



**Racing
Victoria**

AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF RACING

Amendment No 177 – Issued 28 February 2019

The Racing Victoria Board has approved the following amendments to the Victorian Local Rules of Racing.

AMENDMENT TO THE VICTORIAN LOCAL RULES OF RACING: LR 65(10) & LR 93(8)

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

Racing Victoria has amended the Local Rules to require a track rating no better than a Soft 5 for jumps races and official jumps trials.

The current rules mandate that a jumps race or official jumps trial must not be conducted on a track that, at the time of the event, is rated better than a Good 4.

Studies in overseas racing jurisdictions suggest that there is a trend for soft and heavy ground to be associated with a decreased risk of falls and fatalities.

Amendments effective from 1 March 2019

LR 65(10) and LR 93(8) BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

LR 65 Official trials in Victoria

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(10) **Condition of track for official hurdle and steeplechase trials:** An official hurdle or steeplechase trial must not be conducted on a track that, at the time of the trial, is rated better than a [Soft 5](#) ~~Good 4~~ or equivalent.

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LR 93 Conduct of jumping races

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(8) **Condition of track:** A hurdle or steeplechase race must not be conducted on a track that, at the time of the race, is rated better than a [Soft 5](#) ~~Good 4~~ or equivalent (as rated in accordance with the RVL Track Rating Policy).

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SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

Racing Victoria has approved an amendment to the local rules regarding the qualification of horses for hurdle races and steeplechases.

The Jumps Review Panel recommended the Local Rules be amended to require horses to trial over 2800m (previously 2400m) if they qualified in a prior jumps racing season, but did not have a jumps race start.

The JRP consider trialling over a longer distance may aid the JRP to determine the suitability of a horse to race.

Amendments effective from 1 March 2019

LR 92B & LR 92C BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

LR 92B Qualification for hurdle races

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- (3) [Subject to LR 92B\(3A\), w](#)Where a horse has qualified to accept in a hurdle race in a previous jumps racing season, that horse is not qualified to accept in a hurdle race in any future jumps racing season unless it has:
- completed a further trial to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel in one Official Hurdle Trial over at least eight Approved Hurdles and a distance of at least 2400 metres; or
 - completed a hurdle race in South Australia to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel in the same calendar year of the jumps racing season; or
 - completed a further official trial in South Australia to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel over at least eight Approved Hurdles and a distance of at least 2400 metres; or
 - completed a hurdle race in New Zealand to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel in the same calendar year of the jumps racing season, and also schooled over a minimum of three Approved Hurdles to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel.

Note: The Official Hurdle Trial required by this LR 92B(3) must take place following the completion of the previous jumps racing season and as directed by the Jumps Review Panel.

[\(3A\) Where a horse has qualified to accept in a hurdle race in a previous jumps racing season, however such horse failed to start in a hurdle race in the previous jumps racing season, that horse is not qualified to accept in a hurdle race in any future jumps racing season unless it has trialled to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel in a further Official Trial over at least 10 Approved Hurdles and a distance of at least 2800 metres.](#)

- (3A) Where a horse has qualified in the current jumps racing season to participate in a steeplechase race it will be qualified to accept in a hurdle race.

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LR 92C Qualification for steeplechases

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- (2) [Subject to LR 92C\(2A\), w](#)Where a horse has qualified to accept in a steeplechase race in a previous jumps racing season, that horse is not qualified to accept in a steeplechase race in any future jumps racing season unless it has:
- completed a further trial to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel over at least eight Approved Steeplechase Obstacles and a distance of at least 2400 metres; or
 - completed a steeplechase race in South Australia to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel in the same calendar year of the jumps racing season; or
 - completed a further official trial in South Australia to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel over at least eight Approved Steeples and a distance of at least 2400 metres; or
 - completed a steeplechase race in New Zealand to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel in the same calendar year of the jumps racing season and also schooled over a minimum of three Approved Steeplechase Obstacles to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel.

Note: The trial required by LR 92C(2)(a) must take place following the completion of the previous jumps racing season and as directed by the Jumps Review Panel.

(2A) Where a horse has qualified to accept in a steeplechase in a previous jumps racing season, however such horse failed to start in a steeplechase in the previous jumps racing season, that horse is not qualified to accept in a steeplechase in any future jumps racing season unless it has trialled to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel in a further Official Trial over at least 10 Approved Steeplechase Obstacles and a distance of at least 2800 metres.

To view the current version of the Rules of Racing, please visit the following link to the Racing Victoria website: <http://rv.racing.com/racing-and-integrity/rules-of-racing>