1. INTRODUCTION

A 'jogger' is defined as any moving vehicle, either directly powered by a motor, or a trailer pulled by another motorised vehicle, used for the purpose of exercising horses. Joggers may be used to exercise Standardbred horses under the directions of this policy.

Inappropriate or unsafe use of joggers can potentially result in both animal welfare and human occupational health and safety issues and as such any risks should be mitigated by a policy to guide the safe use of joggers.

In respect of exercising horses, the inappropriate or unsafe use of joggers may potentially lead to breaches of the Animal Welfare Act 2002, Tasracing's Code of Practice for Racehorse Welfare and the Rules of Racing. Under section 19(3) (c) of the Animal Welfare Act, a person in charge of an animal is cruel to an animal if the animal is *"worked, driven, ridden or otherwise used when it is not fit to be so used or has been over used; or if the animal is used in a manner that causes, or is likely to cause, it unnecessary harm."*

In addition, the training of racehorses necessitates that a horse be regularly driven during exercise, in order to accustom the horse to bridle, cart and/or driver to ensure that when the horse is entered to trial or race it can be safely driven in any trial or race. Failure to ensure that any horse is regularly accustomed to being driven presents an occupational health and safety concern for drivers on race day. Thus, the use of jogger's for exercising horses is intended to be confined to slow speed exercise only as they are not intended to be a substitute for the driving of horses during higher speed exercise as part of any race preparation.

2. OBJECTIVE

This policy aims to provide guidelines and recommendations to harness racing participants in Tasmania regarding the safe and acceptable use of motorised vehicles and joggers for the training of Standardbreds at Carrick Park and King Island Tracks, Tasmania.

3. POLICY

Horses must not be tied to, led off or contained within, a moving vehicle, trailer or jogger for the purposes of exercise or any other reason where the horse's feet are in contact with the ground unless all of the following conditions are met;

3.1. Equipment and its maintenance

3.1.1. Ensure vehicle, jogger and accessories/attachments are in safe working order before every use. All vehicles must be in roadworthy condition.

3.1.2. Any padding must be proper and sufficient to protect from injury.

3.1.3. Vehicle brakes and steering should be checked and maintained regularly, along with checking tyres and tyre pressure on both the vehicle and jogger.

3.1.4. Hitch attachments should be checked regularly and maintained in good order. An additional chain or other connection must be used to ensure if the jogger becomes loose at the ball hitch it remains connected to the vehicle.

3.1.5. Vehicle engine and exhaust systems should be maintained regularly to minimise potentially harmful emissions being inhaled by horses (including exhaust noise).

3.1.6. Clips and lead ropes used to secure horses to vehicle/jogger must be in safe working order, as should any collars or breakaway/pull back devices used.

3.1.7. There must only be the appropriate number of horses (or less) attached for the design of the particular jogger. Overcrowding should be avoided at all times.

3.2. Introducing young or inexperienced horses to joggers

3.2.1. Care should be taken when introducing young or inexperienced horses to the jogger and any safety equipment such as pull back collars and breakaway devices if deemed necessary.

3.2.2. Consideration should be given to the positioning of each individual horse on the jogger, giving particular thought to the age, capability, experience and personality of each horse.

3.2.3. As a minimum, each horse should be trained to lead and tie up securely prior to being placed on a jogger.

3.3. Securing horses to or within joggers

3.3.1. If horses are to be tied, then they must be adequately halter trained and do not pull against pressure from the lead securing the horse to the jogger.

3.3.2. The horse must wear a halter with wide straps such as a leather or webbing halter (not a rope halter).

3.3.3. The horse must not be tied up with reins or a lead attached to a bit in the horse's mouth.

3.3.4. The lead must not be tied around the horse's body and attached to the vehicle.

3.3.5. The jogger must be specifically set up or modified for tying and exercising horses in a safe manner.

3.3.6. If more than one horse is tied, or contained within a jogger, then the horses must be tied or contained in such a way that they cannot interfere with one another - particular care should be taken to ensure their legs / feet cannot come into contact with other horses.

3.3.7. The horse must be tied high enough and short enough to prevent stepping over or on to the lead.

3.3.8. The horse must be tied in such a way that it can be untied quickly should it be necessary, even if there is pressure on the rope (e.g. tied with a panic snap or breakaway device).

3.4. Supervision

3.4.1. The horse(s) must be constantly monitored by the driver and the vehicle stop immediately if the horse stumbles, falls or comes loose. Rear view mirrors on vehicles for this purpose are mandatory.

3.4.2. Where *practicable*, a jogger should ideally be operated with at least one person in the vehicle and another person to act as a spotter/supervisor in the event of an incident. Any spotter/supervisor should be a licensed participant with the Tasracing, at least 17 years old and considered a responsible, experienced handler.

3.4.3. Where employed, a spotter/supervisor must have full, unimpeded vision of the jogger over the entire circuit.

3.4.4. Where employed, a spotter/supervisor should be observing the training, and taking particular note of the performance and actions of horses attached to the joggers and be in a position or able to signal to the driver immediately if an emergency situation arises.

3.5. Speed

3.5.1. Joggers are considered suitable to be used for the slow pace exercising of horses only. The vehicle must not move faster than a horse can comfortably trot, canter or move in a slow pacing action whilst a horse is tied to or contained within the jogger.

3.5.2. Horses must not gallop or complete fast pace exercise when tied to or contained within a jogger.

3.5.3. Drivers must carefully monitor the speed of the vehicle at all times, ensuring the speed is suitable for the least capable horse in the group to safely exercise without undue exertion or risk of injury/incident.

3.5.4. Any person driving a vehicle towing a jogger trailer must be at least 16 years old and be a licensed participant with Tasracing. Any person driving the vehicle must not be under the influence of alcohol or any other substance that may impair their ability to drive.

3.6. Distractions

Loud music and telephone conversations can potentially distract the driver of the vehicle – leading to unsafe situations – and both should be avoided as much as practicable so the driver's full attention is focused on operating the vehicle and supervising the horses through the use of the vehicle's mirrors at all times.

Smoking or the use of telephones and electronic devices is strictly prohibited whilst jogging a horse.