



AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

AR 122 Helmets & AR 123 Safety vests

Summary:

Under the Rules, when riding in darkness a rider must affix a safety warning light to their helmet (AR 122(5)).

In the Northern Territory, TRNT has trialled a new initiative where licensed persons riding trackwork during darkness wear a high visibility harness/braces with front and rear built in flashing lights over the top of their approved safety vest. This was done in response to situations where the current standard was not as effective as intended in some cases. For example, in the event a rider is dislodged and the helmet is subject to severe impact, the lights could come off or stop working.

Following consideration of TRNT's trial, as well as feedback from industry stakeholders, Racing Australia has approved changes to AR 122 and AR 123 such that when riding in darkness riders may now wear either:

- a helmet with a safety light affixed to it (as per the current rule); or
- a harness/braces with safety lights over the top of a safety vest.

Note: Under the Rules, trackwork may only be conducted where the Stewards have ruled that sufficient natural or artificial lighting exists.

Amend AR 122 as follows:

AR 122 Helmets

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- (6) Subject to subrule (7), when mounted on a horse during darkness, every rider must affix to his or her helmet a safety warning light of a type approved by Racing Australia, a PRA or the Stewards.
- (7) Subrule (6) does not:
 - (a) apply to any rider who complies with AR 123(4);
 - (b) apply to any location where the Stewards have ruled that sufficient artificial lighting exists;
 - (c) affect the requirement that trackwork may only be conducted where Stewards have ruled that sufficient natural or artificial lighting exists.

- (8) If an apprentice jockey breaches subrule (1), the apprentice jockey's master and/or any other person who was in charge of the apprentice jockey at any relevant time may also be penalised unless that person satisfies the Stewards that he or she took all proper care to ensure that the apprentice jockey complied with that subrule.

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Amend AR 123 as follows:

AR 123 Safety vests

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- (4) Subject to subrule (5), when mounted on a horse during darkness, a rider must wear:
- (a) a safety vest that complies with the requirements in subrule (1); and
 - (b) over that safety vest, or over clothing worn over that safety vest, a harness or braces that contains safety warning lights of a type approved by Racing Australia, a PRA or the Stewards.
- (5) Subrule (4) does not:
- (a) apply to any rider who complies with AR 122(6);
 - (b) apply to any location where the Stewards have ruled that sufficient artificial lighting exists;
 - (c) affect the requirement that trackwork may only be conducted where Stewards have ruled that sufficient natural or artificial lighting exists.
- (6) If an apprentice jockey breaches subrule (1), the apprentice jockey's master and/or any other person who was in charge of the apprentice jockey at any relevant time may also be penalised unless that person satisfies the Stewards that he or she took all proper care to ensure that the apprentice jockey complied with that subrule.

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Date of effect: 1 February 2021