



AMENDMENT TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

Horses gaining an advantage at the start

Summary:

Racing Australia considers that the current rules do not adequately address the situation where a horse obtains an unfair advantage over other horses at the start of a race. The current rule AR.134A focuses on a horse which is denied a fair start (rather than a horse which obtains an unfair advantage), and AR.139 allows the stewards to void a race where appropriate.

Racing Australia believes that it is necessary to have flexibility within the rules to enable the stewards to declare a horse which obtains an unfair start a non-starter, rather than for the focus to be on the horses which were disadvantaged at the start (or for the race to be voided). The power to declare a horse which obtains an unfair advantage a non-runner would:

- a. allow the horse to be removed from the placings;
- b. return bets placed to punters who backed the horse, and order win/place deductions;
- c. remove the undesirable option of potentially voiding a race which disadvantages all parties.

It follows that such flexibility would allow the stewards to deal with the real issue in the race, being the horse which received an unfair advantage, and would lead to a better result for participants and punters.

Racing Australia believes that there is a significant gap in the current regime which needs to be addressed in the interests of participants, punters, and consistency amongst stewards.

1. Add AR.134B as follows:

“AR.134B. If in the opinion of the Stewards, or any other person exercising delegated power of the Principal Racing Authority, a horse obtains an unfair advantage at the start of a race, the Stewards may declare such a horse to be a non-starter and may make such order regarding betting as provided for separately in the Rules of Betting.”

Date of Effect: 1 August, 2016