



## **RACE FALL POLICY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The previous policy when a fall occurs is that the Steward-In-Charge may activate an intermittent siren to warn the drivers competing to proceed with caution unless any other direction is given by the Stewards to stop the race.

This previous approach was open to confusion as drivers may mistake the siren as being continuous and wrongly retire their horse from the race or conversely continue mistakenly when the race has been stopped. The previous policy also had the potential to create further confusion with other racecourse officials such as the Clerk of the Course, broadcaster etc.

A new policy has been formed with the attempt to lessen any chance of confusion and the result of a race being unnecessarily jeopardised and to ensure the safety of all participants. This policy will also outline the process for Stewards to determine when a race is stopped due to a fall, whether that race should be re-run or abandon the race (declared a no-race).

### **RELEVANT AUSTRALIAN RULES OF HARNESS RACING**

**171. (1)** In the event of an obstruction occurring on the track during a race, drivers shall observe due caution and obey instructions given by the Stewards or any appointed person.

**(2)** A driver who fails to comply with sub rule (1) is guilty of an offence.

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

**(g)** to stop, restart, rerun, postpone or abandon any race;

### **PROCEDURE WHEN A RACE IS ORDERED TO BE STOPPED**

When the Steward-In-Charge decides that a race is to be stopped due to an obstruction on the track due to a fall, the Steward-In-Charge shall sound the fall siren in a continuous manner and advise the Clerk of the Course's that the race has been ordered to be stopped. The Clerk of the Course's, if free to do so, shall alert the drivers that the race has been stopped.

## **FACTORS CONSIDERED AS TO WHETHER RACE BE RE-RUN**

The Stewards will assess whether to re-run the race and will consider the following factors:

- The distance of the race already run prior to the race being stopped;
- The class and age of horses in the race;
- The sectional times recorded prior to the race being stopped;
- Any other factor the Stewards deem relevant.

## **PROCEDURE FOR RACE TO BE RE-RUN**

If the Stewards deem that to re-run the race is appropriate, all horses shall undergo veterinary examinations and any driver which has fallen shall be examined by the oncourse medical officers. In the event a driver is declared unfit to fulfil their engagement on the horse in which they were engaged to drive, a suitable replacement may be permitted, however in the event a suitable driving replacement is not available, the horse shall be withdrawn.