



AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF RACING

Amendment No 155 – Issued 29 September 2015

Racing Australia (formerly the Australian Racing Board) has approved the following amendments to the Australian Rules of Racing, effective from 1 October 2015.

AMENDMENT TO THE AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING: AR178AB

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

Trainers and other thoroughbred racing industry participants should be aware of new Australian Rule of Racing AR 178AB that becomes effective from 1 October 2015. This Rule prohibits the use of injections of any type in horses during the One Clear Day prior to racing.

Please note it has been decided to remove Official Trials from this Rule. Therefore the ban on the use of injections One Clear Day applies to scheduled races only.

Implications of AR 178AB

The new rule makes it an offence for any person (including a trainer, anyone else in charge of a racehorse or a veterinarian) to insert a hypodermic needle into a horse within the one clear day prior to a race.

By way of example, if a horse is racing on a Saturday, the last time that the horse may be injected is midnight on the Thursday prior to the race. The horse must not be injected on the Friday or at any time on the Saturday prior to the running of the race.

The one clear day ban on injections prior to competition includes, but is not limited to, the administration by injection, whether intravenously, intramuscularly, subcutaneously or any other route, of the following medications and substances:

- intravenous infusions, fluids and electrolytes;
- vitamin and mineral supplements;
- haematopoietic (blood building) agents;
- all Schedule 4 Prescription Animal Remedies and Prescription Medicines for injection, including those specified in AR 178B(2) such as antibiotics, mucolytic agents and anti-arthritic agents; and
- any other agents for administration by injection.

However, it is noted that, for the purpose of proving a breach of AR 178AB, it is not necessary to establish what (if any) substance was injected, or was attempted to have been injected, into the horse.

Importantly, under the new rule, a person must not, without the permission of the Stewards, insert a needle into a horse for the purpose of blood sampling for health and fitness assessment during the one clear day prior to racing. The obvious exception to the Rule is the collection of official pre-race or out-of-competition blood samples at the direction of the Stewards for the purpose of drug analyses.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The timing of the administration of many injectable products will be determined by the detection periods for the prohibited substances contained in those products. In most cases, the detection periods will be in excess of the one clear day prior to competition.

Amendments effective from 1 October 2015

AR 178AB BE ADDED AS FOLLOWS:

AR 178AB

- (1) A person must not, without the permission of the Stewards, inject a horse, cause a horse to be injected or attempt to inject a horse, which is engaged to run in any race:
 - (a) at any time on the day of the scheduled race, prior to the start of such event; and
 - (b) at any time during the One Clear Day prior to 12.01am on the day of the scheduled race.
- (2) Where there has been a breach of AR 178AB(1), or the Stewards reasonably suspect that there has been a breach of AR178AB(1), the Stewards may order the withdrawal of the horse from the relevant race.
- (3) Where there has been a contravention of AR 178AB(1), the horse may be disqualified from the relevant race in which it competed.
- (4) Any person who breaches, or is a party to a breach of, AR 178AB(1), commits an offence and may be penalised.
- (5) For the purpose of this rule:
 - (a) injection includes, but is not limited to, the insertion of a hypodermic needle into a horse;
 - (b) it is not necessary to establish whether any substance was injected, or the nature of any substance injected.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING: AR 103(2) & AR 103(3)

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

Australian Rule of Racing AR 103(2) has been amended to allow Principal Racing Authorities to set a higher minimum top weight at acceptance time for handicap flat races. The rule currently provides the highest-weighted acceptor must be weighted at, or increased to, 58 kilograms.

This amendment does not impact the current operations of states (raising to 58kg), but does add flexibility should changes be decided upon by other PRAs in future.

AR 103(3) has also been amended to add flexibility to minimum weights in Group 1 racing. The intention of this change is to enable a PRA, at its discretion, to set a lower limit weight on Group 1 handicaps.

Amendment effective from 1 October 2015

AR 103(2) & AR 103(3) BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

AR 103

- (1) The top weight allocated for handicap flat races must not be less than 59 kilograms, except for Group 1 handicap races and races in which 2yos only can run, for which the allocated top weight must not be less than 58 kilograms.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-rule (1), if at the declaration of acceptances for a handicap flat race the weight allocated to the highest-weighted acceptor (including any extra weight by way of re-handicap or penalty) is less than 58 kilograms, or less than a higher weight determined by a Principal Racing Authority, then allocated weights for the race must be increased until the highest-weighted acceptor is weighted at not less than 58 kilograms.
- (3) The minimum weight allocated for handicap flat races must not be less than –
 - (a) 50 kilograms for the Melbourne ~~Cup~~ and Caulfield Cup ~~and Doncaster Mile~~;
 - (b) 52 kilograms for Group 1 handicap races other than the Melbourne Cup and Caulfield Cup;
 - (c) 53 kilograms for Group 2 handicap flat races;
 - (d) 54 kilograms for all other handicap flat races.

Provided that the Principal Racing Authority concerned may approve applications made by racing clubs for a minimum weight of 50 kilograms for Group 1 handicap races other than the Melbourne Cup and Caulfield Cup (paragraph (b) of this sub-rule) and also for 2-year-old and/or 3-year-old horses in open-age handicap races to be allocated lower minimum weights than those prescribed by paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) of this sub-rule.

To view the current version of the Rules of Racing, please visit the following link to the Racing Victoria website: http://www.racingvictoria.net.au/p_Rules_of_Racing.aspx