



Raceday Track Safety Inspection Jockeys Procedure

Issued By: Chairman of Stewards – Rob Montgomery
Approved By: EGM Integrity Services – Jamie Stier
Date Issued: August 2017
Last Revised: 10 January 2024

1. PURPOSE

This Raceday Track Safety Inspection Procedure (Procedure) outlines the process that must be followed in the event that a track inspection is required on a Raceday. Racing Victoria and the Victorian Jockeys Association (VJA) have agreed that Stewards and riders will refer to this Procedure should a track inspection be required on a Raceday.

2. PROCEDURE

2.1. Preliminary Requirements

If, at any stage on a Raceday 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.

2.2. Conducting Track Inspections

If, following that discussion, it is considered necessary by the Stewards to conduct a track inspection, then the Stewards, the track manager, the Club CEO and all jockeys, or delegation of jockeys, who are engaged to ride in the first two (or the next two races) 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 jockeys 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 instruction 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.

A small waiting period following the track inspection can be exercised to ensure all options are available (e.g. calling off a meeting when circumstances are about to change due to sunset times).

2.3. 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 two races 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 confidential ballot to inform the Stewards whether each jockey considers it is safe to ride in the next race. If so, the track manager, the Club CEO and, if a member of the Australian Trainers Association committee is on track, they should be informed.

Where the Stewards ask the jockeys to participate in the confidential ballot, the Stewards will facilitate the confidential ballot in which all jockeys in the next two races will vote. The process for the vote is as follows:

- Each jockey will be handed an appropriate ballot paper.
- All votes are to be made in the Stewards room.
- In completing the ballot paper (**Annexure A**), the jockey will be asked to indicate "Yes" or "No" to the following question: "Do you believe that it is safe for racing to commence, or continue, based on the current condition of the track?"
- Once completed, the ballot paper will be given to the Stewards.
- With the voting jockeys present, 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 for racing to commence, or continue, based on the current condition of the track, for the Stewards to consider whether to abandon the race meeting (based on jockey concern).

No. of voting jockeys	No. of jockeys required to indicate in the confidential ballot that it is not safe for racing to commence, or continue, and for the race meeting to be abandoned
30	15
29	14
28	14
27	13
26	13
25	12
24	12
23	11
22	11
21	10
20	10
19	9
18	9
17	8
16	8
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 either of the following two races is one for apprentice jockeys only, senior jockeys may be included in the track inspection process. Senior jockeys are not able to assist with or vote on behalf of any apprentice jockey in the confidential ballot.

If an individual jockey has a ride in both of the next two races, that jockey is only entitled to one vote in the secret ballot.

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 AR21(f)(i), 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.

2.4. 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 Racing Victoria Racing Operations and Media and Communications departments and inform these groups of the decision;
- Racing Victoria Racing Operations department must contact the relevant stakeholders and inform them of the decision.

Racing Victoria Media and Communications department will issue a media release to inform the public of the decision, the vote outcome (the actual number of 'yes' votes and the actual number of 'no' votes) and the reasons for the decision.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL

This Procedure is reviewed annually and as required. This may occur due to a change of operation, new legislative obligation, government recommendations or recommendations as a result of audits.

Where revisions are required, changes will be tracked in red for review by the Senior Management Team, and for recommendation to the Executive General Manager or relevant Racing Victoria Committee for approval.

If approved, a tracked, clean (both in Word) and PDF copy of the Procedure will be saved, and then sent to Legal, Risk and Compliance. A copy may also be provided to People & Culture for uploading onto Racing Victoria's intranet (the Stable).

Any changes to the Procedure is noted in the "version" table at section 4 below.

4. VERSION

Version	Nature of Change	Reviewing Party	Approval Date
1	Procedure released.		J. McGuinness
2	Procedure reviewed	VJA Stewards	J. McGuinness
3	New format More jockeys to vote A small waiting period to be exercised to ensure all options are available Update of 'number of starters table' Vote to be made in Stewards room Vote outcome to be made public	EGM - Integrity VJA ATA TROA Stewards	05 Sep 2022
3.1	Grammatical updates. Clarification regarding senior jockeys assisting apprentices in voting process. Inclusion of track managers being kept informed of the process. Clarification regarding confidential ballot count being performed with jockeys present.	EGM-ISD	10 Jan 2024

5. ANNEXURE A



**Racing
Victoria**



Racing Victoria/AJA Track Inspection Voting Slip

Do you believe that it is safe for racing to commence, or continue, based on the current condition of the track?

(Please tick one of the below options)

- Yes - I believe it is safe to continue racing.
 - No - I do not believe it is safe to continue racing.
-



**Racing
Victoria**



Racing Victoria/AJA Track Inspection Voting Slip

Do you believe that it is safe for racing to commence, or continue, based on the current condition of the track?

(Please tick one of the below options)

- Yes - I believe it is safe to continue racing.
 - No - I do not believe it is safe to continue racing.
-