



AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

AR 257A Blood doping

Summary:

The Racing Australia Veterinary and Analysts Committee (VAC) has recommended that a new rule is introduced to mitigate the manipulation of normal blood parameters by infusing stored blood or blood products (commonly referred to as 'blood doping' in human sports).

This is because blood doping may be used to illegally increase the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood. Accordingly, it represents a threat to both equine welfare and racing integrity.

The Racing Australia Chairmen of Stewards Committee is of the view that a prohibition on blood doping should be introduced into the Rules of Racing in accordance with VAC's recommendation.

Racing Australia has approved the addition of a new rule as set out below. Note the rule contains a defence in subrule (3) to any charge where blood doping was conducted for life-saving purposes and/or as part of certain veterinary regenerative treatment.

Insert new AR 257A as follows:

"AR 257A Prohibition on blood doping

- (1) A person must not:
 - (a) withdraw and re-infuse; or
 - (b) withdraw, manipulate and re-infuse, homologous, heterologous, or autologous blood, blood products or blood cells into the circulatory system of a horse.
- (2) A person must not administer any quantity of homologous, heterologous, or autologous blood, blood products or blood cells of any origin into the circulatory system of a horse.
- (3) Notwithstanding subrules (1) and (2), a PRA or the Stewards may find that it is a complete defence to a charge laid under subrule (1) or (2) if in their opinion:
 - (a) the relevant conduct was for life-saving purposes; and/or
 - (b) the relevant conduct was part of a veterinary regenerative therapy for the treatment of musculoskeletal injury or disease administered by or under the supervision of a qualified veterinary surgeon."

Date of effect: 1 January 2020