

AUSTRALIAN HARNESS RACING RULES Rules Amendments - HRA approved 9 December 2021

DICTIONARY

Add definition:

“One clear day” means the twenty four (24) hour period from 12.01 a.m. to midnight.

Amend definition:

“Standardbred” when used with reference to a horse means a horse which is the progeny of a registered Standardbred sire and a registered Standardbred dam.

2. STEWARDS

Powers

- Amend Rule 15(1)(a)

15. (1) Stewards are empowered -

(a) to direct and control at any time the activities of persons licensed under these rules and anyone else appointed, employed or engaged in any aspect of the harness racing industry, concerning the application of these rules;

3. MEETING AND RACES

Nominations and acceptances

- Add new Rule 23B

23B. (1) A horse cannot be nominated for a race if it is a horse as defined by sub-rule (2) and it has not satisfied the provisions of sub-rule (3).

(2) (a) A horse that has not participated in an official trial or race within the twelve month period prior to the race.

(b) A foreign horse that has been imported into Australia and has not participated in an official trial or race within the six month period prior to the race.

(3) The horse must participate in an official trial to the satisfaction of the Stewards.

Stable returns

- **Amend Rule 25(1)(b)**

25. (1) (b) Unless otherwise determined by the Controlling Body or Stewards, a stable return shall be made in such form as the Controlling Body may determine.

Disqualification

- **Add new Rule 66(i)**

66. A horse may be disqualified from a race or placed in a lower finishing position in a race if the horse -

(i) is driven in a manner prejudicial or detrimental to the reputational interests of harness racing.

Claiming Races

- **Amend Rule 75(2)(II)**

75. (2) Subject to any determination made under sub rule (1) the following applies –

(II) where a horse is declared to race in a claiming race and is subsequently withdrawn on veterinary advice the trainer shall at the time of its withdrawal or as soon thereafter as the Stewards may direct produce a veterinary certificate stating precisely the reason for the withdrawal.

4. LICENCES

Grant of Licences and other matters

- **Amend Rule 90(6)**
- **Renumber existing Rule 90(6) to Rule 90(7)**
- **Renumber existing Rule 90(7) to Rule 90(8)**
- **Renumber existing Rule 90(8) to Rule 90(9)**

90. (6) An applicant for a licence or an existing licence holder shall if found guilty of a crime or offence which is punishable by term of imprisonment immediately notify the Controlling Body or Stewards of that finding of guilt.

(7) A licence may be suspended or cancelled:

- (a) by the Controlling Body or the Stewards for breach of a term or condition of the licence; or
- (b) by the Controlling Body where the Controlling Body is satisfied that the person holding the licence is not a fit and proper person to be associated with harness racing.

(8) The type, grade or class of a licence held by a person may be varied by the Controlling Body or by the Stewards.

(9) The terms or conditions attaching to a type, grade or class of licence may be varied by the Stewards or the Controlling Body.

5. HORSES

Eligibility for registration and naming

- **Amend Rule 93(1)(a)**

93. (1) A horse shall not be eligible for registration unless:

- (a) It is the progeny of a Standardbred sire and a Standardbred dam and its registration conforms with these rules.

- **Amend Rule 93(4)**

93. (4) The Controlling Body shall not register a horse foaled outside its jurisdiction unless the horse is eligible for registration in an Australian State or Territory.

- **Amend Rule 94(6)(b), (c), (d)**

94. (6) (b) The owner of a horse less than two years old that has been allocated a name by the Registrar shall upon payment of the prescribed fee(s) be permitted to change the name provided the horse has not competed in an official trial, race or bred and the change is made before the end of its yearling season. Any cancelled name will be made available for re-use after twelve months.

- (c) Subject to paragraph (d) hereof the owner of a horse two years old or older that has been allocated a name by the Registrar shall upon payment of the prescribed fee(s) be permitted to change the name provided the horse has not competed in an official trial or race or has not bred. Any cancelled name will be made available for re-use after twelve months.

- (d) The owner of a horse two years old or older that has been allocated a name by the Registrar and has competed in an official trial in any country can apply to change the horse's name by submitting an application in writing to the Registrar outlining reasons for wanting the change. The application will be considered by the Keeper of the Stud Book and the Registrar, and if approved, will require payment of the prescribed fee(s). Any cancelled name will be made available for re-use after twelve months.

Foreign horses

- **Amend Preamble Rule 95A(1)**

- **Amend Rule 95A(1)(a), (b), (c), (d)**

- **Renumber existing Rule 95A(2)(a) to 95A(1)(e)**

- **Renumber existing Rule 95A(2)(c) to 95A(1)(d)**

- **Renumber existing Rule 95A(2)(b) to 95A(1)(f)**

- **Renumber existing Rules 95A(3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11) to 95A(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10).**

95A. (1) A foreign horse shall not be eligible for registration in Australia unless:

- (a) Such horse is registered with the Controlling Trotting Authority of the country it was cleared from;
- (b) Such horse is capable of satisfying the registration requirements applicable to a horse foaled in Australia;

- (c) Such horse has been parentage verified by D.N.A. genotyping or blood typing;
- (d) Such horse is microchipped in accordance with [HRA's Microchipping Regulations](#), freezebranded or otherwise identified by a method approved by HRA;
- (e) HRA receives a clearance certificate from the country in which such foreign horse was last registered;
- (f) The appropriate clearance registration fee is paid.

(2) Upon the receipt of a Clearance Certificate a foreign bred horse shall be allocated its existing name and in addition shall have a suffix added to its name to denote the country of origin.

(3) The suffix to be added to the name shall be as follows:

New Zealand	NZ	Ireland	IRL
United States	USA	Italy	ITA
Canada	CA	Malta	MLT
Europe:		Netherlands	NLD
Austria	AUT	Norway	NOR
Belgium	BEL	Russia	RUS
Denmark	DNK	Sweden	SWE
Finland	FIN	Switzerland	SUI
France	FRA	United Kingdom	GBR
Germany	GER		

(4) The name of a foreign horse will be checked by the Registrar for verification and recording and the Registrar shall advise the Controlling Body that the name is available or otherwise.

(5) If the name is not available then a prefix will be applied, and under certain circumstances a new name may be requested by the Registrar. In such case where a name is changed the suffix applicable shall be added to the new name.

(6) If the name of a foreign horse is of a well known living or deceased Australian person, permission must be obtained by HRA from either the person (if they are living) or from the family (if they are deceased) to allow the name in Australia. Otherwise a name change may be requested by the Registrar.

(7) The owner of a yearling bred outside Australia shall upon payment of the prescribed fee(s) be permitted to change the name provided the horse has not competed in an official trial or race either in Australia or Overseas, has not bred and the change is made before the end of its yearling season in Australia.

(8) The owner of a horse 2 years old or older bred outside Australia shall upon payment of the prescribed fee(s) be permitted to change the name provided that horse has not competed in an official trial or race either in Australia or overseas, or has not bred.

(9) The owner of a horse 2YO or older bred outside Australia that has been allocated a name and has competed in an official trial in any country can apply to change the name by submitting an application in writing to the Registrar outlining reasons for wanting to make the change. The application will be considered by the Keeper of the Stud Book and the Registrar, and if approved, will require payment of the prescribed fee(s). Any cancelled name will be made available for re-use after 12 months.

(10) Apostrophes, dashes and dots which are part of a foreign horse name will be eliminated.

Deregistration of a horse

- **Amend Rule 96A(4)(a), (b)**

96A. (4) The owner or trainer of a registered horse at the time of its death shall:-

- (a) In the case of a horse which dies whilst in the care of a licensed trainer immediately notify the Stewards of the death.
- (b) In any other case notify the Controlling Body or Stewards of the death within twenty four hours of its occurrence.

Gait Change

- **Amend Rule 97A**

97A. Application to change the gait of a horse shall be made in such form as the Controlling Body may determine.

Medical and surgical procedures

- **Add new Rule 99A**

99A. (1) A person shall not perform, attempt to perform or authorise the performance of the procedure of blistering.

(2) For the purposes of this rule blistering means the application or injection of an irritating substance onto or into soft tissue of a horse to create an inflammatory reaction.

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

- **Amend Rule 100A**

100A. Notification of gelding or performance of other specified procedures shall be given to the Controlling Body or Stewards in such form as the Controlling Body may determine.

Bleeding attacks

- **Amend Preamble Rule 101(3)**

101. (3) If the Stewards are satisfied that a horse has suffered a bleeding attack which has originated from the lungs the Stewards shall bar the horse from racing:-

- **Amend Rule 101B(1), (2)**

101B. (1) Any time a horse suffers bleeding from one nostril and that blood has originated from the lungs the trainer shall immediately and in any event within twenty four (24) hours notify the Stewards.

(2) If the Stewards determine that a horse has bled from one nostril and that blood has originated from the lungs the horse shall not be eligible to race until it has trialed to the satisfaction of the Stewards.

Atrial Fibrillation

- **Amend Rule 101C(2)(a), (b), (c)**
- **Add new Rule 101C(2)(d)**

101C. (2) If the Stewards are satisfied that a horse has suffered atrial fibrillation the Stewards shall:

- (a) After the first episode stand the horse down from racing for a period of 14 days, require the horse to undergo an ECG prior to a trial and then trial to the satisfaction of the Stewards.
- (b) After the second episode stand the horse down from racing for a period of 28 days, require the horse to undergo an ECG before trialling and then trial on two occasions to the satisfaction of the Stewards.
- (c) If the horse suffers a third episode within twelve months of the second episode bar the horse for life.
- (d) If the horse suffers a third episode more than twelve months after the second episode stand the horse down from racing for such period as they consider necessary and require the horse to undergo such veterinary examination and complete such trials as they consider necessary.

Eligibility for Nomination

- **Amend Rule 119B**

119B. Unless the Stewards otherwise approve, a horse shall not be eligible to be nominated for a race unless for a period of at least twenty eight (28) days immediately prior to the date fixed for nomination the horse has been trained by a licensed trainer and that trainer has lodged with the Controlling Body a stable return for that horse.

Transfer from disqualified trainer

- **Amend Rule 120(3), (4)**
- **Renumber existing Rule 120(3) to 120(5)**
- **Renumber existing Rule 120(4) to 120(6)**
- **Renumber existing Rule 120(5) to 120(7)**

120. (1) A horse trained but not owned by a trainer whose licence has been suspended or cancelled or who is disqualified (in this rule called the "disqualified person") is ineligible to race until it is transferred to the control of a licensed trainer.

(2) A transfer must be approved by the Controlling Body or Stewards.

(3) A horse which is trained by a disqualified person shall not without the approval of the Stewards be transferred to an immediate family member or to a person whom the Stewards determine is a close associate.

(4) For the purposes of this rule:-

- (a) An immediate family member means the following persons who are related to the disqualified person:-
 - (i) Spouse, defacto, child, parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, cousin;

(ii) Child, parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew or cousin of the disqualified person's spouse or defacto partner.

(b) A close associate includes but is not limited to the following which may be existing or prior:-

(i) Commercial relationship

(ii) Trainer/owner relationship

(iii) Trainer/breeder relationship

(iv) Employee/employer relationship

(v) Co-located registered training address.

(5) The Controlling Body or Stewards may at any time revoke the approval of a transfer if it or they form the view that the disqualified person is involved with or influencing the training of the horse.

(6) If a transfer is not approved or is revoked the horse is ineligible to race.

(7) A horse may be declared ineligible to race by the Controlling Body or Stewards if it or they form the view that the disqualified person is involved with or influencing the training of the horse.

9. DRIVERS

Priorities concerning horse to be driven

- **Add new Rule 152A**

152A. (1) Where the spouse or partner of a driver is the owner or trainer of a horse in a race the driver shall not without the approval of the Stewards drive any horse in the race other than the horse owned or trained by his/her spouse or partner.

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

Horse breaking gait

- **Repeal Rule 155A(1), (2)**

155A. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Rules 154 and 155 any horse which has broken gait free of interference, and remains in the incorrect gait when its nose reaches the finish line, and is covered by any other horse or horses in the correct gait it shall be placed behind such horse or horses.

(2) For the purposes of sub-rule (1) "covered" means when a horse has its nose in line with any part of the breaking horse's body excluding its tail or extended hind legs when the nose of the horse which has broken gait reaches the finish line.

Whips

- **Amend Rule 156(2)(a)**

156. (2) (a) A driver shall only apply the whip and/or the rein in a wrist only flicking motion whilst holding a rein in each hand with the tip of the whip pointed forward in an action which does not engage the shoulder.

- **Repeal Rule 156(4)(c)**

156. (4) (c) If the reins are lengthened so as to result in loose reining regardless of whether the whip is being used at the same time.

Offences - relating to dress

- **Add new Rule 159A(9), (10)**

159A. (9) A driver must immediately replace a helmet if:

(a) A helmet sustains significant impact or damage or

(b) A driver suffers concussion following a fall whilst wearing a helmet.

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

Offences - relating to matters at the start and during the race

- **Repeal Rule 162(1)(vv)**

162. (1) (vv) lengthen the reins so as to result in loose reining;

- **Add new Rule 163A(1), (2)**

163A. (1) A driver shall hold a rein in each hand unless activating adjustable gear.

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

Offences - relating to sulkies

- **Amend 170(4), (5)**

170. (4) A driver shall not:-

(a) Attempt to or allow his foot or leg to come into contact with the hind legs of the horse he is driving;

(b) Attempt to or allow his foot or leg to be placed in the immediate vicinity of the hind legs of the horse he is driving.

(5) A driver who fails to comply with any provision of this rule is guilty of an offence and in relation to sub-rule (4) the Stewards may in addition to any other penalty disqualify the horse.

10. OBJECTIONS AND PROTESTS

Lodgment

- **Amend Rule 176(6)**

176. (6) Where a protest has been lodged in accordance with this rule and:-

- (a) The grounds of the protest are that a horse or its driver has caused interference to another horse or its driver and the Stewards are of the opinion that the horse interfered with would have finished ahead of the first mentioned horse had such interference not occurred they shall place the first mentioned horse immediately after the horse interfered with.
- (b) The grounds of the protest do not include a claim of interference, the Stewards shall dismiss the protest unless they are of the opinion that the horse lodging the protest would have finished ahead of the horse against which the protest has been lodged in which case they shall place the first mentioned horse ahead of the second mentioned horse.

12. PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

Determination of prohibited substance

- **Repeal Rule 188A(2)(d)**

188A. (2) (d) In male horses, other than geldings, 5 α -estrane-3 β , 17 α -diol in urine (including both the free substance and that liberated from conjugates) at a concentration equal to or less than that of 5(10)-estrane-3 β , 17 α -diol in urine (including both the free substance and that liberated from its conjugates).

- **Add New Rule 188A(2)(d)**

188A. (2) (d) In male horses other than geldings, free and glucuroconjugated 5 α -estrane-3 β , 17 α -diol at a mass concentration of 45 micrograms per litre in urine when, at the screening stage, the free and glucuroconjugated 5 α -estrane-3 β , 17 α -diol exceeds the free and glucuroconjugated 5,10 estrane-3 β , 17 α -diol in the urine.

- **Amend Rule 188A(2)(g)(ii), (iv)**

188A. (2) (g) Testosterone -

- (ii) in geldings, fillies and mares: free testosterone at a mass concentration of 100 picograms per millilitre in plasma,

188A. (2) (g) Testosterone -

- (iv) In fillies and mares that have been notified as pregnant so as to comply with Rule 103B: free testosterone and testosterone liberated from its conjugates at any concentration in urine or free testosterone at any concentration in plasma..

- **Repeal Rule 188A(2)(j)**

188A. (2) (j) Theobromine at a mass concentration of 2.00 milligrams per litre in urine.

- **Add new Rule 188A(2)(j)**

188A. (2) (j) Prednisolone (free Prednisolone) at a mass concentration of 10 micrograms per litre in urine.

Testing

- **Add new Rule 189A**

189A. Any sample taken from a horse shall only be analysed by a laboratory approved by the Controlling Body.

Out of Competition Testing

- **Amend Rule 190A(4), (5)**

190A. (4) Any person who is in possession of a substance specified in sub-rule (2) or a metabolite, artifact or isomer of such substance is guilty of an offence.

(5) It shall be a defence to a charge under sub-rule (4) for the person in possession of such substance or preparation to prove that the substance or preparation was prescribed to him, for use by him, by a qualified medical practitioner.

- **New Heading – Transfer Restrictions**
- **New Rule 190AC**

Transfer Restrictions

190AC. (1) When a trainer is notified by the Stewards that the presence of a substance prohibited by Rules 188A, 190A or 190AB has been certified to be present in a horse trained by that trainer at the time the sample is taken, the trainer is not permitted without the prior approval of the Stewards to:-

- (a) transfer the ownership of any horse they own to any other person;
- (b) transfer any training responsibilities for any horse they train to any other person.

(2) For the purposes of sub-rule (1) “certified” means the issuance of an evidentiary certificate pursuant to Rule 191(1).

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

Stomach tubing, atomisers and other devices

- **Amend Rule 193(1), (2)**
- **Add new Rule 193(6)**
- **Renumber existing Rule 193(6), (7), (8) to Rule 193(7), (8), (9)**
- **Amend Rule 193(8), (9)**

193. (1) A person shall not attempt to stomach tube or stomach tube a horse nominated for a race or event within one clear day of the commencement of the race or event.

(2) A person shall not attempt to use or use an atomiser, face mask or other device for the administration of a prohibited substance to a horse nominated for a race or event within one clear day of the commencement of the race or event.

(3) A person shall not administer or allow or cause to be administered any medication to a horse on race day prior to such horse running in a race.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-rule (3), a person, with the permission of the Stewards may administer or allow or cause to be administered any medication to a horse on race day prior to such horse running in a race.

(5) The Stewards shall order the withdrawal or disqualification of a horse that has been either treated or attempted to have been treated in breach of sub-rules (1), (2) and (3).

(6) A person shall not without the prior approval of the Stewards administer or allow or cause to be administered any medication to a horse on a racecourse after such horse has run in a race.

(7) For the purposes of this Rule, medication means any treatment with drugs or other substances.

(8) A person shall not allow or permit another person to attempt to perform or perform any of the actions prohibited by sub-rules (1), (2), (3) or (6).

(9) A person who fails to comply with sub-rules (1), (2), (3), (6) or (8) is guilty of an offence.

Administering Substances

- **Delete Rule 196B(2)(a)**
- **Renumber existing Rule 196B(2)(b), (c) to 196B(a), (b)**

196B. (2) For the purposes of this Rule -

- (a) Administering an injection to a horse means the use of a hypodermic needle or other instrument to introduce or extract any substance from the horse;
- (b) It is not necessary to establish whether any substance was injected or the nature of the substance injected.

- **Repeal Rule 196C(5)**

196C. (5) For the purposes of this Rule:-
one clear day means the twenty four (24) hour period from 12.01 a.m. to 12 midnight.

- **Repeal Rule 196D(4)**

196D. (4) For the purposes of this Rule “one clear day” means the twenty four (24) hour period from 12.01 a.m. to midnight.

14. GENERAL OFFENCES

Horses

- **Delete Rule 213B(3)**
- **Add new Rule 213B(3)**
- **Amend Rule 213C(1)**
- **Add new Rule 213C(2)**

213B. (3) A shockwave therapy device means any device which is capable of delivering a pneumatically generated high energy pressure wave.

213C. (1) A person shall not use or have in their possession at a racecourse at which a meeting is being conducted any electrical, mechanical or galvanic device, equipment, appliance or apparatus which can be used to treat a horse.

(2) A person who fails to comply with sub-rule (1) is guilty of an offence and any horse that has either been treated or been the subject of an attempted treatment shall be withdrawn or disqualified from the race.

16. DISQUALIFIED PERSONS

Disqualification by conviction

- **Amend Rule 267(1), (2)**

267. (1) Subject to sub-rule (2) the Stewards may for such period and on such conditions as they think fit, disqualify a person who is found guilty of a crime or offence in any State or Territory of Australia or in any country which is punishable by a term of imprisonment.

(2) Where a person is found guilty of a crime or offence in any State or Territory of Australia or in any country and sentenced to a period of imprisonment Stewards shall disqualify that person for a period that is at least equivalent to the actual sentence imposed.

17. EQUIPMENT AND COLOURS

Gear

- **Amend Rule 268A(1), (2)**
- **Repeal Rule 268A(3)**

268A. (1) Applications concerning gear shall be made in such form as the Controlling Body or Stewards may determine and be lodged with the Controlling Body or Stewards no later than forty eight (48) hours before the nomination of a horse for a race.

(2) In the event of a change to any of the particulars notified in accordance with sub-rule (1), such change shall immediately be lodged with the Controlling Body or Stewards in such form as the Controlling Body or Stewards may determine.

(3) *(Rule 268A(3) repealed – HRA approved 9 December 2021)*

Application to change gear

- **Amend Rule 269A**

269A. An application to change any gear shall be made to the Controlling Body in such form as the Controlling Body may determine.

Offences

- **Amend Rule 273(3)**

273. (3) A person shall not without the permission of the Stewards start a horse in a race unless the horse is fitted with a false belly band and retaining straps and throat lash and a breast plate.

22. MONTÉ RACING

Gear

- **Amend Rule 318(1), (2)**
- **Repeal Rule 318(3)**

318. (1) Applications concerning gear shall be made in such form as the Controlling Body or Stewards may determine and be lodged with the Controlling Body or Stewards no later than forty eight (48) hours before the nomination of a horse for a race.

(2) In the event of a change to any of the particulars notified in accordance with sub-rule (1), such change shall immediately be lodged with the Controlling Body or Stewards in such form as the Controlling Body or Stewards may determine.

(3) *(Rule 318(3) repealed – HRA approved 9 December 2021)*

Summary of Amendments – HRA approved 9 December 2021

DICTIONARY

Add definition: One clear day

Amend definition: Standardbred

RULES AMENDED

15(1)(a), 25(1)(b), 75(2)(II), 90(6), 93(1)(a), 93(4), 94(6)(b), (c), (d), 95A(1) preamble, 95A(1)(a), (b), (c), (d), 96A(4), 97A, 100A, 101(3) preamble, 101B(1), (2), 101C(2)(a), (b), (c), 119B, 120(3), (4), 156(2)(a), 170(4), (5), 176(6), 188A(g)(ii), (iv), 190A(4), (5), 193(1), (2), (8), (9), 213C(1), 267(1), (2), 268A(1), (2), 269A, 273(3), 318(1), (2)

NEW HEADING

Transfer Restrictions (12. Prohibited Substances)

NEW RULES / SUB-RULES

23B, 66(i), 99A, 101C(2)(d), 152A, 159A(9), (10), 163A(1), (2), 188A(2)(d), 188A(2)(j), 189A, 190AC, 193(6), 213B(3), 213C(2)

RULES REPEALED

156(4)(c), 162(1)(vv), 188A(2)(d), 188A(2)(j), 196B(2)(a), 196C(5), 196D(4), 213B(3), 268A(3), 318(3)

RULES RENUMBERED

90(6) to 90(7), 90(7) to 90(8), 90(8) to 90(9), 95A(2)(a) to 95A(1)(e), 95A(2)(c) to 95A(1)(d), 95A(2)(b) to 95A(1)(f), 95A(3) to 95A(2), 95A(4) to 95A(3), 95A(5) to 95A(4), 95A(6) to 95A(5), 95A(7) to 95A(6), 95A(8) to 95A(7), 95A(9) to 95A(8), 95A(10) to 95A(9), 95A(11) to 95A(10), 120(3) to 120(5), 120(4) to 120(6), 120(5) to 120(7), 193(6) to 193(7), 193(7) to 193(8), 193(8) to 193(9), 196B(2)(b) to 196B(2)(a), 196B(2)(c) to 196B(b)