



AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF RACING

Amendment No 173 – Issued 10 May 2018

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 59(2)(d)

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

Racing Victoria has introduced amendments to LR 59(2)(d) to allow the Jumps Review Panel:

- to suspend or revoke the eligibility for a horse to participate in official jumps trials or races (the previous rule referred to only races) and thus retire a horse completely from participating in jumps racing events where it is considered necessary for horse and rider safety; and
- expand the basis for making such a decision to include consideration of a horse's participation in official jumps trials or races (the current rules state only 'factors in relation to the horse's performance in the relevant race').

Amendments effective from 26 April 2018

LR 59(2)(d) BE DELETED AND REPLACED AS FOLLOWS:

LR 59 – Jumps Review Panel

...

(2) Function: The function of the Jumps Review Panel is to:

...

~~(d) determine whether as a result of a horse's race performance its qualification to race should be revoked or suspended and if so for what period and on what conditions, including by taking into account the following factors in relation to the horse's performance in the relevant race:~~

- ~~(i) competitiveness;~~
- ~~(ii) jumping ability;~~
- ~~(iii) placing in race;~~
- ~~(iv) fitness;~~
- ~~(v) overall performance and condition;~~
- ~~(vi) any other factor the Jumps Review Panel considers relevant in its discretion;~~

...

LR 59 – Jumps Review Panel

...

(2) Function: The function of the Jumps Review Panel is to:

...

(d) determine whether as a result of a horse's performance in any official jumps trial and/or race:

- (i) its qualification to race should be revoked or suspended and if so for what period and on what conditions;
- (ii) it ought to be permitted to participate in any official jumps trial,
including by taking into account the following factors:
A. competitiveness;

- [B. jumping ability;](#)
- [C. placing in an official jumps trial or race;](#)
- [D. fitness;](#)
- [E. overall performance in any official jumps trial or race;](#)
- [F. overall condition; and](#)
- [G. any other factor the Jumps Review Panel considers relevant in its discretion;](#)

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AMENDMENT TO THE VICTORIAN LOCAL RULES OF RACING: LR 62(9)

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

Racing Victoria has approved an amendment to the local rules regarding the retirement of horses in a jumps race or official jumps trial. The amendment provides that a horse that is not in contention and/or fatigued, must be retired by the rider. The previous rule referred to a horse that was not in contention and fatigued.

Amendments effective from 26 April 2018

LR 62(9) BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

LR 62 Conduct of jumping races

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(9) Retirement of horses:

- (a) The rider of a horse in a hurdle or steeplechase race or official trial must retire the horse from the race or official trial immediately where:
 - (i) the horse has fallen (whether at a jump or in running);
 - (ii) the horse is not in contention and/or fatigued;
 - (iii) the horse is distressed; or
 - (iv) in the circumstances, if the rider were to continue riding the horse, such conduct would cause an increased risk of a fall to the horse or rider, or other horses or riders.

For the purpose of subrule LR 62(9)(a)(iv), the following factors may, without limitation, be considered:

- (A) whether the rider has lost an iron or irons;
 - (B) whether the saddle has slipped on the horse; and/or
 - (C) whether the horse has sustained an injury during the race or official trial.
- (b) If a rider of a horse fails to retire a horse in accordance with LR 62(9)(a):
 - (i) the rider may be penalised; and
 - (ii) the horse may be deemed to have failed to finish the race or official trial.

[(9) adopted 5/2/09; deleted and replaced 2/7/09; amended 1/9/09]

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AMENDMENT TO THE VICTORIAN LOCAL RULES OF RACING: LR 60C(1)

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

Racing Victoria has amended the criteria for a horse to be eligible to participate in a steeplechase race to allow for the following circumstances:

- Certain horses are competent over steeple fences and the longer distances however, are not nimble enough to keep-up over the smaller hurdles;
- The current local rule is stringent in that a rider must retire a horse that is out of contention, as such it can be difficult for a horse that is a completely competent fencer to struggle to gain the first part of the qualification (complete the course to the satisfaction of the Stewards in two hurdle races); and
- The Jumps Review Panel believe as an alternative option for trainers, if qualifying is reduced to one hurdle race and adding a second steeple trial, this is more than sufficient for the Panel to be satisfied that a horse is safely suitable to compete in a steeplechase race.

Amendments effective from 26 April 2018

LR 60C(1) BE DELETED AND REPLACED AS FOLLOWS:

LR 60C – Qualification for steeplechases

~~(1) Subject to LR 60C(2), a horse is qualified to participate in a steeplechase race if it has:~~

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- ~~(c) completed the course to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel in two hurdle races at a registered race meeting and trialled in Victoria to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel on one occasion over a minimum distance of 2800 metres and over a minimum of 10 Approved Steeplechase Obstacles; or~~
 - ~~(d) completed a steeplechase race in South Australia to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel in the same calendar year; or~~
 - ~~(e) 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; and~~
- ~~in addition to the above:~~
- ~~(f) for qualification to participate in a steeplechase race at Warrnambool, a horse must have, prior to the race, schooled around the steeplechase course at that racetrack.~~
 - ~~(g) [deleted 4/2/11]~~

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LR 60C – Qualification for steeplechases

(1) Subject to LR 60C(2), a horse is qualified to participate in a steeplechase race if it has:

- (c) completed the course to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel in two hurdle races at a registered race meeting and trialled in Victoria to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel on one occasion over a minimum distance of 2800 metres and over a minimum of 10 Approved Steeplechase Obstacles; or
 - (d) completed the course to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel in one hurdle race at a registered race meeting and trialled in Victoria to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel on two occasions over a minimum distance of 2800 metres and over a minimum of 10 Approved Steeplechase Obstacles; or
 - (e) completed a steeplechase race in South Australia to the satisfaction of the Jumps Review Panel in the same calendar year; or
 - (f) 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; and
- in addition to the above:
- (g) for qualification to participate in a steeplechase race at Warrnambool, a horse must have, prior to the race, schooled around the steeplechase course at that racetrack.

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>