

Amendments to the Local Rules (Thoroughbred Racing)

Local Rule 64A(2)

- (2) *This Rule only applies to TAB meetings with the exclusion of maiden, two-year-old, Listed and Group races.*

Background

Local Rule 64A(1) prescribes that weights shall be raised to 58kg if the highest rated horse at acceptance time is less than 58kg.

Local Rule 64A(2) sets out the exceptions to subclause (1).

Where horses with high ratings are nominated and weighted but do not accept, the application of Local Rule 64A(2) results in the eradication of the desired 4kg spread.

In June 2017, the RQ Rules and Policy Panel approved amendments to the exceptions in Local Rule 64A(2). The amendments were restricted due to the software limitations of the national Racing Australia database.

The amendments impacted Listed and Group races commonly referred to as Back Type races. In Black Type races, the lack of spread can have negative outcomes on the weight scale (e.g. the 2017 Winter Carnival where 20% of the handicap races had their weights raised and the 2017 Tattersall's Mile (Listed) where weights were raised and it resulted in a 0.5kg spread over the entire field).

Racing Victoria recently proposed that Principal Racing Authorities' be given the flexibility not to raise weights at acceptance time in Group 1 Races. We understand that Racing Australia agrees with the proposed change.

The current drafting of Local Rule 64A(2) can result in a significant and untenable change to the conditions of races.

In addition, recent software developments to the national Racing Australia database now enable RQ to exclude maidens and two-year-olds.

RQ proposes that Local Rule 64A(2) is amended to prescribe that Local Rule 64A(1) only applies to TAB handicap races excluding Group 1 races. This amendment would only effect the Stradbroke Handicap.

Proposed amendments to the Local Rules (Thoroughbred Racing): Local Rule 64A(2) is amended as follows:

- (2) *This Rule only applies to handicap races at TAB meetings with the exclusion of ~~maiden, two-year-old, Listed and~~ Group 1 handicap races.*