



**Racing  
Victoria**

**AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF RACING  
Amendment No 213 – Issued 27 July 2023**

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

**AMENDMENTS TO THE VICTORIAN LOCAL RULES OF RACING: LR 62B & LR 62C**

**ELIMINATION OF SURPLUS HORSES FROM RACES**

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT**

Handicapping have previously considered for the last couple of seasons of moving away from a predominantly prizemoney based approach for balloting in our Weight-for-age (WFA), Set Weight (SW) and Set Weight and Penalty (SWP) to a Ratings Based System, as already used for all standard and feature black type handicaps (other than the cups).

Following a review of our feature black type races and comparison to interstate balloting rules, the Handicapping department have resolved to move to a Ratings Based system unifying our approach to WFA, SW, SWP and Handicap races making Victoria more comparative with other states that use ratings outside of just handicap races.

With varying levels of minimum prizemoney between states as well as internationally (prominently New Zealand) a ballot system based on prizemoney has become outdated and is prejudiced against better performed and higher rated horses that potentially get eliminated before lower rated horses.

In some two-year-old races where the form is much less exposed, there is still capacity to use some form of prizemoney for the ballot and maintain aspects of the current rules.

Accordingly, the Racing Victoria Board has approved the following Local Rule of Racing amendments effective from 1 August 2023.

***LR 62B BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:***

**LR 62B Ratings Based ~~Handicap~~ Races**

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***LR 62C BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:***

**~~LR 62C Non-handicap races~~**

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**~~(2) Set weights and penalty races~~**

**~~Method of elimination of surplus horses:~~**

FIRST—horses which have received no weight penalty for the race, in order of lowest aggregate prizemoney received. Horses in this category with equal aggregate prizemoney shall be eliminated by lot.

SECOND—horses which have received the lowest weight penalty for the race, and so on upwards until the safety limit is reached. Horses in the same weight penalty category shall be eliminated in order of lowest aggregate prizemoney received. Horses in the same weight penalty category with equal aggregate prizemoney shall be eliminated by lot.

For the purpose of this Rule LR 62C(2), “prizemoney” shall not include:

(a) prizemoney earned in Picnic races;

(b) for other races worth less than \$50,000, prizemoney received for finishing 5th to 10th; or

(c) for races worth \$50,000 or more that were not Group or Listed Races, prizemoney received for finishing 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>.

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## LR 62C Non-Ratings based races

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### (2A) Set weights and penalty races (races for horses older than two years of age)

*Method of elimination of surplus horses:*

*Horses which have received the lowest (or no) weight penalty for the race, and so on upwards until the safety limit is reached. Horses in the same weight penalty category shall be eliminated according to Ratings Based Races (as defined by LR 62B).*

### (2B) Set weights and penalty races (Two Year Olds)

*Method of elimination of surplus horses:*

FIRST – horses which have received no weight penalty for the race, in order of lowest aggregate prizemoney received. Horses in this category with equal aggregate prizemoney shall be eliminated by lot.

SECOND – horses which have received the lowest weight penalty for the race, and so on upwards until the safety limit is reached. Horses in the same weight penalty category shall be eliminated in order of lowest aggregate prizemoney received. Horses in the same weight penalty category with equal aggregate prizemoney shall be eliminated by lot.

For the purpose of this Rule LR 62C(2B), “prizemoney” shall not include:

(a) prizemoney earned in Picnic races;

(b) for other races worth less than \$50,000, prizemoney received for finishing 5th to 10th; or

(c) for races worth \$50,000 or more that were not Group or Listed Races, prizemoney received for finishing 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>.

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## TRUE WEIGHTS – SATURDAY METROPOLITAN HANDICAPS

### SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

For Saturday metropolitan handicaps (other than Group and Listed races) and rating races up to Benchmark 96, a horse will now be permitted to be ridden at its true weight down to a limit of 53kg subject to the availability of a suitable rider.

This rule will apply when a horse's true weight is lower than the advertised minimum weight of 54kg, noting that the minimum for Benchmark 100 races is already 53kg.

For example, in a Benchmark 90 race, a 90-rated horse is assigned 60kg, decreasing in 0.5kg increments for each rating point to the minimum weight of 54kg which is the equivalent of a 78-rated horse. Under the new rule, a horse rated 77 will be permitted to carry 53.5kg and horses rated 76 and below may carry 53kg.

In Saturday metropolitan handicaps and ratings races up to Benchmark 96 in which an apprentice claim is allowed, this must be applied from the higher of the true weight and 53kg limit if the horse is eligible to carry less than the advertised 54kg minimum.

For example, if a horse's true weight is 52kg and the race minimum is 54kg, an apprentice jockey can only claim from 53kg. Further, if the horse's true weight is 53.5kg, an apprentice can only claim from 53.5kg.

Once weights are released, trainers can choose to engage a jockey who is able to ride their horse at its true weight, with the notification to be made in writing to the Stewards by no later than 9am on the day of acceptances. The declaration must include the weight which the rider will ride the horse at.

Accordingly, the Racing Victoria Board has approved the introduction of Local Rule of Racing LR 67B effective from 1 August 2023.

### LR 67A BE ADDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### LR 67A True Weights – Saturday Metropolitan Handicaps

If a horse's true weight in a handicap or benchmark race (other than Group Races, Listed Races and Restricted Listed Races) held at a Saturday metropolitan race meeting (or at a designated equivalent day meeting) is below the minimum weight allocated pursuant to AR 167(4)(d):

- (1) Subject to sub-rule (2), the rider of such horse is permitted to ride at that true weight, provided that a rider must not ride at less than 53 kilograms;
- (2) Notwithstanding and in addition to the provisions of LR 67A (1), an apprentice jockey may also claim any allowance that he or she is entitled to in accordance with the provisions of AR92 (such allowance to be claimed against the higher of that true weight and 53 kilograms);
- (3) A declaration that a rider or apprentice jockey intends to ride below the minimum weight pursuant to AR167(4)(d) must be made to the Stewards in writing by not later than 9am on the day of acceptances. The declaration must include the weight upon which the rider shall ride such horse at.

## AMENDMENT TO THE VICTORIAN LOCAL RULES OF RACING: LR 24A(2)

### LICENCES

#### SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

Following an amendment to the Racing Victoria Trainer Licencing Policy, in particular the removal of Restricted Trainer from the categories of trainers, the Racing Victoria Board has approved the following Local Rule of Racing amendment effective from 1 August 2023.

#### ***LR 24A(2) BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:***

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(2) Persons ineligible: A person may not be granted or hold a licence to train if the person is:

- (a) the holder of a licence or approval to ride at race meetings under the Rules, except that the holder of a Jockey, Picnic Jockey, Jumps Jockey A or Jumps Jockey B licence may be granted and hold a Pre-Trainer or ~~Restricted~~ Trainer licence

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#### Amendments effective from 1 August 2023

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>