



Concussion Policy

Sports Australia issued an updated Concussion in Sport Australia Position Statement in early 2019.

The key message is:

“if in doubt, sit them out”.

The Australian Carriage Driving Society has adopted this key message.

The position of the ACDS is as follows:

- Concussion can occur in a number of ways including a person hitting their head, a shock through the spinal system of the body, etc.
- For the purpose of this Policy, concussion includes a person on a carriage hitting their head, being thrown from a moving carriage or jumping off a carriage to avoid an incident. It does not include a person stepping off a moving carriage.
- If a person on a carriage (driver or groom) is suspected of having a concussion, first aid principles still apply.
- If there is a medical practitioner (doctor or paramedic) on site whose attendance has been arranged by the organising committee of the activity, the person with suspected concussion should be reviewed by the medical practitioner to determine if they have suffered concussion.
- If no medical practitioner is on-site, the person is assumed to have suffered concussion.
- This Policy applies to all ACDS sanctioned activities at Federal, State or Club level.
- It is expected that this Policy will be self-regulating however an official at an activity shall be required to enforce this Policy if the person who has suffered concussion or assumed concussion does not voluntarily stand down from carriage driving activities.
- If the person is assessed by the medical practitioner to have concussion or is assumed to have concussion, the person is immediately stood down from all activities and will stay stood down for 7 days (14 days if 18 years and under), except if a medical clearance is obtained to return to the sport.
- ACDS Incident reporting mechanism is to be used and notification is immediate.