



## AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

### Schedule 1 Prohibited Substances Lists & Exemptions/Thresholds

#### Inclusion of Cannabinoids in Prohibited List A

##### Summary

Cannabinoids have always been substances banned at all times under the rules of racing by their inclusion as a Schedule 9 substance.

To date there has been no threshold or screening limit applied and there have not been any historical concerns or issues with this approach.

A new cannabidiol substance, trade name Epidyolex has been approved by the TGA in November 2020 in Australia as a Schedule 4 drug for prescription by doctors to patients.

This event has created a loophole where now not all cannabinoids are considered to be substances banned at all times in racing horses, as now not all cannabinoids are technically Schedule 9 substances.

It is VAAG's contention that to close this loophole it is necessary to also include "cannabinoids" in Prohibited List A as a discretely named substance.

VAAG is not aware of any scientific reason to support a 30ng/mL screening limit for cannabinoids under current Australian housing and feeding conditions.

VAAG will keep a watching brief on any significant international developments and any matter of a screening limit can be addressed in the future if things change

COSC has considered this position and fully support the proposed addition of Cannabinoids to Prohibited List A.

Racing Australia has introduced an update for Prohibited List A to include Cannabinoids.

**1. Amend Schedule 1 Prohibited Substances Lists & Exemptions/Thresholds as follows:**

**PART 1 SUBSTANCES PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES**

Division 1 – Prohibited List A

The substances set out below in this Division 1 are specified as prohibited substances.

.....

24. Substances listed in Schedule 8 and Schedule 9 of the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons contained in the Australian Poisons Standard.

**25. Cannabinoids.**

~~25.~~ **26.** Metabolites, artefacts and isomers of any of the substances identified in this list.

**Date of effect: 1 February 2024**