



PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

Minimum Top Weight for Group 1 Handicaps

Summary:

Racing Australia has approved an amendment to AR.103(2) which provides Principal Racing Authorities (PRAs) with a discretion to not raise weights at final declarations in Group 1 handicap races, so that irrespective of the top weighted horse at final declarations the weights of all runners may remain as originally declared.

The basis for the amendment is that in a number of Group 1 races weights are issued well before the running of the race and connections are aware of the weight required to be carried by their horse weeks prior to the race.

The previous drafting of AR.103(2) allowed for significant changes in weight to be made a few days prior to a race at final declarations time. The exemption will provide certainty for international participants in deciding whether or not to travel to Australia for important Group 1 races.

The amendment is consistent with the discretion afforded to PRAs under AR.103(3) in respect to minimum weight exemptions.

1. Amend AR.103(2) as follows:

“AR.103

...

(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).

Provided further that the Principal Racing Authority concerned may, in its sole and absolute discretion, provide an exemption from this subrule for Group 1 handicap races. “

Date of Effect: 1 October 2017