

## AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

### AR 122 – Jockey helmets lifespan

#### Summary:

Following consultation with Principal Racing Authorities and industry bodies, Racing Australia has approved amendments to AR 122 to vary the lifespan of a rider's helmet from 5 years from manufacture date to 5 years from purchase date or 8 years from manufacture date (whichever is earlier), and other related changes.

The changes address various issues with the application of the current rule, including:

- a helmet is manufactured, labelled with the manufacture date, dispatched to a saddlery/supplier, put on a shelf and purchased some time afterwards, which in many cases could be more than one year after manufacture (thereby reducing the helmet's usable lifespan, sometimes significantly); and
- manufacturers generally attach a label with the manufacture date to the helmet's inside lining, which can quickly become unreadable as a result of regular use, sweat etc.

It is important to note the rule change does not increase the maximum allowable period of helmet use by a rider – it is still 5 years.

Under the revised rule, riders will be required to maintain evidence (e.g. receipt) of the date of helmet purchase and provide such evidence to Stewards as required. Stewards' powers in respect of confiscation of helmets have also been broadened. These changes will assist Stewards in seeking to ensure that only safe, serviceable and compliant helmets are being used by riders.

Racing Australia has also taken the opportunity to make some other amendments to the rule to improve its readability, particularly with respect to the requirements of a compliant helmet.

#### Amend AR 122 as follows:

##### AR 122 Helmets

- (1) When mounted on a horse, every rider must wear a properly affixed helmet which:
  - (a) complies with a standard approved by Racing Australia;
  - (b) is in a satisfactory condition;
  - (c) has not been modified in any way; and
  - (d) has attached to it a manufacturer's label that states:
    - (i) the date of manufacture; and
    - (ii) that it complies with a standard approved by Racing Australia.
- (2) Every rider is responsible for the care and condition of the rider's helmet.
- (3) A helmet will be deemed not serviceable and must be immediately replaced by a rider if:

- (a) 5 years have expired since its date of purchase or acquisition as a brand-new helmet or 8 years have expired since its date of manufacture, whichever is earlier; or
- (b) it sustains a severe impact; or
- (c) the wearer suffers from concussion following a fall.

**Note:** *By way of example:*

- (a) *If a helmet was manufactured on 1/1/2016 and purchased on 1/1/2017, the helmet will be deemed not serviceable on 1/1/2022 (i.e. 5 years' use).*
- (b) *If a helmet was manufactured on 1/1/2016 and purchased on 1/1/2020, the helmet will be deemed not serviceable on 1/1/2024 (i.e. 4 years' use).*

- (4) Further to subrule (3)(a):
  - (i) a rider is required to maintain evidence (such as a receipt) of the date on which the rider purchased or acquired a helmet in his or her possession; and
  - (ii) a rider must produce such evidence to Racing Australia, a PRA or the Stewards at any time required by any of them.
- (5) The Stewards may at any time seize a helmet for inspection and may in their absolute discretion confiscate any helmet that does not comply with the requirements of this rule, including (without limitation) where the Stewards are of the opinion that a helmet is not in a satisfactory condition as a result of general wear and tear or the manner in which it has been stored or maintained.
- (6) 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 (except that this rule does not apply to any location where the Stewards have ruled that sufficient artificial lighting exists).
- (7) 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.

**Note:** *Pursuant to this rule Racing Australia has ordered that:*

- (a) *The following helmet standards are approved:*
  - (i) *AS/NZS 3838 2006;*
  - (ii) *EN 1384: 2012 or EN 1384: 2017;*
  - (iii) *ASTM F1163: 20-04: Rev A 2011, ASTM F1163: 20-13 or ASTM F1163: 20-15;*
  - (iv) *BS PAS 015: 2011;*
  - (v) *VG1 01.040, Recommendation for Use, 12/12/2014 (also referred to as VG1 01.040: 2014-12).*
- (b) *All helmets must be fitted with a nylon interlocking chinstrap clip attachment.*

**Date of effect: 1 January 2021**