

INDUSTRY NOTICE – RULES OF RACING

Code of Racing	Thoroughbred
Rule	1. AR 219 (Making protests) 2. AR 221 (Consequence of a protest being upheld) 3. AR 132 (Limits on the use of a whip by a rider)
Description	Removal of the provisions for a protest to be lodged in respect of a breach of the whip rules.
Effective Date	October 1, 2026
Enquiries	policies@racingqueensland.com.au

Racing Queensland (**RQ**) advises that it has adopted amendments to AR 219, AR 221 and AR 132 of the *Australian Rules of Racing*, removing the provisions that provide for a protest to be lodged in respect of a breach of the whip rules.

Further details of the changes are set out in the Racing Australia Calendar Notices that appear on pages 2 to 4 of this notice.

The amendments will take effect in Queensland on **October 1, 2026**.

A copy of the new rule book, effective from that date, has been published on the RQ website:
<http://www.racingqueensland.com.au/industry/thoroughbred/rules>.



AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

Amendment - AR 219 (3) (d) and AR 221 (2)

Background

After discussion of the whip protest rule by COSC during 2024 and 2025, further feedback was received from PRAs in 2026.

Following the July 2026 COSC meeting, COSC recommended that its previous recommendation submitted to Racing Australia in November 2025 (regarding the removal of the provision for a protest to be lodged in respect of a breach of the whip rule) again be considered for adoption. The recommendation had the unanimous support of all COSC members and all PRAs.

The Racing Australia Board considered the recommendation and approved that AR 219 (3) (d) and AR 221 (2) be amended with the changes set out below.

AR 219 (3)

AR 219 Making protests – **remove part (d) of AR 219(3) & amend numbering of current (e) to (d)**

AR219(3) Any protest by the persons authorised under subrule (1)(b) against a horse/s on the ground of:

- (a) an interference in the running of a race as provided for in AR 130(1);
- (b) a horse/s not having run the proper course;
- (c) the race having been run over a wrong course; **or**
- ~~(d) the use of a whip as provided for in AR 132; or~~
- ~~(e) any other matter occurring in a race;~~
- (d) any other matter occurring in a race,**

must be made to the Steward at scale before the riders of all placed horses are weighed in or at any other time allowed by the Stewards prior to the signaling of correct weight.

AR 221

AR 221 Consequence of a protest being upheld – **amend AR 221 as follows**

AR 221(1) ~~Subject to subrule (2), if~~ If a protest in relation to a horse that has won or been placed in a race is upheld, the horse may be:

- (a) disqualified from the race; or
- (b) placed after a horse that the horse interfered with (if the Stewards are of the opinion that the horse interfered with would have finished ahead of the other horse had the interference not occurred).

~~AR 221(2) If a protest is lodged on behalf of a placed horse under AR 219(3)(d) against another placed horse and the Stewards are of the opinion that had the rider of the horse protested against not been in breach of AR 132(5) or (7) the horse would not have finished equal or ahead of the horse on whose behalf the protest is lodged, the Stewards may place the horse considered to have been advantaged immediately after the other horse.~~

Date of effect: 1 October 2026



AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

Consequential Amendment - AR 132 (10)

Background

As a consequence of the amendments to AR 219 (3) (d) and deletion of AR 221 (2) a further amendment is required to AR 132 (10) and (11) as set out below.

AR 132

AR 132 Limits on the use of a whip by a rider– ~~remove (10) & amend numbering of current (11) to (10)~~

~~(10) An owner or that owner's authorised agent, trainer, rider or a Steward may lodge a protest against the placing of a horse where a rider breaches subrules (5) or (7) during a race.~~

~~(11)~~ (10) Notwithstanding the provisions of subrules 7(a) and (b), a PRA that has charge of the conduct of jumps racing may provide separately, at its own discretion, for the regulation of the use of the whip in jumping events under its own Local Rules. If that is done, any provision of that kind will not be limited by subrules 7(a) and (b).

Date of effect: 1 October 2026