NZTR DIRECTIVE FOR STRANGLES DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Effective Date: 25 November 2026

This Directive relates to all Thoroughbred breeding, training, trialling and racing activities. This Directive replaces all directives relating to Strangles Disease Management issued by NZTR previously. **This Directive replaces prior versions of the Directive initially released on 8 July 2026.**

Purpose

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) has issued this Directive to reduce the risk of Strangles spreading within the Thoroughbred racing industry.

Enforceability

This Directive is binding on all Trainers, Breeders, licensed persons, owners, and all other persons (including agistment operators, pre-trainers and other service providers) to whom the equine welfare provisions of the Rules of Racing apply. The possible consequences of a failure to adhere to this Directive are detailed in Section 3 of this Directive.

1. Definitions

1.1 For the purpose of this Directive:

Horse means any horse including a horse used as a travelling companion horse or a Clerk of Course horse.

Meeting means a Race or Trial meeting and includes Jump Outs that are timed over set distances.

Strangles means the equine disease caused by *Streptococcus equi* subsp. *equi*.

1.2 Any other term used in this Directive shall have the meaning given to it in the Rules of Racing unless the context requires otherwise.

2. Obligations

2.1 *Disease control when Strangles is confirmed*

Notification of Strangles cases must be made by email to the RIB Veterinary Services Manager via: vet@rib.org.nz. If Strangles is confirmed by veterinary diagnosis or laboratory testing in any horse in the care of a Trainer, Breeder, Licensed Person, pre-trainer, agistment operator or other service provider or any other person to whom the Rules apply, the person must advise the RIB Veterinary Services Manager (email: vet@rib.org.nz) immediately upon confirmed diagnosis.

All further training and stable movements must be halted immediately and the stable premise placed in biosecurity restrictions whilst further testing is conducted and the attending veterinarian and the RIB Veterinary Services Manager (or their delegate) jointly assess and confirm biosecurity measures that are necessary to minimise the risk of further transmission of Strangles. Subsequent movement of horses must be coordinated under the direction of the RIB Veterinary Services Manager.

The person must comply with all instructions or directions issued by NZTR or the Racing Integrity Board (RIB) concerning testing, isolation, movement restrictions or other disease control measures.

Biosecurity restrictions may be lifted or eased by the RIB Veterinary Services Manager if satisfied that the affected horse has (or horses have) been isolated and managed with evidenced effective stable biosecurity measures under veterinary guidance and RIB approved clearance testing protocols have been undertaken. If permission is granted for biosecurity restrictions to be lifted or eased, this may allow resumption of training, racing, breeding or other usual activities.

A full clearance may be issued by the RIB Veterinary Services Manager following consideration of written advice from the attending veterinarian and negative test results obtained in accordance with the RIB-approved clearance testing protocol. Once full clearance is issued, the stable may be permitted to resume training and racing activities, subject to the requirements of this Directive and any additional conditions or biosecurity measures imposed by the RIB Veterinary Services Manager.

2.2 *Health monitoring*

The Trainer must monitor all horses under their control for signs of illness. A horse must not race, train or trial if it appears to be unwell, with symptoms including but not limited to:

- fever;
- nasal discharge;
- coughing; or
- enlarged lymph nodes.

3. Compliance

Failure to adhere to this Directive (and the requirements set out above) constitutes a breach of the Rules of Racing (Rule 801 - Serious Racing Offences).

Providing false or misleading information in any declaration or record required under this Directive may constitute a Serious Racing Offence.

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