

Friday, 13 September 2019

Notice to Trainers

Reminder regarding Farriery and Racing Plates

Please be advised that Racing Victoria has reviewed compliance with the Rules of Racing AR 107, AR 206 and LR 47A, B and C and LR 85 regulating farriery and the types and application of racing plates.

Trainers are advised to review these rules and note the following:

1. Bonded-on Plates

Bonded-on plates are defined as race plates secured to the foot by the use of any material or agent other than nails and are considered Therapeutic Plates.

<u>Trainers must submit a Gear Change Request for the use of bonded on race plates</u>. This can be done by selecting "glue on shoe" and noting in the *comments* section that it is a "bonded-on" plate. The use of a Therapeutic Plate will be subject to approval by the Stewards.

The replating by nailing on a replacement plate for a horse that has lost a bonded-on plate will be assessed on a case by case basis with the RV Official Raceday Farrier providing expert advice to the Stewards who will make the final decision as to whether to make an attempt to re-plate the horse or, whether the horse should be withdrawn from the race.

To assist in making this assessment, with the objectives of protecting the safety and welfare of the horse and rider and of protecting the interests of the betting public, Trainers must declare their intention to race a horse in therapeutic bonded-on plates and complete the Farriery – Application for Bonded-on Racing plate/s and:

- a. report the nature of the injury or condition that requires the use of therapeutic plating; and
- provide advice on the appropriateness of attempting to re-plate the horse by the nailing on of a standard racing plate.

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2. Gear Changes - the use of Therapeutic Plates and or Synthetic Hoof Repair Material

Prior to acceptance time, Trainers must submit a *Gear Change Request* for the use of a therapeutic plate and or synthetic hoof repair material. The use of a therapeutic plate will be subject to approval by the Stewards.

The following are considered therapeutic plates:

- Glue –On (according to LR 57) (including Sigafoo and Mustad)
- Any type of bar plate
- Any type of concussion plate
- Hoof pads
- Tips and partial plates including ¾ plates
- Bonded-on plates (race plates secured to the foot by the use of any material or agent other than nails)

The horse with therapeutic plates and or synthetic hoof material must be presented for examination on arrival at the racecourse for inspection by a RV Raceday Farrier.

3. Loss of a Therapeutic Plate on the Racecourse

If a horse loses or damages a therapeutic plate on the way to the start, the following procedures will apply:

- a. if a Glue-On shoe or Hoof Pad is lost, the Stewards will order the withdrawal of the horse;
- if any form of bar plate, tip or partial plate (including ¾ plates) is lost and the cast shoe cannot be located or is damaged, the Stewards will order the withdrawal of the horse, unless;
 - i. the Trainer has provided a spare formed, fitted and labelled *therapeutic plate* to the RV Raceday Farrier.
- c. if any other therapeutic plate is cast on the way to the start, the RV Raceday Farrier will advise the Stewards of the situation and the practicality of replating the horse. The Stewards will then decide upon the appropriate course of action.
- d. the Stewards may, in exceptional circumstances, permit a horse to race bare-footed behind, but horses will not be permitted to race bare footed in front.
- e. if any plate incorporated into extensive synthetic hoof repair is lost and in the opinion of the RV Raceday Farrier there is significant damage to the repair, the Stewards will order the withdrawal of the horse.

4. Plating of Racehorses by an Unlicensed Farrier

All horses racing in Victoria must be shod by a licensed Farrier or an employee of a licensed Farrier unless special permission has been granted by the Stewards.

If the Stewards have provided such permission, all racehorses plated by an unlicensed Farrier must be presented for examination on arrival at the racecourse for inspection by a RV Raceday Farrier.

5. The Weight of Plates

The weight of racing plates and therapeutic plates needs to be controlled to ensure that plating cannot be used to affect the performance of a horse and also to reduce the risk of plates lost in running causing injury to other race participants.

Unless specific permission is granted by the stewards, all racing plates must comply with the Rules of Racing

Please ensure that your Farrier is aware of the weight restrictions that apply to racing plates (150 grams) and therapeutic plates (170 grams).

6. The Use of Over-Sized Nails

The heads of nails must not protrude more than 2 mm from the surface of a racing plate or tip (for example large E4 and E3 nails).

7. The Height of Clips

The height restriction is a safety measure to minimize the potential of damage to deep structures of the foot in the event of shifting or loss of a plate.

Clips must not exceed the maximum height of 15 mm.

RV Farriers have been instructed to pay attention to compliance with the Rules of Racing and to report non-compliances to the Stewards.

Thank you for your cooperation.

If you have any queries, please contact the Department of Equine Welfare and Veterinary Services at Racing Victoria.

ENDS