



AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

Codes of Practice Horses returning from extended layoffs/injuries, 12 year old horses & Reinstatement of retired horses

Summary:

Racing Australia has introduced nationally consistent policies to address the following issues:

1. Horses that have not started in a race for 12 months or longer – returning to training and racing;
2. Horses that have experienced a cardiac arrhythmia after a race – returning to training and racing;
3. Horses that have suffered a major fracture and/or undergone major orthopaedic surgery – mandatory reporting and returning to training and racing;
4. Horses aged 12 years – pre- and post-race veterinary inspections; and
5. Horses that have been retired from racing – reinstatement for training and racing.

Each of these policies seek to improve horse welfare outcomes by clearly defining the protocols that must be adhered to when a horse is returning to training/racing after an extended period or serious injury.

These policies are given force under the Rules of Racing as Racing Australia Codes of Practice. While participants have general obligations to comply with such Codes and may be penalised for non-compliance (see AR 16 and AR 233), new rules have been introduced to impose specific obligations regarding participants' compliance with these new Codes, as follows:

- New AR 88B in *Part 5 – Eligibility of horses to race, Division 2 – Restrictions/exclusions in relation to participation of horses in races etc* for 1-3 above;
- Amendments to AR 78 for 4 above; and
- Amendments to AR 297 for 5 above.

1. **Add New Rule 88B as follows under PART 5 – ELIGIBILITY OF HORSES TO RACE Division 2 – Restrictions/exclusions in relation to participation of horses in races etc:**

AR 88B Horses returning from extended layoffs, injuries etc.

- (1) Where a horse has not participated in a race for 12 months or more, the trainer and any other person in charge of the horse must comply with the Racing Australia Code of Practice: *Horses that have not started for 12+ months* (as amended from time to time) in respect of any future running of the horse in a race, official trial or jump-out.

- (2) Where a horse is detected with a cardiac arrhythmia, or where a cardiac arrhythmia has been identified, following a race, official trial, jump-out, or at any other time, including, but not limited to, following track work, the trainer and any other person in charge of the horse must;
- (a) report the detection or identification of a cardiac arrhythmia to the Stewards without delay, and
 - (b) comply with the Racing Australia Code of Practice: *Cardiac arrhythmias detected during post-race inspections* (as amended from time to time) in respect of any future training of the horse and/or running of the horse in a race, official trial or jump-out.
- (3) Where a horse has sustained a major fracture and/or undergone major orthopaedic surgery, the trainer and any other person in charge of the horse must comply with the Racing Australia Code of Practice: *Compulsory reporting of major fractures, orthopaedic surgery and approval of affected horses to return to racing* (as amended from time to time) in respect of reporting such events and any future training of the horse and/or running of the horse in a race, official trial or jump-out. For the purposes of this subrule, “major fracture” and “major orthopaedic surgery” have the meanings given to them in the Code of Practice.

Date of Effect: 1 June 2023

2. Amend AR 78 as follows:

AR 78 12+ year old horses

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- (2) The Stewards may give their express permission for a horse aged 12 years to start in a race/s during its 12 year old racing season, if:
- (a) the trainer provides to the Stewards a veterinary report in respect of the horse’s condition and suitability to race, and any other information, examination or report as required by the Stewards;
 - (b) the trainer complies with the Racing Australia Code of Practice: *Veterinary Inspections for 12 year old horses* (as amended from time to time); and
 - (c) the Stewards are satisfied that the horse is suitable to race.

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Date of Effect: 1 June 2023

3. Amend AR 297 as follows:

AR 297 Decision to retire named horse

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- (3) If a horse ceases to be eligible to race or be trained under this rule, a person must not reinstate the horse to race or be trained ~~without~~ unless he or she complies with the Racing Australia Code of Practice: *Reinstatement of a retired racehorse* (as amended from time to time) and obtains the express permission of a PRA or the Stewards.

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Date of Effect: 1 June 2023