

INDUSTRY NOTICE – RULES OF RACING

Code of Racing	Harness
Rules and Description	1. AHRR Rule 156 (Whips) 2. AHRR Rule 194B (Injectable product containing cobalt salts)
Authorised for Consultation	October 7, 2026
Consultation Closes	November 4, 2026
Submissions to	policies@racingqueensland.com.au

Following the rule changes which took effect on October 1, 2026, Harness Racing Australia (**HRA**) has advised of a revised effective date for the previously approved amendments to AHRR 156 (Whips), together with an amendment to the previously approved definition of “cobalt salts” in AHRR 194B (Injectable product containing cobalt salts).

AHRR 156 (Whips)

The effective date for the amendments to AHRR 156 (Whips) has been deferred from October 1 to January 1, 2027, to allow additional time to educate participants about the new requirements. The amendments, which otherwise remain unchanged, appear below:

Whips

- **Amend Rule 156(2)(a)**
 - **Repeal Rule 156(2)(b)(ii)**
 - **Renumber Rule 156(2)(b)(iii) to 156(2)(b)(ii)**
- (date of effect 01/01/2027)**

156. (2) (a) A driver shall only apply the whip and/or the rein in a wrist only flicking motion whilst holding a rein in each hand *with the tip of the whip pointed forward*.

(b) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (a), “wrist only flicking motion” means:-

- (i)** Ensuring no force is generated by the use of the elbow or shoulder when applying the whip.
- (ii)** ~~The forearm is not raised beyond forty five degrees relative to the racing surface.~~
- (ii)** Not applying the whip with overt force.

AHRR 194B (Injectable product containing cobalt salts)

HRA has also revised the previously approved definition of “cobalt salts” in AHRR 194B(2), to ensure the rule does not inadvertently capture products containing vitamin B12. The revised rule amendment, which is intended to take effect on January 1, 2027, is set out below:

Injectable product containing cobalt salts

- **Renumber Rule 194B(2) to 194B(3)**
- **Add new Rule 194B(2)**
(date of effect 01/01/2027)

194B. (1) A person must not have in his or her possession or on his or her premises any injectable product which contains cobalt salts.

(2) *Cobalt salts means an ionic compound containing cobalt, including but not limited to cobalt gluconate, cobalt chloride, cobalt sulphate, cobalt nitrate and cobalt acetate, whether contained in a preparation alone or in combination with one or more other substances.*

(3) A person who fails to comply with sub-rule (1) is guilty of an offence.

Invitation to Provide Feedback

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the rule amendments as per the details at the top of this document.

At the conclusion of the consultation period, RQ will consider any feedback received before proceeding to adopt the rule amendments.

