

CONSULTATION NOTICE – RULES OF RACING

Code of Racing	Thoroughbred
Rule/Description	1. AR 88AAA – Horses treated with beta-2 adrenergic agonists (beta-2 agonists); 2. AR 125 – Spurs are not permitted to be worn or used and AR 134 – Excessive, unnecessary or improper use of spurs.
Authorised for Consultation	September 14, 2026
Consultation Closes	October 12, 2026
Submissions to	policies@racingqueensland.com.au

Racing Australia (**RA**) is proposing amendments to the Australian Rules of Racing concerning the treatment of horses with beta-2 agonists and the use of spurs.

1. Proposed AR 88AAA – Horses treated with beta-2 adrenergic agonists

The proposed new AR 88AAA would regulate the administration of beta-2 adrenergic agonists to horses, including clenbuterol and salbutamol, and support alignment with international regulatory standards.

The proposed rule recognises that beta-2 agonists may have legitimate therapeutic applications in treating airway disease, but that their use also raises integrity and welfare considerations.

The rule would require treatment to be supported by a veterinary diagnosis of airway disease, limit each course of treatment to no more than 14 consecutive days, prevent the horse from racing within 30 clear days of the last dose, and permit no more than two courses of treatment in any six-month period (with a minimum 30-clear-day interval between courses).

The proposed rule AR 88AAA is set out below:

AR 88AAA Horses treated with beta-2 adrenergic agonists (beta-2 agonists)

- (1) A person must not;
 - (a) administer;
 - (b) cause to be administered;

- (c) attempt to administer; or
 - (d) be party to an administration or attempted administration of, a beta-2 agonist, by any route, to a horse other than in accordance with the provisions of this rule.
- (2) A beta-2 agonist can only be administered to a horse provided a clinical diagnosis of airway disease is made by a qualified veterinary surgeon which supports the use of the beta-2 agonist as an appropriate therapeutic treatment.
 - (3) Subject to compliance with subrule (2) of this rule, the beta-2 agonist product administered must further comply with the provisions AR 252.
 - (4) Further to the provisions of subrules (2) and (3) the beta-2 agonist product must not be administered for more than 14 consecutive days and must in all other respects be administered in accordance with the label instructions.
 - (5) Where a horse has been treated with a beta-2 agonist in compliance with the provisions of subrules (2), (3) and (4) of this rule, that horse must not start in a race within 30 clear days of the day of the last dose of a course of treatment with the beta-2 agonist.
 - (6) Notwithstanding the provisions of, and without derogating from, subrules (2) to (5) of this rule, a horse must not receive more than two courses of treatment with a beta-2 agonist in any six month period and, where the horse receives two courses of such treatment in any six month period, there must be a clear day gap of no less than 30 days between the last day of the first course of treatment and the first day of the second course of treatment.
 - (7) Nothing in this rule detracts from the provisions of the Rules as they may relate:
 - (a) to a beta-2 agonist being considered a prohibited substance, and/or
 - (b) to any administration offence of a beta-2 agonist under, but not limited to, AR244 and AR 245.
 - (8) For the purpose of this rule “a beta-2 adrenergic agonist” (beta-2 agonist) includes, but is not limited to;
 - (a) Clenbuterol
 - (b) Salbutamol.

2. Proposed amendments to AR 125 and AR 134 – Spurs

AR 125 and AR 134 currently permit riders to use spurs that are blunt and of a type approved by Racing Australia, a Principal Racing Authority or the Stewards, while prohibiting their excessive, unnecessary or improper use.

Australia is the only mainstream racing jurisdiction that still allows the use of spurs in flat racing, while their use in training is limited internationally. RA considers that prohibiting spurs in both racing and training would promote international harmonisation and reinforce the industry’s commitment to ethical and responsible horse racing practices.

The proposed amendments would prohibit riders from wearing or using spurs in races, official trials, jump-outs and trackwork.



The proposed amendments to rules AR 125 and AR 134 are set out below:

Current:

AR 125 Riders permitted to use blunt and approved spurs

Riders may use spurs provided they are blunt and of a type approved by Racing Australia, a PRA, or the Stewards.

Proposed:

AR 125 Spurs are not permitted to be worn or used

- (1) Spurs are prohibited and may not be worn or used by a rider in a race, official trial, jump-out or during trackwork.
- (2) Any person who is a party to a breach of subrule (1) may also be penalised.

Current:

AR 134 Excessive, unnecessary or improper use of spurs

In a race, official trial, jump-out or trackwork, or elsewhere, a rider must not use his or her spurs in an excessive, unnecessary or improper manner.

Proposed:

AR 134 Left blank

If the proposed amendments to these rules are approved, references to spurs would also be removed from the National Equipment Register.

Review and feedback

Stakeholders and interested parties are invited to provide feedback in accordance with the consultation details set out at the top of this document.

