



**Racing
Victoria**

AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF RACING

Amendment No 193 – Issued 24 December 2020

Racing Australia has approved the following amendments to the Australian Rules of Racing, effective from 1 February 2021.

AMENDMENT TO THE AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING: AR 69

SCRATCHING OF HORSES FOR GROUP OR LISTED RACES

Summary:

The purpose of the rule is that if a horse has been nominated for a Group, Listed, or Restricted Listed race, and that race is within 30 days' time, then if the horse is to be scratched, it must be done immediately. This is because betting activity increases significantly the closer you get to the race and punters need to be assured that a horse will only be scratched if something happens in the future.

As currently drafted, the rule could be interpreted to only catch horses that are scheduled to race within 30 days of the nomination. This would mean that if a horse is nominated in August for a race in November, then the rule does not apply, i.e. because the nomination is not within 30 days of the race.

Racing Australia has amended the rule to clarify the wording and achieve its intended purpose.

Amendments effective from 1 February 2021

AR 69 BE DELETED AND REPLACED AS FOLLOWS:

~~AR 69 Scratching of horses for Group or Listed races~~

~~A person who nominates a horse for a Group Race, Listed Race or Restricted Listed Race scheduled to be run within 30 days of the nomination who decides that the horse will not start in the nominated race, must immediately scratch the horse from the race concerned.~~

AR 69 Scratching of horses for Group or Listed races

If a person:

- (a) nominates a horse for a Group Race, a Listed Race or a Restricted Listed Race; and
- (b) decides within 30 days of that race that the horse will not start in the race.

the person must immediately scratch the horse from that race.

TRAINERS MUST KEEP TREATMENT RECORDS

Summary:

Treatment records often represent an important part of the evidence considered by Stewards in relation to prohibited substance and administration on race day matters. It is important the requirements of the rule with respect to keeping treatment records are clear and it provides for the recording of all information which may be relevant to a matter before the Stewards.

As a record of all treatments administered to a horse must be recorded in the trainer's treatment records, it is considered that the requirement to enter the reason for which a treatment was administered may, in addition to clarifying matters before the Stewards or during stable inspections, have the effect of prompting trainers to review the necessity of some treatments or medications. Accordingly, Racing Australia has added subrule (2)(h).

Subrule (2)(d) has also been amended to replace "paste" with "orally" for consistency in terminology, as paste describes a substance rather than a route of administration.

Amendments effective from 1 February 2021

AR 104 BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

AR 104 Trainers must keep treatment records

- (1) A trainer must record any medication or treatment administered to any horse in the trainer's care by midnight on the day on which the administration was given.
- (2) For the purpose of subrule (1), each record of administration must include the following information:
 - (a) the name of the horse;
 - (b) the date and time of administration of the treatment or medication;
 - (c) the name of the treatment or medication administered (brand name or active constituent);
 - (d) the route of administration including by injection, stomach tube, ~~paste~~, orally, topical application or inhalation;
 - (e) the amount of medication given (if applicable);
 - (f) the duration of treatment (if applicable);
 - (g) the name and signature of the person/s administering and/or authorising the administration of the treatment or medication.
 - (h) the reason for administering the treatment or medication.

SADDLING A HORSE

Summary:

The Chairmen of Stewards Committee has noted a number of instances of horses not carrying the correct saddlecloth numbers at official trials.

Accordingly, Racing Australia has amended AR 106, which includes the correct saddlecloth number as part of proper saddling at races and official trials. (Note that AR 207 does not include trials and relates to the raceday process rather than the proper saddling of horses.)

Amendments effective from 1 February 2021

AR 106 BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

AR 106 Saddling a horse

- (1) The trainer of a horse is at all times responsible for the proper saddling and application and fitting of all gear to a horse ([including the correct saddlecloth number](#)) presented for a race, official trial, jump-out or trackwork.

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AMENDMENT TO THE AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING: AR 113

ELECTRONIC DEVICES NOT PERMITTED WHILE RIDING

Summary:

The Chairmen of Stewards Committee has noted an increasing and concerning trend of riders holding mobile phones whilst mounted on a horse. Under the current rule, it is only an offence to use a mobile phone (or other electronic device) whilst mounted.

To improve the safety of riders and other participants, Racing Australia has amended the rule to also make it an offence to hold a mobile phone (or other electronic device) whilst mounted.

Amendments effective from 1 February 2021

AR 113 BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

AR 113 Electronic devices not permitted while riding

Unless permitted by the Stewards, when mounted on a horse a rider must not hold or use any ~~telephone~~ mobile phone, radio or other electronic appliance, apparatus, instrument or equipment capable of receiving, transmitting or playing information.

HELMETS & SAFETY VESTS

Summary:

Under the Rules, when riding in darkness a rider must affix a safety warning light to their helmet (AR 122(5)).

In the Northern Territory, TRNT has trialled a new initiative where licensed persons riding trackwork during darkness wear a high visibility harness/braces with front and rear built in flashing lights over the top of their approved safety vest. This was done in response to situations where the current standard was not as effective as intended in some cases. For example, in the event a rider is dislodged and the helmet is subject to severe impact, the lights could come off or stop working. Following consideration of TRNT's trial, as well as feedback from industry stakeholders, Racing Australia has approved changes to AR 122 and AR 123 such that when riding in darkness riders may now wear either:

- a helmet with a safety light affixed to it (as per the current rule); or
- a harness/braces with safety lights over the top of a safety vest.

Note: Under the Rules, trackwork may only be conducted where the Stewards have ruled that sufficient natural or artificial lighting exists.

Amendments effective from 1 February 2021

AR 122 BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

AR 122 Helmets

~~(6) When mounted on a horse during darkness, every rider must affix to his or her helmet a safety warning light of a type approved by Racing Australia, a PRA or the Stewards (except that this rule does not apply to any location where the Stewards have ruled that sufficient artificial lighting exists).~~

~~(7) If an apprentice jockey breaches subrule (1), the apprentice jockey's master and/or any other person who was in charge of the apprentice jockey at any relevant time may also be penalised unless that person satisfies the Stewards that he or she took all proper care to ensure that the apprentice jockey complied with that subrule.~~

(6) Subject to subrule (7), when mounted on a horse during darkness, every rider must affix to his or her helmet a safety warning light of a type approved by Racing Australia, a PRA or the Stewards.

(7) Subrule (6) does not:

- (a) apply to any rider who complies with AR 123(4);
- (b) apply to any location where the Stewards have ruled that sufficient artificial lighting exists;

- (c) affect the requirement that trackwork may only be conducted where Stewards have ruled that sufficient natural or artificial lighting exists.
- (8) If an apprentice jockey breaches subrule (1), the apprentice jockey's master and/or any other person who was in charge of the apprentice jockey at any relevant time may also be penalised unless that person satisfies the Stewards that he or she took all proper care to ensure that the apprentice jockey complied with that subrule.

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Amendments effective from 1 February 2021

AR 123 BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

AR 123 Safety vests

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- ~~(4) If an apprentice jockey breaches subrule (1), the apprentice jockey's master and/or any other person who was in charge of the apprentice jockey at any relevant time may also be penalised unless that person satisfies the Stewards that he or she took all proper care to ensure that the apprentice jockey complied with that subrule.~~

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- (4) Subject to subrule (5), when mounted on a horse during darkness, a rider must wear:
 - (a) a safety vest that complies with the requirements in subrule (1); and
 - (b) over that safety vest, or over clothing worn over that safety vest, a harness or braces that contains safety warning lights of a type approved by Racing Australia, a PRA or the Stewards.
- (5) Subrule (4) does not:
 - (a) apply to any rider who complies with AR 122(6);
 - (b) apply to any location where the Stewards have ruled that sufficient artificial lighting exists;
 - (c) affect the requirement that trackwork may only be conducted where Stewards have ruled that sufficient natural or artificial lighting exists.

- (6) If an apprentice jockey breaches subrule (1), the apprentice jockey's master and/or any other person who was in charge of the apprentice jockey at any relevant time may also be penalised unless that person satisfies the Stewards that he or she took all proper care to ensure that the apprentice jockey complied with that subrule.

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PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE IN SAMPLE TAKEN FROM HORSE AT TRIAL ETC

Summary:

Under the current rule, detection of substances on Prohibited List A or B in horses participating in official trials, jump-outs and other tests only constitutes a prohibited substance offence where the event is “for the purpose of the horse obtaining a permit to start in a race (whether after suspension or otherwise)”.

In circumstances where official trials and their results are increasingly relied on by industry participants (including punters), Racing Australia is of the view that, to improve the integrity of official trials, substances on Prohibited List A and B should not be permitted at such events regardless of the purpose a horse is participating. AR 241 has been amended accordingly.

The amendment does not change the current rule with respect to horses participating in jump-outs or other tests (subrules (b) and (c)).

Amendments effective from 1 February 2021

AR 241 BE DELETED AND REPLACED AS FOLLOWS:

~~AR 241 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at trial etc~~

~~If a horse is brought to a racecourse or recognised training track to participate in:~~

~~(a) an official trial;~~

~~(b) a jump-out; or~~

~~(c) any other test,~~

~~for the purpose of obtaining a permit to start in a race (whether after suspension or otherwise), and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following the relevant event, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian Rules.~~

AR 241 Prohibited substance in sample taken from horse at trial etc

If a horse is brought to a racecourse or recognised training track to participate in:

(a) an official trial;

(b) a jump-out for the purpose of obtaining a permit to start in a race (whether after suspension or otherwise); or

(c) any other test for the purpose of obtaining a permit to start in a race (whether after suspension or otherwise).

and a prohibited substance on Prohibited List A and/or Prohibited List B is detected in a sample taken from the horse prior to or following the relevant event, the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the horse at any relevant time breaches these Australian Rules.

PROHIBITIONS ON CONDUCT OF TRAINERS DURING SUSPENSION

Summary:

Racing Australia is of the view the current rule restricting the actions of trainers while suspended should be clarified to ensure that such trainers do not continue to have influence over training operations while suspended. This has the potential to affect both the integrity and the public perception of racing.

Accordingly, Racing Australia has amended AR 267 by clarifying the specific restrictions on suspended trainers and making the opening paragraph consistent with AR 270A (penalty for breach of terms of suspension).

Amendments effective from 1 February 2021

AR 267 BE DELETED AND REPLACED AS FOLLOWS:

~~AR 267 Prohibitions on conduct of trainers during period of suspension~~

~~Except with the consent of a PRA or the Stewards who imposed a suspension, during the period of the suspension a suspended trainer or a person holding a permit to train must not:~~

- ~~(a) as a trainer or permit holder, nominate a horse for a race, official trial or jump-out; or~~
- ~~(b) train or participate in any way in the training of a horse; or~~
- ~~(c) be registered as a stablehand, or be employed or act or be involved in any capacity in any racing stable.~~

AR 267 Prohibitions on conduct of trainers during suspension

Unless otherwise authorised by the PRA or the Stewards in whose territory a suspension was imposed on a trainer (and upon such conditions as the PRA or the Stewards may in their discretion impose), a suspended trainer must not, during the period of that suspension:

- (a) as a trainer or permit holder, nominate a horse for a race, official trial or jump-out;
- (b) train, or participate in any way in the training or preparation for racing of, a horse (including without limitation the giving of instructions);
- (c) be registered as a stablehand;
- (d) be employed by, or otherwise engaged to provide any service in any capacity to, any thoroughbred racing stable; or
- (e) enter the mounting yard, scales area or horse stall area at a racecourse, save that a suspended trainer may enter such an area if he or she is the owner of a horse in that area.

AMENDMENT TO THE AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING: Prohibited List B

THEOBROMINE

Summary:

The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities has amended the status of the prohibited substance theobromine from a threshold level to an International Residue Limit (IRL) within Article 6 of the International Agreement on Breeding Racing and Wagering.

The current IRLs for theobromine are 2ug/mL in urine and 0.3ug/mL in plasma.

In the interests of international harmonisation, Racing Australia has amended the rules to remove theobromine from the list of substances that have a threshold applied (Schedule 1, Part 2, Division 3 – Prohibited List B thresholds).

Racing Australia's Veterinary and Analytical Advisory Group has previously agreed to a national uniform approach to dealing with the detection of low levels of prohibited substances known to be environmental substances or feed contaminants, whereby IRLs are not formally adopted into the Australia Rules of Racing. It has previously been agreed that Australian racing laboratories would maintain their currently agreed local reporting levels for substances of environmental concern, and Australian and New Zealand Official Racing Analysts (ANZORA) would manage a collaborative approach between the laboratories to ensure these reporting limits were applicable to each laboratory.

Accordingly, theobromine has been removed from Division 3 – Prohibited List B thresholds and the Australian racing laboratories have been advised that theobromine at 2ug/mL in urine and 0.3ug/mL in plasma is to be included in the currently agreed list of local reporting levels for substances of environmental concern.

Amendments effective from 1 February 2021

SCHEDULE 1, PART 2, DIVISION 3 BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

PART 2 – SUBSTANCES PROHIBITED ON RACE DAYS, CERTAIN TRIALS ETC

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Division 3 – Prohibited List B thresholds

The prohibited substances set out below in this Division 3 when present at or below their respective threshold are exempt from Prohibited List B.

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~~10. Theobromine at a mass concentration of 2.00 milligrams per litre in urine.~~

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10. Not used.

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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>