NZ Strengthen and Adapt project is a government response to COVID-19 to provide sports organisations and networks with the opportunity to strengthen their capability and capacity, post-pandemic, and create a better future for those who take part. It has been rolled out across New Zealand to cover many sport codes including Equestrian Sports.

In recognition that the Equestrian landscape is very broad in New Zealand, with a huge number of New Zealanders connecting with horses at some stage in their lives, and the lucky ones getting to explore the sport further, the aim was to consult with as many people as possible, both members and non-members of Equestrian Sport New Zealand.

Phase One of Strengthen & Adapt included a survey in September 2022, with 1,600 responses.

Phase Two included 22 in-person consultation workshops ( our roadshows ), and 2 online workshops.

Phase One identified a series of themes that our Equestrian Community wished us to ‘keep’, ‘stop’ and ‘start’.

# One Equestrian Voice



One Equestrian Voice – Focus	Action
<p>Advocate for and support important concepts : Facilities – access and quality of all facilities (multi-use, indoor arena’s, bridleways, roadside riding).</p>	<p>With an existing Facilities review being undertaken, we will connect into this work and help guide and shape it to support this identified priority. Facilities review currently in action – continued work in this space for 2024.</p>
<p>Establishment of a cross discipline national &amp; regional leadership groups to: Assess the potential to bring Equestrian Sports together and the options to improve existing structures.</p>	<p>Bring Discipline Boards together to explore how we can work more effectively together and ensure a culture that supports the “One Voice” identified priority. Regional Connectivity and collaboration – work with an identified regional collective of equine organizations in partnership with councils and Regional Sport Trust to ‘test and learn’ what a regional “One Voice” can do to drive quality equine experiences and competitions.</p>

# Supporting Riders to Ride



Supporting Rider to Ride – Focus	Action
Review of Membership Model with a focus on – simplification, flexibility, and value. Options could include eg a national approach to flexi starts, a community membership for non-competitive riders.	2024 planning to action a first step change eg more flexible membership options or payment methods. Longer term 2025 planning to investigate options for a multi tiered membership model. Potential for a variety of membership options to better serve a variety of riders from recreational to competitive to elite. Potential for varying benefits across different membership options.
Delivery of Events that enhance the opportunity to ride. Options could include eg Multi discipline events calendar, recreational riding events and activities ( lower heights, less competitive )	Pilot a multi discipline event, modelled on interschools but aimed at adults / recreational / grassroots riders.

# Strengthening the System

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Strengthening the System – Focus	Action
Promoting positive attitudes/inclusive culture: Change The Rein plus other concept	Support and further develop CTR campaign. Investigate potential for building and encouraging positive attitudes and culture through positive role models and recognition schemes.
Coordinated Volunteer Support eg: succession planning, recruitment resources ( job descriptions),training programs, celebration and recognition of volunteers.	Development of a volunteer pathway and training system as a pilot. Model developed encouraging volunteers of all ages to train and take on roles.

# Social License to Operate



## One Voice Equine Aotearoa - Charter

Equine welfare involves the physical, psychological, social and environmental wellbeing of the horse. All horses involved in sport and leisure activities should be able to live a good life. One Voice Equine Aotearoa requires all those involved in sport and recreation involving horses adhere to their organisation's Code of Conduct, and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount by pledging to the One Voice Equine Aotearoa Charter.

1. We understand that it is a privilege to involve horses in sport, racing and leisure and this comes with responsibilities to the horse.
2. We commit to respecting that horses are sentient beings with individual personalities. I will ensure the horse's welfare is always my priority.
3. We undertake to continually develop my understanding of horse behaviour and equine welfare needs, and to proactively use this knowledge to provide a life for horses which I am involved with that is positive and away from anything which might be harmful or negative.

Name

Signature



# Insurance



## **Insurance:**

- ESNZ members and affiliated member groups (unincorporated) have access to the ESNZ public and statutory liability cover
- Incorporated groups are considered separate legal entities so must have their own insurance cover
- Aon Insurance offers this cover and can provide premium benefits under a group policy
- Keen to hear from those who wish to do this – a survey will come out shortly to Incorporated groups



## Key facts:

- The new Act is now in place.
- We have until April 2026 to comply.
- Re-registering under the Act has some key requirements:
  - A relevant constitution
  - At least 10 members
  - Compliance with relevant financial reporting standards set by XRB
  - Financial reporting standards are tiered according to expenditure levels



# Incorporated Societies Act



## What has happened so far:

- The ESNZ Constitution was updated to be compliant and was approved at the 2023 AGA
- This has now been applied as a rule change with Incorporated Societies
- **Note we have not yet re-registered under the Act**
- Liaised with Sport NZ – tools have been developed to support all those who do need to register under Act
- This is not “one size fits all”.
- Equestrian does not have the same tiered club structure of other sports.



## **Financial reporting compliance:**

- Key consideration is how we best set up to meet the new financial reporting standards – related party concept is key
- Legal advice sought – currently all Area Groups and OCs would be considered “related parties”
- 3 possible options:
  - All Area Groups/OCs incorporate individually
  - ESNZ retains option for small groups to stay unincorporated but that would likely require full financial consolidation
  - Incorporation happens at a regional level

# Incorporated Societies Act



## What next:

- Seeking input from auditors/XRB
- Potential working group across sector to consider structure options and practical implications
- Questions?