



**Racing
Victoria**

**AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF RACING
Amendment No 215 – Issued 26 January 2024**

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 52

CERTAIN PERSONS NOT TO HOLD OFFICES OR OFFICIATE

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

The Racing Victoria Board have endorsed an amendment of LR 52 to expand and clarify its scope and application. The amendment to LR 52 maintains a general prohibition on trainers acting in a category of Raceday Official, unless a licensed trainer seeks to act as a barrier attendant, Clerk of Course or farrier however has added the provision that a trainer with a licence with a sub-category of type 0-9 horses, may act on the Committee of a Club, be appointed a Race Club Manager or a Race Club Track Manager.

Accordingly, the Racing Victoria Board has approved the following Local Rule of Racing amendments effective from 1 February 2024.

LR 52 BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

~~**LR 52 – Certain persons not to hold offices or officiate**~~

~~A person holding a licence or permit as a bookmaker, jockey, apprentice or trainer (other than as only the holder of an owner-trainer permit) is ineligible to be elected or appointed, and must not act, as a Raceday Official.~~

LR 52 Certain persons not to hold offices or officiate

- (1) A person holding a licence or permit as a bookmaker, jockey, apprentice or trainer is ineligible to be elected or appointed, and must not act, as a Raceday Official.
- (2) Without limiting subrule (1), and other than only as a licensed trainer, a trainer is eligible to be elected or appointed, or to otherwise act as a barrier attendant, Clerk of Course or farrier.
- (3) Without limiting subrule (1), and other than only as a trainer with a licence with a sub-category type 0-9 horses, a trainer is eligible to be elected or appointed, or to otherwise act on the Committee of a Club.
- (4) Without limiting subrule (1), and other than only as a trainer with a licence with a sub-category type 0-9 horses, a trainer is eligible to be appointed as a Race Club Manager, or a Race Club Track Manager.

PROHIBITED USE OF AN ABATTOIR OR KNACKERY

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

The Racing Victoria Board have introduced, effective from 1 February 2024, a new Local Rule of Racing 94C which will ban live thoroughbreds being sent to an abattoir or knackery.

LR 94C was endorsed by the RV Board as an appropriate next step given the range of suitable post-racing transition programs RV has established in the past five years to support all thoroughbreds exiting the Victorian racing industry to successfully transition to second careers.

RV's equine welfare team undertook extensive consultation with industry stakeholders and relevant service providers in considering the implementation of the rule.

The effect of the rule is that:

- Any live thoroughbred, before and during racing, may not be sent an abattoir or knackery; and
- Where a retired thoroughbred is in the care of a licensed participant, they may not be sent to an abattoir or knackery.

LR 94C BE ADDED AS FOLLOWS:

LR 94C Prohibited use of an abattoir or knackery

(1) A person must not directly or indirectly engage in and/or facilitate the transport, movement, delivery, sale or rehoming of a thoroughbred horse to an abattoir, knackery or similar facility.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, subrule (1) does not apply to:

(a) The humane euthanasia of a thoroughbred horse by a registered veterinarian or licensed firearm holder at a veterinary clinic or the property at which the thoroughbred horse resides;
or

(b) Thoroughbreds that are already deceased which are transported, moved, delivered, or sold.

For the purposes of this rule:

Thoroughbred horse means any horse admitted to (or eligible to apply for admission to) the Australian Stud Book or an International Thoroughbred Studbook.

AMENDMENT TO THE VICTORIAN LOCAL RULES OF RACING: AR 2 DEFINITIONS –

“SERIOUS OFFENCE”

SERIOUS OFFENCE

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

Section 50O of the Racing Act 1958 (**the Racing Act**) mandates that if a person has been charged with a “Serious Offence”, the Victorian Racing Tribunal (**VRT**) must hear and determine the matter. Accordingly, if someone is charged under a Rule of Racing that is defined as a Serious Offence, but the infraction is minor or technical in nature, it must nonetheless be heard by the VRT. This can give rise to inefficiencies of time, resourcing and costs both for the Stewards and participants.

Prior to the introduction of the VRT, when Serious Offence matters were heard by the RAD Board, LR 8C(2A) entitled the Stewards to deal with particular Serious Offences themselves so long as the person indicated in writing that they would plead guilty before the RAD Board and the Stewards intended to fine the person \$5,000 or less.

LR 8C(2A) recognised that while some Rules entail very serious conduct that should be heard before the RAD Board, other Rules capture less serious offending that could be dealt with by the Stewards at first instance and in a much more efficient and expeditious manner.

Given that the VRT is a statutory Tribunal established under the Racing Act 1958, and Racing Victoria (**RV**) has no power to amend the enabling Act, it is not possible to include a rule like LR 8C(2A) for the purposes of limiting the VRT’s jurisdiction.

Accordingly, to allow the Stewards to deal with less serious offending themselves, which would save resources, money, and time; the Racing Victoria Board have endorsed, effective from 1 February 2024, the removal of AR 228(a), AR 232 (h), AR 232 (i) and LR 99 from the Serious Offence list.

In addition to this, the Racing Victoria Board has also inserted the newly created LR 94C into the Serious Offence list, effective from 1 February 2024.

AR 2 – “SERIOUS OFFENCE” BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

AR 2 Dictionary

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Serious Offence means an offence under, or breach of, one of the following rules:

- (a) AR 255(1);
- (b) AR 115(1)(c) and (e);
- (c) AR 116;
- (d) AR 236;
- (e) AR 129(1), (2), (3) and (5);
- (f) AR 227(b);
- (g) ~~AR 228(a);~~ deleted;
- (h) AR 229(1)(a), (b), (c), (d);
- (i) AR 231(1)(a) and (b), (2)(a) and (b), (3);
- (j) ~~AR 232(h), (i);~~ deleted;
- (k) AR 233(b);
- (l) AR 237(1), (2) and (4)-(7);
- (m) AR 240(1) and (2);
- (n) *[deleted 22/11/21]*
- (o) AR 242;
- (p) AR 244;

- (q) AR 245(1);
- (r) AR 246;
- (s) AR 247;
- (t) AR 249;
- (u) AR 251; and
- (v) ~~LR 99~~ [deleted](#);
- (w) [LR 94C](#).

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Amendments effective from 1 February 2024

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>