



AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

AR 79 Bleeder Rule Amendment

Summary

Under the current version of AR79, a horse cannot be trained, exercised or galloped on a *racecourse* after having a first attack of bleeding (blood in both nostrils) however, this does not exclude or prohibit a horse from being trained, exercised or galloped at other locations such as a private pre-training property, recognised training track, beach or other place.

The Veterinary and Analytical Advisory Group (VAAG) advised as follows in relation to horses returning from an attack of bleeding:

- In respect of AR79 (4)(a), the purpose of the current rule is to enforce a period of rest following an episode of bleeding and encourage trainers to spell a horse that has bled. While low intensity exercise is generally acceptable before the end of the 2 month prohibition, there is overall benefit for the horse to be spelled for 2 months.
- In respect of AR79 (4)(b), horses should be permitted to trial – instead of only a 1,000m gallop, before returning to racing following a bleeding attack.

In light of VAAG's advice regarding AR79 (4)(a), the Chairmen of Stewards Committee's (COSC) view is that a horse should not be ridden in any exercise for 2 months following bleeding regardless of where that exercise occurs. COSC felt that it would be too difficult to define "low intensity exercise" and, in the interests of horse welfare and rider safety, a blanket ban was the most appropriate position."

Racing Australia has introduced amendments to AR79 (4) (a) to give effect to this.

Please note that the structure of AR 79 (4) (b) was modified for clarity. There has been no change to the wording. The change to structure is set out below in [blue](#).

1. Amend AR 79 as follows:

AR79 – Horses with bleeding

- (4) A horse which, in the opinion of the Stewards, has had an attack of bleeding;
- (a) for a period of 2 months after the attack of bleeding, must not, without the permission of the Stewards, be trained, exercised or galloped on a **racecourse, recognised training track, private training establishment, or other place**;
 - (b) must not start in any race for a period of 3 months, and then only after:
 - (i) a gallop of at least 1,000 metres; or
 - (ii) an official trial or jump-out;

in the presence, and to the satisfaction of a Steward.

Date of effect: 1 February 2024