



An extraordinary State Council meeting was convened on August 11th 2015 to address the concerns raised by 17 Central Zone Clubs at the meeting held with them on June 30th.

The following items were discussed;

1. CZ Clubs would like 2 months' notice of high impact decisions to allow for consultation with Clubs.
2. CZ Clubs would like Council to set a timeframe (2months) to consider making WWC Check optional if duty of care at the Club is fulfilled by another mechanism such as Club Bylaws.
3. CZ Clubs will provide a list of concerns in relation to Cross Country Height changes. They would like these concerns actioned by the Rules Sub Committee before January 1st 2016 if proved to be safety related.
4. CZ Clubs would like to be provided with the PCAV Financial reports and the Committee of Management Plan for PCVEC

Item 1

Council recognises that the current methods of communication can be improved to allow clubs to be better informed.

A process for the approval of development items has been created.

MOTION “That State Council has created a policy for high impact decisions. These high impact decisions will be circulated to be voted upon at the next State Council Meeting”

High Impact Decision Policy

“When a policy that the state council is considering meets the following impact to clubs, the council will seek additional feedback from clubs through the normal process (ie to zone either via a meeting if so arranged, or directly to the Zone Representative) before its next meeting, when the policy will be debated and decided upon.

The council will publish the rationale on its website via its news bulletins and direct email correspondence to clubs and zone officials. A high impact decision is one where, clubs will be impacted either administratively or financially for example by imposing extra volunteer hours or financial hardship on the club. The State Council reserves its rights to implement rules in accordance with its Constitution or for issues of safety as it sees fit”

In future, High Impact Decision items will be referred to a sub-committee to draft the policy or rule and provide a copy to the office. It will be checked when finalised by a suitably qualified expert to provide input and feedback. The sub-committee will then signoff and the document will be sent with the State Council Agenda 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

Item 2

The WWC Check was discussed at length. It was felt that the CZ suggestion of allowing the Club Bylaws to override the need for a WWCC was not practical as many clubs do not have Bylaws that adequately cover Risk Management in this respect. The WWCC actually supports a Club's Risk Management Policy.

MOTION “That the current WWCC policy Motion, “That from July 1st 2015 Clubs must ensure that all parents/guardians/carers of members and Adult Riding Members must provide a WWCC” remains in place

Summary of the Decisions State Council Meeting – August 11th 2015



Clubs have voiced concern over what to do if they receive a negative notice.

The documentation provided by the Department of Justice is very clear and any actions taken once the notice has been received are covered under Law.

If the Department of Justice & Regulation decides that the person poses a risk to the safety of children and should not pass the Working with Children (WWC) Check, they will be issued with a Negative Notice. A copy of which is also forwarded to the club and PCAV

A Negative Notice prohibits the person from doing child-related work even if they are supervised or qualify for an exemption. The Negative Notice is effective from the date on the Notice.

Under the Act it is a criminal offence for the person who has been handed a negative notice to engage in any child related work.

It is also a criminal offence for the organisation, club or PCAV, to engage the person who has been given a negative notice in child related work. The offence carries maximum penalties of two years imprisonment, a fine in excess of \$35,000 or both.

There is also a confidentiality clause – it is a criminal offence to give any person either directly or indirectly any information in relation to the negative notice except in the limited circumstances outlined in the notice. The maximum penalty for disclosing information for any other purpose is \$8,500

Negative Notice holders cannot apply for a WWC Check for a period of 5 years unless their circumstances change. If they apply after this time, by law, they must not do any child-related work until they pass the WWC Check. If they are issued a second Negative Notice, a second 5-year period commences.

The offences that are relevant to the WWC Check are;

- serious sexual, violent or drug offences
- any offence that presents an unjustifiable risk to the safety of children
- offences against the *Working with Children Act 2005*.

A full list of offences can be found on the WWCC website by following this link
<http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/resources/publications/list+of+offences>

Item 3

MOTION Item 3 could not be actioned as no concerns in relation to HT Heights have been received from CZ by 11 August 2015.

It was noted that WGZ had submitted a detailed proposal on Horse Trials Heights which is listed in correspondence. This proposal will be forwarded to the PCAV Rules Sub Committee. Any Zone can submit items for discussion.

Item 4

Draft Strategic Plans for PCAV and Pony Club Victoria Equestrian Centre (PCVEC) were tabled for consideration and discussion at the State Council meeting on September 1st.

Once released the Draft Plans will be posted on the PCAV website

A letter outlining the decisions from the State Council discussion has been sent to the two spokes people for the 17 CZ Clubs.

Event at Wandin Park March 19th & 20th 2016

EV announced, after the June 30th Council Meeting when the PCAV Dates for 2-16 were discussed, that they will be holding an Eventing Championships at Wandin Park on the weekend that has been selected for the 2016 Dressage and Showjumping Championships.

This may impact on the availability of Dressage Judges and Show jumping equipment.

Council will consider being flexible around this date and the clash of Events which will be on at the same time. Council to consult with their Zones ready for a decision to be made on September 1st as Clubs and Zones are keen to set their own Calendars.