



AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

AR.134A – Declaration of non-starters

Summary:

Racing Australia considers that the rule which allows Stewards to declare a horse a non-starter where it has been materially prejudiced from finishing in the top 3 places due to an incident at the start of the race (provided it doesn't finish in the top 3) should be expanded to the top 4 places. Such a change accords with first 4 betting and the deductions that flow when a horse is declared a non-starter.

Further, Racing Australia is of the view that occurrences at the start of a race that materially affect a horse's chance (which are the subject of this rule), should be expanded to include other outside influences – for example, where the starter inadvertently activates the false start siren after a fair start and one horse is affected.

1. Amend AR.134A as follows:

“**AR.134A.** If in the opinion of the Stewards any horse was:

- (a) riderless at the time a start was effected; or
- (b) was encumbered by equipment applied with the permission of or at the direction of the starter; or
- (c) denied a fair start; or
- (d) encumbered by any outside influence after gaining a fair start,

and such occurrence materially prejudiced the chances of that horse finishing in first, second, third or fourth placing, the Stewards may declare such a horse to be a non-starter and may make such order regarding betting as provided for separately in the Rules of Betting. Provided that a horse which is ultimately declared first, second, third or fourth placing in a race shall not be declared a non-starter.”

Date of Effect: 1 August 2018