



AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

AR.64 – Lifetime bans for unsafe or unsound horses

Summary:

Racing Australia recommends that the rule which empowers Stewards to prevent or suspend unsafe horses from engaging in trackwork, jump-outs, trials and races be clarified and expanded to ensure that such horses are not participating and creating safety risks for themselves, as well as other horses and riders.

It is noted that:

- (a) AR.64(1)(b) is expanded to include pre-race behaviour in addition to barrier manners, which would allow the Stewards to prevent or suspend from participating in trackwork, jump-outs, trials and races horses that are unruly or dangerous in the mounting enclosure and/or preliminary (such as rearing, kicking or bucking).
- (b) A new AR.64(1)(c) is added to provide the Stewards with an express power to prevent or suspend a horse from participating in trackwork, jump-outs, trials and races where they are of the opinion that it is not suitable to do so. This view may (but need not) be informed by a veterinarian's diagnosis of a particular injury or because the horse's veterinary history over the course of its career.
- (c) AR.64(1) is amended to clarify that the Stewards' power to prevent or suspend unsafe/unsound horses from participating in trackwork, jump-outs, trials and races includes the power to order a lifetime ban on the horse's participation in the industry. It is clear from the wording of the existing subrule (2) that subrule (1) allows both temporary and permanent bans, but this should be made clear in subrule (1) so there can be no dispute.

1. Amend AR.64 as follows:

“AR.64. (1) Without limiting any power contained in these Rules, the Stewards may prevent or suspend a horse from participating in track work, or from starting in any jump-out, official trial or race, for any period (including indefinitely) and upon any conditions that the Stewards consider appropriate if, in the Stewards' opinion:

- (a) the horse has a galloping action or races in a manner which is likely to pose a safety risk to itself, any other horse, or any person;
- (b) the horse has barrier manners which are, or has exhibited pre-race behaviour which is, considered to be unruly or intractable and/or which may pose a safety risk to itself, any other horse, or any person;

(c) the horse is unsuitable to participate in track work, or start in any jump-out, official trial or race, including without limitation because of any veterinary diagnosis or history.

(2) Where the Stewards suspend or prevent a horse from starting in any jump-out, official trial or race for a temporary period in accordance with AR.64(1), the Stewards may also order that the horse not be permitted to be nominated or entered for any official trial or race (as applicable) until the horse has:

(a) participated to the satisfaction of the Stewards in any test, jump-out or official trial (or series of tests, jump-outs or official trials); and/or

(b) passed any veterinary examination or any other examination considered appropriate.”

Date of Effect: 1 August 2018