

Top weight for Group 1 handicap races

Summary:

Racing Australia has decided on a change to the programming and handicapping of Group 1 handicap events, aimed at producing the best available race for connections and racegoers.

The decision mitigates the impact when topweights do not accept to race (due to injury or change in the horse's program) and weights have to be raised.

Racing Australia believes that the raising of weights to only 57kg at acceptance time for Group 1 races rather than 58kg would be more in concert with the lower minimums that separate Group 1 handicaps from other races, and negate marginally excessively high minimum weights if weights are raised at acceptance time.

The current wording of AR.103(2) requires the addition of "(57 kilograms for Group 1 handicap races)" to facilitate this decision.

Amend AR.103(2) as follows:

"(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subrule (1), if at the declaration of acceptances for a handicap flat race the weight allocated to the highest-weighted acceptor (including any extra weight by way of re-handicap or penalty) is less than 58 kilograms (57 kilograms for Group 1 handicap races), or less than a higher weight determined by a Principal Racing Authority, then allocated weights for the race must be increased until the highest-weighted acceptor is weighted at not less than 58 kilograms (57 kilograms for Group 1 handicap races)."

Date of Effect: 1 March, 2016