



HARNESS RACING VICTORIA

## RETURN TO RACING AFTER INJURY OR SURGERY POLICY

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## Return to Racing After Injury or Surgery Policy

INT-PO-016  
(01 NOV 2016)

### 1. BACKGROUND

Following a horse sustaining a major fracture, there is the possibility that additional strain may be placed on the opposite limb during training or racing. Likewise, with other major surgeries there is the inherent risk of further complications that may pose a danger under race conditions.

In order to address such concerns and to further consider the safety of all participants in the Victorian Harness Racing Industry, trainers will now be required to notify the Harness Racing Victoria Integrity Department of horses in their care that have sustained a major fracture and / or undergone major orthopaedic, respiratory or abdominal surgery prior to such horse returning to race.

For the purposes of these guidelines a major fracture, for a horse returning to racing includes, but is not limited to:

- Fractures to the third metacarpus and metatarsus or **Cannon Bone**;
- Fractures involving the shaft of the proximal phalanx or **Pastern**;
- Carpal slab fractures;
- Fractures of the proximal sesamoid bones or **midbody and basal** and or
- Any other major intervention or surgery.

**Trainers are required to adhere to this notice and must 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.**

Prior to such horse racing again, the following is required:

- A detailed description of the injury sustained;
- The veterinary surgeon who performed the procedure or that managed the injury;
- The post-injury management recommended and performed on the injury.



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### 2. RELEVANT AUSTRALIAN HARNESS RACING RULES

#### Pre-Race

**30.** (1) The trainer of a horse that is included in the final acceptors for a race shall inform the Stewards as soon as practicable if the horse has been injured in any way or suffered any illness or condition that may affect its running in the race.

(2) A horse described in sub rule (1) shall not start except with the approval of the Stewards.

(3) A trainer who fails to comply with sub rule (1) is guilty of an offence.

#### Post-Race

**89.** (1) After the running of any race and for a period of 7 days thereafter if the owner, trainer, driver, stablehand or any person in charge of a horse is aware of or has knowledge of anything which may have affected the horse's performance in that race, he or she shall report it immediately to the Stewards.

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

#### Surgical Procedures

**100.** (1) A person who has a horse gelded or submits it to a medical, surgical or other procedure of a type specified by the Controlling Body, shall notify the Controlling Body of that fact.

*The type of procedure specified by HRV in this policy being, but not limited to:*

- *Major orthopaedic surgery;*
- *Major respiratory surgery;*
- *Major abdominal surgery.*

(2) Notification under sub rule (1) shall be given within 28 days of the gelding or other procedure occurring, in writing or such other form as the Controlling Body may determine and, if the horse is named, notification shall be accompanied by the horse's registration certificate.

(4) A person who fails to comply with any provision of this rule is guilty of an offence.

**100A.** Notification of gelding or performance of other specified procedures shall be given to the Controlling Body on Part B of form R25-A.

Any queries in relation to this requirement please contact the HRV Stewards department on 8378 0222.