



HARNESS RACING VICTORIA

# TRACK INSPECTION POLICY

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# HRV Track Inspection Policy

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## 1. MANDATORY STEWARDS INSPECTION

At all race meetings conducted within Victoria the racing surface must be inspected by at least 1 officiating Steward.

When performing a track inspection, the Stewards must walk the racetrack in the opposite direction to any machinery which may be operating on the racetrack.

For the purposes of the above:

'Stewards' includes the officiating Stewards at a meeting and also other officials which may be present during a track inspection, including but not limited to, Starters or Club Officials.

'Machinery' includes, but is not limited to, tractors, water trucks and the Mobile Barrier when being tested prior to or during a race meeting.

The purpose of the above procedure is to ensure that the Stewards walking the racetrack have full sight of any approaching machinery.

## 2. TRACK SAFETY INSPECTION PROCEDURE

At any race meeting where the drivers have genuine concerns regarding the track surface or any other associated safety concerns, a deputation of 3 senior drivers shall immediately approach the stewards with those concerns.

- a) The deputation of 3 senior drivers shall accompany the stewards of an inspection of the track identifying the areas of concern.
- b) After the track has been inspected, the stewards shall inform the starter that the mobile barrier shall be tested, to establish if there are any issues associated with the mobile gaining suitable traction.
- c) If the HRV mobile barrier cannot gain traction, Stewards shall test the club mobile barrier if one is available, to establish if that vehicle is able to be utilised in the conditions.
- d) If neither of the mobile barriers are able to gain traction or if the track inspection reveals visibility concerns, the stewards will consider if the race meeting can proceed or whether remedial works can be conducted on the track.
- e) If remedial works are conducted on the track, the stewards and the deputation of drivers shall conduct a further track inspection following this process.
- f) A discussion shall then take place between the stewards and the deputation of drivers in the absence of any club official to determine whether the meeting can proceed. The stewards will then determine whether the race meeting can proceed or otherwise be abandoned.
- g) In the event that the stewards and some of the delegation of drivers believe the race meeting can continue, the drivers that have safety concerns may be relieved of their driving duties without penalty.



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- h) Suitable replacement drivers may then be engaged by connections of the relevant horses.
- i) Any other associated safety concerns raised, including the presence of adverse weather conditions such as lightning, fog etc. the Stewards may delay any further races to allow for the conditions to subside and in the event that the prevailing conditions remain, Stewards may give consideration to abandoning the remainder of the race meeting.