




HARNESS RACING VICTORIA

# **GENERAL RACING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

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### **RULE 15(1)(aa) – POLICY**


#### **Pacers**

1. Where a pacer breaks gait free of interference on one occasion during a race, the Stewards may place the horse on its last chance to race truly.
2. If a horse re-offends in accordance with the provisions of clause 1 within its next 3 starts the horse may be stood down from racing until the completion of a satisfactory trial.
3. Where a pacer breaks gait free of interference on more than one occasion during a race, the Stewards may stand the horse down for one trial.
4. Where a pacer has previously been stood down in accordance with provisions 1 and 2 and re-offends within its next 3 starts, the Stewards may stand the horse down for 10 days and require it to trial on one occasion.
5. Where a pacer further re-offends within 3 starts, the stand down may be increased to 14 days and 2 trials.
6. The Stewards may issue a warning, place a horse on its last chance to race truly, stand a horse down for a period, or require it to trial if they deem a performance to be unsatisfactory by virtue of erratic racing manners, galloping excessively or being uncompetitive.
7. Any horse that continually offends with any of the above conditions will see the stand down provision increased.
8. Some discretion may be used when there has been a substantial time period between race starts.

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### Trotters

1. Where a trotter breaks gait free of interference on 2 occasions during a race, the Stewards may place the horse on its last chance to race truly. Discretion may be extended to a first-time offender having five or less life time starts.
2. If a trotter breaks on 1 occasion during consecutive starts or on a consistent basis (within its next 3 race starts) the stewards may issue a warning.
3. If a trotter re-offends in accordance with the provisions of clause 2 within its next 3 starts the horse may be placed on its last chance to race truly.
4. If a trotter re-offends in a similar manner within its next 3 race starts it may be stood down from racing until the completion of a satisfactory trial.
5. Where a trotter breaks gait free of interference on more than 2 occasions during a race or is deemed to be non-competitive, the Stewards may stand the horse down for one trial.
6. Where a trotter has previously been stood down in accordance with provisions 4 and/or 5 and re-offends within its next 3 starts, the Stewards may stand the horse down for 10 days and require it to trial on one occasion.
7. Where a trotter further re-offends within 3 starts, the stand down may be increased to 14 days and 2 trials.
8. The Stewards may issue a warning, place a horse on its last chance to race truly, stand a horse down for a period, or require it to trial if they deem a performance to be unsatisfactory by virtue of erratic racing manners, galloping excessively or being uncompetitive.
9. Any horse that continually offends with any of the above conditions will see the stand down provision increased.

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10. Some discretion may be used when there has been a substantial time period between race starts.

### **RULE 25 – POLICY**

The trainer of a horse must within 24 hours of a horse entering or leaving his stable lodge a stable return via HarnessWeb or in writing to HRV provided that if such horse has been, or is to be nominated, for a race such stable return must be lodged immediately.

### **RULE 31 – POLICY**


A veterinary certificate in respect of unfitness or injury is to be lodged within two working days of the withdrawal of the horse.

### **RULE 47 – PROCEDURE**

- A driver must report to the Ambulance Officers/ Doctor if he/she is involved in a race accident.
- The Ambulance Officer will determine whether the driver requires further medical assessment.
- Where determined by an Ambulance Officer that a driver needs further medical assessment, the driver shall not drive again until a Medical Practitioner clears the driver to resume driving is lodged with the Stewards.
- The Stewards shall make note on the meeting Summary Report of any driver requiring a medical assessment.

### **RULE 59 – POLICY**

- If the Stewards decide to re-run a race at the same meeting, horses must be passed fit to start by Veterinarians before being allowed to start.
- The Stewards may consider recommending to the controlling body that a race be re-run at another meeting.

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- Refer to HRV Race Fall Policy

### **RULE 75(1) – POLICY**

- A horse may only be accepted in one claiming race per calendar day.

### **RULE 88 – POLICY**

- A 14 day ban will be applied to a horse which is withdrawn after acceptances unless a veterinary certificate is lodged (Rule 31), or other documentation which satisfies the Stewards that the reason for the scratching is valid.
- A 28 day ban will be applied to a horse which is withdrawn after the 8.30 am scratching deadline.

### **FLOAT BREAKDOWN**

Participants should be made aware that in the circumstance of a horse being scratched as a result of a float breakdown, such horse will be ineligible to race for a period of 28 days unless supportive evidence of the breakdown is provided to Stewards and at such time the penalty will be reduced to not less than six (6) days unless Stewards approve otherwise.

### **RULE 90A – POLICY**


Visiting trainers intending to stay in Victoria longer than (7) days must apply for a permit. For additional policy relating to licensing, please refer to the Licensing section of this Directory.

### **RULE 91(b) – POLICY**

Drivers incurring a suspension must fulfill any declared driving engagements, unless otherwise determined by the Stewards.

### **PENALTY DEFERMENT**

Should a driver be found guilty of a charge and once the Stewards have determined an appropriate period of suspension, the driver will be afforded the opportunity to defer the commencement of any such suspension for up to the maximum period of nine

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days. If a period of deferment is taken by the driver, such opportunity to a further deferment of penalty will not be afforded to the driver at an appeal before the VRT.

#### **RULE 97(1) – POLICY**

To change the gait of a horse, the owner or trainer must lodge with HRV a written request. The horse must re-qualify and a further change of gait cannot be approved until the expiration of three months from the date of the previous request.

#### **RULE 100 (1) – POLICY**

Trainers are required to report any horse in their care that has sustained a major fracture and or undergone major orthopaedic, respiratory or abdominal surgery to the Harness Racing Victoria Stewards department within 28 days of either occurrence.

#### **RULE 111(4) – POLICY**

Where a registered owner has been placed on the Unpaid Forfeit List in accordance with Rule 292, without limiting the discretionary provisions of the Controlling Body under Rule 295, HRV shall not allow a transfer of ownership of the relevant interest in a horse in relation to the registered owner entered onto the Unpaid Forfeits List, until such time as the owner is removed from the list or as otherwise determined by the Controlling Body.


#### **RULE 119 – POLICY**

A Trainer must within 24 hours of a horse leaving their stable notify such occurrence via HarnessWeb or in writing to HRV except in circumstances where a horse is to be, or has been, nominated for a race where notification must be lodged immediately.

#### **RULE 131 – POLICY**


- Barrier lines do not change with scratchings.
- Barrier positions move down the line with scratchings.



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### **RULE 134 – POLICIES**

- Horses competing in a standing start race that break gait free of interference at or within 100m after the start should be declared outside draw stands (ODS) for future standing start races until such time as it completes two satisfactory performances consecutively.
- An ODS horse must start from the outside half of the track irrespective of its allocated barrier position.
- Horses may be assisted by the Clerk of the Course or a Track Attendant prior to the score up or the start commencing, however should improve forward to the Barrier unassisted. In circumstances where this does not occur, or Stewards deem such assistance to have interfered with or delayed the starting process, a horse may have at least a warning issued. This penalty may increase on each occasion the horse reoffends within 3 race starts to the horse being placed on its last chance in the draw and any further offending in the next 3 race starts resulting in the horse being placed outside of the draw.
- Horses competing in a mobile start race that break gait free of interference during the score up and fail to fill their allotted position prior to the start should be declared outside draw mobiles (ODM) for future mobile start races. A horse which regains its position prior to the start may be placed on its last chance in the draw.
- Any horse which has been placed on its last chance in the draw and reoffends in its next three starts may be placed outside the draw.
- Horses competing in a mobile start race that break gait free of interference at or within 100m after the start should be declared outside draw mobiles (ODM) for future mobile start races until such time as it completes two satisfactory performances consecutively.
- Where an ODS/M horse's performance continues to be unsatisfactory, such horse may be declared RODS/M.

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- Where a RODS/M horse's performance continues to be unsatisfactory, such horse may be stood from racing until trialling to the satisfaction of Stewards.
- Any horse which is the cause of a false start should be placed outside the draw for future races of that start type.
- In order for any horse that has been excluded from the draw to be re-included, the following requirements must be met by such horse on two consecutive occasions in either a race or trial: (i) Maintain gait throughout score up (ii) Be within one (1) metre of the barrier at the required time (trials & races). (iii) Behave in a tractable manner for 100 metres after the start in races. (iv) Behave in a tractable manner for 300 metres after the start in trials. (v) Complete the trial.
- A RODS/M horse will be required to perform satisfactorily on two consecutive occasions to revert to ODS/M and on two further consecutive occasions to be placed back in the draw.


If stewards accede to a request that a horse be placed outside the draw, such horse will be made RODS/M and will be required to perform satisfactorily on two consecutive occasions to revert to ODS/M and on two further consecutive occasions to be placed back in the draw.

### **RULE 136(1) - POLICY**

To attempt to secure a fair start in a standing start race, the starter may consider it necessary for a barrier strand to be placed no less than ten (10) metres directly behind a horse's allotted starting position.

### **RULE 141 – POLICIES**

If a hopple shortener pin or ear plug prematurely releases the score up shall continue and the Driver shall not alert the Starter of a gear malfunction. The Driver may release the shortener pin or ear plug that has remained in place however must continue to score up. This is irrespective of the horse maintaining its correct gait or galloping – the score up shall continue regardless. Drivers should note that if they attempt to delay

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the start of a race due to a hoppel shortener pin or ear plug prematurely releasing or turn their horse away from the start after the score up has commenced, penalties may apply.

When a false start is declared for a mobile start race, the starter will direct that all horses immediately return to the marshalling area via the shortest route, that gear adjustments are made if necessary and the mobile barrier will be repositioned to recommence the score-up.

### **RULE 159(1) – POLICY**

A driver shall not drive in a race with his/her colours outside his/her trousers unless the colours are a tailored jacket.

### **RULE 162(a) – POLICY**

The Starter will activate an amber flashing light two minutes prior to the scheduled or re-scheduled starting time of a race and after the activation of the light, a driver must not dismount without permission.

### **RULE 163(1)(c) – POLICY**

A driver who allows his/her sulky to contact the marker pegs may be cautioned. Any subsequent offence may attract a fine. Repeat offenders may be suspended. – A driver who carelessly allows any part of his/her sulky to go inside the line of the marker pegs, may be fined or suspended. – A driver, who goes where there is insufficient room and his/her sulky goes inside the line of the marker pegs, or causes another runner's sulky to go inside the line of the marker pegs, may be suspended.

### **RULE 167(3) – Interpretation**

In determining whether to alter the placings under Rule 167(3) Stewards will place significant weight on whether any horse was impeded when attempting to utilise the sprint lane as a result of the leading horse or any other prohibited horse entering the sprint lane.



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### **RULE 171(1) – POLICY**

When an accident occurs, the Steward-In-Charge will assess the situation and if deemed unsafe to continue, the “fall siren” will be activated continuously and the race is to be stopped. Refer HRV Race Fall Policy.

A person approved by the Stewards to act as a “Crash Attendant” will control the accident scene. A Clerk of Course, if free to do so, will position himself/herself to direct the remaining starters around the accident.


### **RULE 190(6) – POLICY**

A person in charge of a horse at a race meeting must be a licenced trainer, driver or stablehand. If the trainer or the previously declared representative is not present at that meeting, written authority must be lodged with the Stewards at the meeting advising of the person responsible.

### **APPROVED LABORATORIES**

The following analytical laboratories are approved by Harness Racing Victoria –

- Racing Analytical Services Limited (VIC)
- Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory (NSW)
- Queensland Racing Integrity Commission - Racing Science Centre (QLD)
- ChemCentre – Racing Chemistry Laboratory (WA)
- The Hong Kong Jockey Club Racing Laboratory (Hong Kong)
- LGC - Sports and Specialised Analytical Services (United Kingdom)
- New Zealand Racing Laboratory Services (NZ)
- National Measurement Institute (NSW)
- Institute of Biochemistry - German Sport University (Germany)
- Bureau Veritas (Canada)
- Laboratory of Racing Chemistry (Japan)

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### **RULE 238 – POLICY**

In wet or inclement conditions, Stewards may direct that Trainers apply mudguards to their Sulkies.

### **RULE 253 – POLICY**

The use of mobile telephones in the drivers room at any race meeting is strictly prohibited.

### **RULE 256(2)(a) – POLICY**

The minimum penalty for rule breaches at TAB meetings is \$50.

### **RULE 259(1) – POLICY**

- A person commencing disqualification in the season pertaining to an industry award shall not be eligible for such award.
- Where a disqualified person is a member of a partnership which wins an industry award, the persons not affected by the disqualification shall be eligible.
- A horse owned, trained or driven by a disqualified person, is eligible for an industry award.

### **RULE 273 – PROCEDURE**

273(1) Application to have gear approved shall be made to HRA via the State Controlling Body Chairman of Stewards. HRA will consult with each state's Chairman of Stewards before approval is granted. A list of approved gear shall be kept by the HRA.

273(2) The Steward-in-Charge of a meeting shall record faulty or broken gear.

273(3) Notification of a gear change must be made by the driver declaration time for the respective meeting.

### **RULE 273(6)(a) – POLICY**

Incorrect number includes wearing no number.