



## **NOTIFICATION OF DRIVING TACTICS POLICY**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background**

The intention of this policy is to outline to all industry stakeholders the circumstances where the Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Stewards require the prior disclosure of the intended tactics to be employed in a race.

#### **1.2 Objectives**

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Protect the integrity of the Victorian Harness Racing Industry by ensuring that the tactics adopted on all runners are in the best interest of each individual horse and the tactics adopted are independent of any other horse engaged in a race;
- Provide advance notice to all industry stakeholders, particularly licensed persons, of the circumstances where it will be a mandatory requirement to notify of the tactics to be adopted and that the failure to do so may result in penalties being imposed;
- Outline to licensed persons that the HRV Stewards may also require the prior notification of the tactics to be adopted on a horse in circumstances where they deem it necessary.

## **2. SCOPE**

This policy applies to:

- All races conducted within Victoria.

## **3. Effective Date**

This policy takes effect from 1 June 2019.

## **4. RELEVANT AUSTRALIAN HARNESS RACING RULES**

**15. (1)** *Stewards are empowered -*

*(a) to direct and control at any meeting or race the activities of officials, owners, qualifying/requalifying supervisors, trainers, drivers, bookmakers, clerks, persons attending horses and anyone else appointed, employed or engaged in or about the meeting or race;*

*(b) to entertain and determine all matters under question or in dispute at or arising out of a meeting or race, or concerning the meaning or application of these rules, or concerning any aspect of the harness racing industry;*

**149. (4)** *The connections of a horse shall not give a direction or instruction to the driver of a horse if in the opinion of the Stewards that direction or instruction may prevent the driver from giving the horse full opportunity to win or obtain the best possible placing.*

**238.** *A person shall not fail to comply with any order, direction or requirement of the Controlling Body or the Stewards relating to harness racing or to the harness racing industry.*

## **5. NOTIFICATION OF DRIVING TACTICS**

In the following circumstances connections shall notify the intended driving tactics adopted on a horse:

- When a trainer has two (2) or more runners engaged in a race the connections shall notify the intended tactics to the HRV Stewards no later than forty five (45) minutes prior to the advertised start time of the relevant race.
- When directed to do so the connections of a horse must immediately notify of the intended driving tactics to be adopted on a horse.

## **6. RESPONSIBILITY**

- The responsibility to notify the intended driving tactics rests upon the declared trainer of a horse or horses.
- Should a trainer be unable to attend a race meeting the responsibility under this policy rests equally upon the licensed person left in charge of the horse or horses and the declared trainer.
- The failure to notify the intended tactics on a horse as required by Section 5 of this policy may result in a breach of the AHRR and a penalty being imposed.