



Updated Position Statement - Centre Accreditations

Renewal of Centre Accreditations

Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to impact on many riding centres throughout Australia, to a greater extent for some than others. This Position Statement addresses how the Board of Riding for the Disabled of Australia oversees centre accreditation assessments. This Updated Position Statement commenced on 24th September 2021 and expires on 30th September 2022.

Background Information



In accordance with the Centre Accreditation Policy, RDA Centres are required to meet the Mandatory and Essential standards as prescribed in the RDA Centre Accreditation Checklist. Upon meeting these standards, the centre is referred to as an Accredited RDA Centre. A centre that meets the Advanced standards as well as the Mandatory and Essential standards, is referred to as a Centre of Excellence.

In order to maintain accreditation, RDA Centres are required to undergo an Assessment Audit at least every two (2) years, or every three (3) years for a Centre of Excellence.

What is the Impact of COVID-19?

The government of each State and Territory has their own methods and timeframes for dealing with COVID-19, making it extremely difficult for National Assessors to be able to travel to many of our riding centres and conduct the required audit.

How Is RDAA Dealing with Accreditation Audits?

The RDAA Board has reflected on the Covid-19 impact on centres and decided that all centres shall be granted a further extension to the due date of their next audit by a National Assessor if needed to keep their accreditation up to date. There are still some centres that are over-due. This updated dispensation is however limited to 30th September 2022 and subject to the following condition.

RDAA encourages each RDA Centre that does not have a current accreditation to conduct a self-assessment using RDAA's Centre Accreditation Checklist. Where possible with video/photo evidence. A copy is required to be sent to the relevant State / Territory Association and cc to RDAA National Office. RDAA would accept this as an interim measure of compliance until such time as a National Assessor can travel to the centre and perform the audit.

Should circumstances change significantly or individual states / territories amend their rulings / legislation, the Board reserves the right to amend this position statement and / or revert to normal accreditation requirements.

During a zoom meeting with our insurance broker last year, the Board and the wider audience have been assured that all RDA Centre will maintain their insurance cover by complying with the policies, procedures and directions of RDAA.

What Can Your Centre Do?

Both the Centre Accreditation Policy and the RDA Centre Accreditation Checklist is to be used by each centre to perform their self-assessment. It is recommended that the self-assessment should be performed by a team who have experience and / or qualifications in the various areas being assessed. (e.g. the coach for riding elements, the secretary / office manager for administrative elements).

The President of each RDA Centre is responsible with ensuring the self-assessment (report and video/photo evidence) is submitted to RDAA and their relevant State / Territory Association as a matter of priority.



As a general rule, the Board encourages every RDA Centre to adopt a self-assessment, to raise safety awareness, to ensure you continue to properly implement the required actions and to provide a safe environment for employees, riders, volunteers and horses. Thanking you in advance.

David Keane

Board Chair, RDA Australia

27th October 2021

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