

## CONSULTATION NOTICE – RULES OF RACING

<b>Code of Racing</b>	Thoroughbred
<b>Rule</b>	Multiple Australian Rules of Racing
<b>Description</b>	Refer below
<b>Authorised for Consultation</b>	December 19, 2025
<b>Consultation Closes</b>	January 23, 2026
<b>Submissions to</b>	<a href="mailto:policies@racingqueensland.com.au">policies@racingqueensland.com.au</a>

Racing Queensland (**RQ**) advises that the Racing Australia (**RA**) Board has approved the following draft amendments to the Australian Rules of Racing for circulation:

1. Proposed new AR 88G – *Horses which had an incident of Collapse*, and proposed new Code of Practice (COP) – *Horses which Collapse*;
2. Proposed new AR 88AAA – *Horses treated with beta-2 adrenergic agonists (beta-2 agonists)*; and
3. Amend AR 219 *Making protests* and AR 221 *Consequence of a protest being upheld*.

Additionally, RQ is proposing to adopt the following amendments to the Australian Rules of Racing, which have been approved by the RA Board:

4. AR 88F – *Notification to Stewards of veterinary conditions or procedures*, and proposed new Code of Practice (COP) – *Reporting to the Stewards any veterinary conditions or procedures*.

Specific details of, and background to, each of the amendments proposed are provided in the pages that follow.

It should be noted that RA has not determined a proposed effective date for the amendments at this stage.

Stakeholders and other interested parties are invited to review the proposed amendments, together with the background provided, and provide feedback in accordance with the details set out above.

Following closure of the consultation period, RQ will review any feedback/submissions received and provide them to RA for consideration. Further advice will be provided in due course.

## 1. AR 88G – Horses which had an incident of Collapse and proposed new Code of Practice (COP) – Horses which Collapse

After considering submissions from the Australian Jockeys' Association, RA has approved the circulation of a nationally consistent protocol for managing horses that have experienced an incident of collapse, particularly regarding the requirements for their return to ridden exercise, training, and racing.

The proposed *AR 88G - Horses which had an incident of Collapse*, and the associated *COP – Horses which Collapse*, are set out below:

### **AR 88G Horses which had an incident of Collapse**

- (1) If a horse has collapsed at any time, it must be reported by the trainer to the Stewards without delay.
- (2) A horse which has collapsed must not;
  - (a) undergo ridden exercise on a racecourse, recognised training track, private training establishment, or other place,
  - (b) be presented to participate in a jump-out or official trial,
  - (c) return to racing,until the horse has complied with the provisions of the Racing Australia Code of Practice: Horses which collapse.

### **CODE OF PRACTICE HORSES WHICH COLLAPSE**

#### Policy

This policy is intended to help identify and manage racehorses that collapse and manage their return to ridden exercise, trialling (including jump-outs), and racing.

Where a horse has collapsed, that incident must be reported without delay and the provisions of AR88G apply accordingly. Such horses must not return to ridden exercise, jump-outs, trials or racing until they have undergone appropriate veterinary examinations and trials to obtain the requisite PRA permission in accordance with this Code of Practice.

#### Definitions

Qualified veterinary surgeon means a veterinarian who is:

- (a) registered with the Veterinary Practitioners Board (or equivalent regulatory body) in a State or Territory of Australia; and
- (b) approved by the relevant PRA (including by way of permit, approval or licence) if required by a Local Rule of that PRA.

Collapse means a sudden and often unannounced loss of postural tone, which results in the horse's body (trunk) falling and making contact with the ground, often but not necessarily accompanied by a loss of consciousness, that occurs either during exercise or within approximately one hour of exercise. Examples of conditions associated with collapse include, but are not limited to, neurological disorder, cardiac arrhythmia, exercise induced pulmonary haemorrhage and exertional heat illness.



## Protocols

### 1. Veterinary clearance before ridden exercise

Where a horse is found to have collapsed, the horse must not undertake or be engaged in any form of ridden exercise until the Stewards have received a satisfactory report from a qualified veterinary surgeon with specialist qualifications in equine medicine, which includes the results of:

- a) physical examination and lameness examination;
- b) echocardiography performed at rest;
- c) electrocardiography (ECG) performed at rest;
- d) respiratory endoscopy at rest;
- e) neurological examination; and or
- f) any other examination that the veterinarian holding specialist registration in equine medicine requests.

Note to Protocol 1: At the stewards' discretion, such examinations/procedures may be performed by a veterinarian who does not hold specialist registration in equine medicine, provided that the examination results are forwarded to, and interpreted by, a veterinarian holding such specialist registration.

Following acceptance by the Stewards of the above report, they may grant written permission for the horse to undertake ridden exercise. The horse must not be nominated for a race, trial or jump-out:

### 2. Requirements for permission to participate in Official Trial or Jump-Out

Following acceptance by the Stewards of the report referred to in (1) above, and subject to a report in respect of the additional examinations/procedures referred to in parts (a) to (c) below from a qualified veterinary surgeon with specialist qualifications in equine medicine, they may grant written permission for the horse to attend an official trial or jump-out of at least 1,000 metres (which Stewards and Veterinarians officiate at), however the horse must not be nominated for a race.

- a) electrocardiography (ECG) performed at exercise;
- b) endoscopy at exercise; and or
- c) any other examination that the veterinarian holding specialist registration in equine medicine requests.

Note to Protocol 2: At the stewards' discretion, such examinations/procedures may be performed by a veterinarian who does not hold specialist registration in equine medicine, provided that the examination results are forwarded to, and interpreted by, a veterinarian holding such specialist registration.

### 3. Permission to Race

The horse may only be nominated for a race, following compliance with the provisions of Parts (1) and (2) of this protocol, and further provided:

- a) it trials to the satisfaction of the Stewards in an official trial or jump-out, of at least 1,000 metres; and
- b) a qualified veterinary surgeon provides a satisfactory post-trial or jump-out report that includes the results of cardiac auscultation within 15 minutes of completion of the official trial or jump-out; and
- c) the Stewards, upon receipt of the veterinary report as referred to above, grant written permission for the horse to be nominated for and participate in a race.



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

Following a review by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities on the use of the beta-2 adrenergic drug clenbuterol, RA has approved for consultation a proposed rule regulating the administration of all beta-2 adrenergic agonists (including, but not limited to, clenbuterol and salbutamol), noting the associated welfare concerns and potential for performance-enhancing misuse.

The proposed rule *AR 88AAA – Horses treated with beta-2 adrenergic agonists (beta-2 agonists)* 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 clenbuterol as an appropriate therapeutic treatment.
- (3) Subject to compliance with subrule (2) of this rule, the beta-2 agonist product administered must be registered for use in horses in Australia and 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 in all other respects administered in accordance with the label instructions.
- (5) Where a horse has been treated with 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 clenbuterol.
- (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 beta-2 agonist in any six month period, provided there is 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.

### 3. Amend AR 219 Making protests and AR 221 Consequence of a protest being upheld

For international harmonisation on the rules relating to whip use, and noting the limited application of the current provision, RA has approved a proposal to remove the “Protest” rule in relation to whip breaches for circulation.

The proposed changes to *AR 219 Making Protests* and *AR 221 Consequence of a protest being upheld* are set out below:

#### AR 219 Making protests

...

(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)~~ (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 Consequence of a protest being upheld

(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).

~~(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.~~



#### 4. AR 88F – Notification to Stewards of veterinary conditions or procedures and proposed new Code of Practice (COP) – Reporting to the Stewards any veterinary conditions or procedures

To improve the collection and collation of accurate and timely information regarding injuries and fatalities that occur on raceday and during training, RA has approved new rule *AR 88F – Notification to Stewards of veterinary conditions or procedures*, and the associated *COP – Reporting to the Stewards any veterinary conditions or procedures*.

The new rule AR 88F and associated Code of Practice is set out below:

##### **AR88F - Notification to Stewards of veterinary conditions or procedures**

The trainer or any person in control of a horse must comply with the Racing Australia Code of Practice: Reporting to the Stewards any veterinary conditions or procedures.

##### **Code of Practice – Reporting to the Stewards any veterinary conditions or procedures**

The following are examples of, but not limited to, conditions and procedures requiring mandatory notification to Stewards under the provisions of AR 88F:

- Any surgery aimed at correcting a condition, including but not limited to:
  - upper respiratory tract surgery;
  - arthroscopy; or
  - surgery to correct lameness, limb inflammation/pain or gait dysfunction;
- Tendon or ligament injuries;
- Any musculoskeletal injury that resulted in an interrupted or ended preparation;
- Stress fractures, major fractures and major orthopedic surgery (refer to COMPULSORY REPORTING OF MAJOR FRACTURES, ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY AND APPROVAL OF AFFECTED HORSES TO RETURN TO RACING);
- Wobbler diagnosis and or ataxia;
- Eye injury / condition that impairs vision;
- Injury to any part of the body which could potentially be considered as a welfare or public perception issue or have resulted in an interrupted preparation;
- Collapse;
- Any systemic illness that has adversely impacted on a horse's health or wellbeing or may have resulted in an interrupted or ended preparation, including but not limited to:
  - colic;
  - respiratory tract infection; or
  - other viral or bacterial infection.