



**Racing  
Victoria**

**RACING VICTORIA  
Apprentice Jockey Race Riding  
Guidelines  
Stewards**

**Date issued: 25 April 2023 (revised 14 September 2023)**

*GL-ST-07  
Version 1.3*

*Next Review Date  
14/09/2024*



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## 1. BACKGROUND

### 1.1. Overview

The Stewards have prepared these Racing Victoria (RV) Apprentice Jockey Race Riding Guidelines (these Guidelines) to provide Victorian Apprentice Jockeys with a clear understanding of the necessary experience they need to gain approval from the Stewards to progress in their careers from riding in Provincial and Other Meetings to Metropolitan Race Meetings. These Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the relevant sections of The Rules of Racing of Racing Victoria, incorporating the Australian and Local Rules of Racing, and RV's Jockey Licensing Policy.

These Guidelines define the **four tiers** of Race Meetings at which apprentices may apply to ride.

Each tier contains Race Meetings of a progressively higher caliber, culminating in Tier 4.

### 1.2. Application

Once an Apprentice Licence is granted, the Apprentice Licence holder is classified as an Apprentice Jockey 'B' until such time as they are classified by the Stewards as an Apprentice Jockey 'A'.

The Guidelines apply to all Apprentice Licence holders from 1 August 2017.

### 1.3. Definitions

For the purpose of these Guidelines:

**Apprentice Jockey** means a person who is bound to a trainer in accordance with the Local Rules of RV.

**Apprentice Team** means the team employed by Racing Victoria to manage and administer the Apprentice Jockey Training Program (AJTP).

**AR** means an Australian Rule of Racing.

**Chairman of Stewards** means the Chairman of Stewards for a particular Race Meeting.

**Feature Race Meeting** means a Race Meeting with a Group Race program.

**Group Races, Listed Races and Restricted Listed Races** means, in relation to races run in Australia, races which are published as such by Racing Australia.

**Guidelines** means these Apprentice Jockey Race Riding Guidelines.

**Metropolitan Race Meeting** means any Race Meeting held at Flemington, Caulfield, Ladbrokes Park (Sandown) or The Valley.

**Other Meeting** means any Race Meetings held at Ararat, Avoca, bet365 Bairnsdale, bet365 Benalla, Burrumbeet, bet365 Camperdown, Casterton, bet365 Colac, Coleraine, Donald, Dunkeld, bet365 Echuca, bet365 Edenhope, Great Western, Gunbower, bet365 Hamilton, Hanging Rock, Horsham, Kerang, bet365 Park Kilmore, bet365 Park Kyneton, Manangatang, bet365 Mildura, Moe, bet365 Mortlake, Murtoa, Nhill,



Penshurst, Seymour, Sportsbet-Ballarat Synthetic, Sportsbet-Pakenham Synthetic, St Arnaud, bet365 Stawell, Stony Creek, TAB Park Werribee, Tatura, bet365 Terang, Towong, Traralgon, Sportsbet-Wangaratta, Warracknabeal, bet365 Park Wodonga, Wycheproof or bet365 Yarra Valley.

**Principal Racing Authority** means a body (statutory or otherwise) recognised as a principal racing authority under Racing Australia's Constitution, that has the control and general supervision of racing within a State or Territory, and comprises:

- a) Racing New South Wales in New South Wales;
- b) Racing Victoria Limited in Victoria;
- c) Racing Queensland Board in Queensland;
- d) Racing SA Ltd in South Australia;
- e) Racing and Wagering Western Australia in Western Australia;
- f) Tasracing Pty Ltd in Tasmania;
- g) Thoroughbred Racing NT in the Northern Territory; and
- h) Canberra Racing Club Incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory.

**Provincial Meeting** means any Race Meeting held at Bendigo, Cranbourne, Geelong, Mornington, Sale, Sportsbet-Ballarat Turf, Sportsbet-Pakenham Turf or Warrnambool.

**Race** means each division of a divided race.

**Race Meeting** means any meet held or overseen by a PRA.

**Rider's agent** means a person licensed by a PRA who by a contract or any other arrangement assists a jockey or the Employer/Trainer of an Apprentice Jockey in relation to the organisation and/or obtaining of riding engagements.

**RV** means Racing Victoria Limited.

**Special circumstance** means a circumstance stipulated to be a 'special circumstance' under the Rules and approved by the Stewards.

**Steward** means a person appointed in that role in accordance with the Local Rules of a PRA or by a State or Territory government (or government body) (as applicable).

**the Rules** means The Rules of Racing of Racing Victoria, incorporating the Australian Rules of Racing Local Rules of Racing.

## 2. FOUR TIERS

There are four tiers of races for which an apprentice may apply to ride:

### 2.1. Tier 1

- Non-metropolitan Race Meetings;
- Excluding Group and Listed races;
- Restrictions on night meetings – see below.

### 2.2. Tier 2

- Metropolitan midweek Race Meetings;



- Non-metropolitan night meetings;
- Excluding metropolitan night meetings;
- Excluding Group and Listed races.

### **2.3. Tier 3**

- Metropolitan Race Meetings including night meetings;
- Listed races; at discretion of the Stewards;
- Excluding Group races;
- Excluding, 'no claim' races at Feature Race Meetings.

### **2.4. Tier 4**

- All Race Meetings including Group races.

## **3. ACCEPTING RIDES**

### **3.1. Accepting rides at Tier 1 Race Meetings**

An apprentice who holds an Apprentice Jockey Permit to Ride (Apprentice Jockey 'B' Licence) may accept rides for Tier 1 Race Meetings without seeking any additional approval, unless otherwise determined by the Stewards.

\*\*Non-metropolitan night meetings - individual permission to begin race riding at non-metropolitan night meetings, under lights, must be obtained from the Stewards. Permission will only be granted to apprentices who have displayed race riding competency at day meetings to the Stewards satisfaction. Stewards may permit an apprentice to ride in daylight before unnatural lighting is required at the Race Meeting. Any determination made by the Stewards is final.

### **3.2. Obtaining approval to ride at Tier 2 Race Meetings**

To ride at a Tier 2 Race Meeting, an apprentice who holds an Apprentice Jockey 'B' Licence must:

- a) Have ridden a minimum of 30 winners at non-metropolitan Race Meetings; and
- b) Apply to the Stewards prior to acceptance time for approval to ride at their first Tier 2 Race Meeting. Stewards may seek advice from the Apprentice Team.

Any determination made by the Stewards is final.

If an apprentice has been approved to ride in Tier 2 Race Meetings, they may accept rides for further Tier 2 Race Meetings without making a further application. The Stewards reserve the right to vary or revoke any approval at their discretion.

### **3.3. Obtaining approval to ride at Tier 3 Race Meetings**

To ride at Tier 3 Race Meetings, an apprentice who holds an Apprentice Jockey 'B' Licence must:

- a) Have gained sufficient experience riding in Tier 2 races as determined by the Stewards; and



- b) Apply to the Stewards prior to acceptance time for approval to ride at any Tier 3 Race Meeting. Stewards may seek advice from the Apprentice Team.

When assessing the experience an Apprentice Jockey has gained in Tier 2 races, the Stewards will have regard to various factors, including but not limited to the apprentice's:

- Demonstrated performance to ride safely, competently, and competitively;
- Number of rides in Tier 2 Race Meetings;
- Disciplinary record; and
- Demonstrated skill level.

\*\* Metropolitan night meetings - an apprentice will be expected to have gained sufficient experience at metropolitan day meetings before applying to the Stewards for permission to ride at metropolitan night meetings. Any determination made by the Stewards is final.

For Apprentice Jockey 'B' Licence holders, the Stewards approval is initially granted on a meeting-by-meeting basis, until notified otherwise.

Feature Race Meetings - an Apprentice Jockey 'B' Licence-holder, is not permitted to ride at a Feature Metropolitan Race Meeting. The Apprentice Jockey may request specific permission from the Stewards to ride at such meetings in an 'apprentice claiming race' only, should such race be programmed. The Stewards reserve the right to vary or revoke any approval at their discretion.

### **3.4. Obtaining approval to ride at Tier 4 Race Meetings**

To ride at a Tier 4 Race Meeting, an Apprentice Jockey must have been granted an Apprentice Jockey 'A' Licence by RV.

An Apprentice Jockey 'B' Licence holder may apply to the Stewards for an Apprentice Jockey 'A' Licence, after having ridden a minimum of 40 winners, of which, 10 or more winners must be in the metropolitan area.

## **4. RESTRICTIONS**

### **4.1. Restrictions for Victorian Based Apprentices Jockeys who are Race Riding**

- Acceptance of a maximum of three (3) rides at their first four (4) Race Meetings.
- Acceptance of rides at a maximum of three (3) Race Meetings per week for the first four (4) weeks.
- Cannot ride on seven (7) consecutive race days.
- Must have a minimum of two (2) days without race riding in each 14-day period.
- No later than two (2) hours prior to his/her first ride at a particular track, the Apprentice Jockey must attend the Stewards room and advise the Stewards of such.
- Cannot accept rides for both a day and a twilight/night Race Meeting on the same day.
- An Apprentice Jockey with an 'A' Licence may apply for approval from the Stewards to ride at two Race Meetings in a day. Stewards may consult with the Apprentice Jockey Coaches in determining whether to grant permission.



- If an Apprentice Jockey rides at a twilight or night Race Meeting, they must have a 10 hour break prior to engaging in any trackwork or race riding activity.
- Apprentice Jockeys must not ride trackwork or in races on RV Apprentice Jockey training days.
- Apprentice Jockeys can start riding from the age of 16 years.
- The ordinary hours of work for Apprentice Jockeys are a maximum of 38 hours in any week of stablehand and track riding duties, to be worked within rostered hours, which can be rostered over five (5) full days or four (4) full days and two (2) and a half days in any week.

#### **4.2. Restrictions for Visiting Apprentice Jockeys who are Race Riding in Victoria**

- Restricted to race riding in Victoria for a maximum of three (3) Race Meetings in any seven (7) day period.
- Visiting Apprentice Jockeys holding an Apprentice 'A' Licence are exempt from the maximum of three (3) Race Meetings in any seven (7) day period.

#### **4.3. Change of Venue**

AR 152 Change of venue not to affect status of Race Meeting.

Unless otherwise determined by a PRA, a Race Meeting which takes place under the Rules at a venue different to a venue where it would ordinarily take place, retains the same level of status despite the change in venue.

### **5. DECISIONS**

#### **5.1. Stewards Decision is Final**

The Stewards will consider the circumstances of each application by an Apprentice Jockey on its merits and on a 'case by case' basis. The Stewards decision is final when determining an application made regarding these Guidelines.

### **6. MONITORING OF APPRENTICE JOCKEYS**

#### **6.1. Apprentice Jockey Training Team**

The Apprentice Team are required to monitor Apprentice Jockeys to ensure they do not exceed any restrictions. If an Apprentice Jockey is found to be in breach of these Guidelines, the Apprentice Jockey will be referred by the Apprentice Team to the Stewards.

#### **6.2. Riders Agent**

An Apprentice Jockey is permitted to engage a Jockey Agent at any stage.



### 6.3. Medical

Doctors and paramedics attend all Race Meetings to monitor the wellbeing of all riders including monitoring for signs of fatigue that may be associated with excessive working hours or riding activity.

## 7. REVIEW AND APPROVAL

These Guidelines are 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 relevant Senior Management Team member, and for recommendation to the Executive General Manager or relevant RV Committee for approval.

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

Any changes to these Guidelines are noted in the "version" table at section 8 below.

## 8. VERSION

Version	Nature of Change	Reviewing Party	Approval date
1.0	Original Document	EGM - ISD	25/04/2023
1.1	Change of Riders Agent engagement from minimum of 10 winning rides to none.	EGM-ISD	22/06/2023
1.2	Racetracks recategorised from 'Metropolitan', 'TAB' and 'Non-TAB' to 'Metropolitan', 'Provincial' and 'Other'.	EGM-ISD	31/07/2023
1.3	Update to section 4.1 Stewards may permit an Apprentice Jockey to ride at two Race Meetings in a day.	EGM-ISD	14/09/2023