



# **Racing Victoria Procedure**

## **Raceday Track Safety Inspection Involving Jockeys**

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### Scope

This Procedure outlines process that must be followed in the event that a track inspection is required on raceday. Racing Victoria and the Victorian Jockeys Association have agreed that Stewards and riders will refer this procedure should a track inspection be required on raceday.

### Identified Risks

Injuries to jockeys and or horses during a race which are either caused or contributed to by the condition of the racing surface (track).

### Training / Competency Requirements

The following personnel should be aware of the procedures/processes outlined within this document:

- Stewards;
- Jockeys;
- Clubs / Track Managers;
- RV Media and Communications Department

### Relevant Legislation / Standards

- Victorian OH&S Act 2004
- Victorian OH&S Regulations 2007
- Victorian Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013
- Victorian Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Regulations 2014

### Safety Instructions

### *Preliminary Requirements*

- If, at any stage on race-day prior to the first race or during the race meeting, the Stewards and/or jockeys express concerns regarding the condition of the track, the Stewards and jockeys will initially discuss those concerns in the Stewards' room.

### ***Conducting Track Inspections***

- If, following that discussion, it is considered necessary by the Stewards, the track manager and all jockeys or delegation of jockeys who are engaged to ride in the first (or the next race) will inspect the track at the areas of concern. Jockeys who are also VJA Directors will be invited to inspect the areas of concern (irrespective of whether those riders are riding in the upcoming race). No other jockeys are able to enter upon the course-proper during this time and until a decision has been made in respect of the continuation of the race meeting.
- For the duration of the track inspection, all jockeys will be under the strict control of the Stewards and must comply with any directions or orders of the Stewards.
- Following the track inspection, the Stewards, the delegation of jockeys, and the track manager will discuss carrying out any remedial work which may address the concerns surrounding the affected area. If remedial work is considered possible, the track manager will be instructed by the Stewards to carry out that work. If remedial work is carried out, the site will be further inspected.

### ***Conducting Ballot***

- Following the track inspection (or the final inspection following any remedial work), the Stewards, the delegation of jockeys and any jockeys who are engaged in the upcoming race will return to the Stewards' Room to discuss the condition of the track.
- At the conclusion of this discussion, the Stewards may ask the jockeys to participate in a secret ballot to inform the Stewards whether each jockey considers it is safe to ride in the next race. If so, and if a committee member of the ATA committee is on track, he or she should be informed.
- Where the Stewards ask the jockeys to participate in the ballot, the Stewards will facilitate the secret ballot in which all jockeys in the next race will vote. The process for the vote is as follows:
  - Each jockey will be handed an appropriate ballot paper.
  - In completing the ballot paper, the jockey will be asked to indicate "Yes" or "No" to the following question: "Do you believe that it is safe to ride in the next race based on the current condition of the track?"
  - Once completed, the ballot will be given to the Stewards.
  - The Stewards will then collate and count the "Yes" and "No" answers.
- The table below sets out the number of jockeys which are required to indicate that they believe it is not safe to ride in the next race based on the current condition of the track, for the Stewards to consider whether to abandon the race meeting (based on jockey concern).

<b>No. of Starters</b>	<b>No. of Jockeys required to indicate in the secret ballot that it is not safe to ride in next race for the race meeting to be abandoned</b>
15	7
14	7
13	6
12	6

11	5
10	5
9	4
8	4
7	3
6 or less	3

- If the requisite number of votes (as set out above) is not obtained for the race meeting to be abandoned, and the Stewards decide to continue the race meeting, then the next race will go ahead. However, any jockey or jockeys who did not wish to ride in the next race would not be required to do so, and other jockeys prepared to ride would be offered the opportunity to ride the horses of those who did not wish to continue riding. If no jockey is able to be found, the horse (or horses) will be withdrawn from the race.
- Apprentice jockeys may participate in a track inspection as required, and may vote if they wish to, but have the option of not voting. If the following race is one for apprentice jockeys only, senior jockeys may be included in the track inspection process.
- If the requisite number of jockeys vote that they believe that it is not safe to ride in the next race due to the condition of the track, the Stewards may, in their absolute discretion and pursuant to AR 8(q), make a formal determination as to postponement of the race or races (if this is reasonably practicable) or abandonment of the race meeting, and will advise all jockeys accordingly.

### **Communication of Decisions and Outcomes**

- Where the Stewards make a decision to abandon a race meeting the following process must be followed:
  - Jockeys must remain in the confines of the jockeys' room until all announcements are made.
  - Stewards are to inform the club, also make the appropriate on course announcements via the relevant broadcasters.
  - The Stewards are to contact RV Racing Operations and Media and Communications departments and inform these groups of the decision.
  - RV Racing Operations department must contact the TAB and inform it of the decision.
  - RV Media and Communications department will issue a media release to inform the public of the decision and the reasons for the decision.