

CONSULTATION NOTICE - RULES OF RACING

Code of Racing	Thoroughbred
Rule	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AR 15(a) – Power to deal with errors 2. AR 129(4) – Running and handling 3. National Equipment Register – AeroRaceShoe 4. National Equipment Register and AR 124 – Oxbow Irons
Description	Refer below
Authorised for Consultation	June 4, 2026
Consultation Closes	July 3, 2026
Submissions to	policies@racingqueensland.com.au

Racing Queensland (**RQ**) has received notice that the Racing Australia (**RA**) Board has approved the circulation of the following draft amendments to the Australian Rules of Racing:

1. AR 15(a) – Power to deal with errors;
2. AR 129(4) – Running and handling;
3. National Equipment Register – AeroRaceShoe; and
4. National Equipment Register and AR 124 – Oxbow Irons.

Specific details of, and background to, each of the amendments proposed are provided in the pages that follow.

Stakeholders and interested parties are invited to review the draft amendments, together with the background provided, and provide feedback in accordance with the details set out above.

Following the closure of the consultation period, RQ will compile any feedback/submissions received and provide it to RA.

1. AR 15(a) – Power to deal with errors

Following an incident in another jurisdiction in which Stewards were required to rectify a mistake in the handicapped weights of horses in a race, a proposal was developed to introduce a new rule (AR 20(k)) to provide Stewards with a specific power to deal with errors. This proposal was issued for consultation in June last year.

Following that consultation period, RA determined that the power would more appropriately sit with the Principal Racing Authority, with the ability for that power to be delegated to Stewards.

Accordingly, the following amendment to AR 15(a) is now proposed in lieu of the previously proposed AR 20(k):

AR 15 Investigations, inquiries and hearings

Without limiting any other PRA powers, a PRA has the following powers in relation to the facilitation of investigations and inquiries and the determination of matters arising under the Rules:

(a) (i) to investigate, inquire into and deal with any matter relating to racing or the running of any horse on any course;

(ii) to take whatever measures they consider appropriate to rectify an error which has occurred because of some mistake or mishap in the administration of these Rules;

~~(a)~~ and to refer and/or delegate any such matter to the Stewards or others for investigation, inquiry, report and/or for hearing and determination;

2. AR 129(4) – Running and handling

AR 129 establishes a rider's obligations regarding riding horses on their merits and the proper running and handling of horses in races.

During a recent review of AR 129, consideration was given to whether the current drafting of AR 129(4), which was amended when the Australian Rules of Racing were rewritten in 2019, accurately reflects the original intent of the provision and its historical application.

It is therefore proposed to amend AR 129(4) to restore the drafting approach previously adopted in the Australian Rules of Racing and clarify the intended operation of the rule.

Accordingly, the following amendment to AR 129(4) is proposed:

AR 129 Running and handling

(1) Every rider must ride his or her horse on its merits.

(2) A rider must take all reasonable and permissible measures throughout the race to ensure that the rider's horse is given full opportunity to win or to obtain the best possible place in the field.

(3) Except where the safety of any horse or rider in a race requires otherwise, every horse must be ridden in such a manner to benefit only its own best interests and not to the advantage of any other horse or rider.

~~(4) If, in the opinion of the Stewards, this rule has been breached:~~

~~(a) any person who was a party to the breach may also be penalised; and~~



~~(b) the horse concerned may be disqualified.~~

(4) Any person who in the opinion of the Stewards has breached, or was a party to breaching, any portion of this Rule may be punished, and the horse concerned may be disqualified.

(5) Any person who:

(a) in the opinion of the Stewards, has breached, or was party to breaching, subrule (1); and

(b) has a lay bet or an interest in a lay bet on the subject horse and/or has a bet or an interest in a bet on another horse in the subject race,

must be disqualified for a period of 3 years unless there is a finding that a special circumstance exists, in which case that penalty may be reduced.

3. National Equipment Register – AeroRaceShoe

A lightweight race plate known as AeroRaceShoe has been considered for inclusion in the Racing Australia National Equipment Register.

As part of that consideration, regard was had to the practical implications of its use, particularly in circumstances where a shoe is lost on the way to the barriers. In those circumstances, it is proposed that the horse may be replated with a standard plate (subject to trainer agreement), or otherwise be declared a scratching for the event.

On that basis, it is proposed that AeroRaceShoe be approved for use and included in the Racing Australia National Equipment Register.

Where approved, trainers will be required to declare the use of AeroRaceShoes as gear in accordance with AR 206.

4. National Equipment Register and AR 124 – Oxbow Irons

A request has been made for the approval of Oxbow Irons for use and their inclusion in the Racing Australia National Equipment Register.

The application noted that Oxbow Irons are currently being used by some trainers and horse breakers, in conjunction with stock saddles, when educating young horses for safety purposes. Following consideration, it is proposed that Oxbow Irons may be appropriate for limited use in trackwork in these circumstances.

Accordingly, the following amendment to AR 124 is proposed:

AR 124 Proper bridle and saddle for horses

(1) Every horse must be properly bridled and saddled while being ridden, and every saddle used in official trials, jump-outs, tests or trackwork must, subject to subrules (2) and (3), be equipped with safety irons of a design approved by Racing Australia, a PRA, or the Stewards.

(2) If a rider wears race boots in official trials or jump-outs, the saddle must be equipped with race irons.

(3) Oxbow irons may only be used during trackwork when a horse is being educated in a stock saddle.



~~(3)~~(4) While being led outside of a stable premises, every horse must have a bit in its mouth, and that bit must be attached to a lead or a stallion chain.

~~(4)~~(5) Every person leading or attending a horse must wear fully enclosed and substantial footwear of a standard approved by a PRA or the Stewards.

It is also proposed that Oxbow Irons be included in the Racing Australia National Equipment Register.

