

## AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

## Treatment of a horse on course, post-race

## Summary:

AR.178A currently regulates the raceday possession by persons of prohibited substances or syringes, needles, nasogastric tubes or other instruments which could be used to administer a prohibited substance to a horse or to produce an administered substance in a horse.

Whilst AR.178A makes it an offence for a trainer to bring a prohibited substance or a syringe to a race meeting, there is no specific offence under the Rules of Racing for administration on course, post-race.

Racing Australia believes that, in addition to the "possession" offences under AR.178A, it is necessary to include an "administration" offence. That is, the administration offence would go further than the possession offence and be used when a trainer (or other person) has actually administered a prohibited substance to a horse at a race meeting without the permission of the stewards.

For obvious reasons, it was deemed undesirable for trainers to bring implements or prohibited substances on course during a race meeting. From both a public perception and possible swab contamination view point, it is not desirable for a trainer to be administering a post-race prohibited substance to a horse on a racecourse or in a float/vehicle.

Custom and practice dictates that if a horse required emergency treatment before being transported back to the stable, an approach is made to the stewards and the club Veterinarian may administer any substance in a private area.

Racing Australia believes that AR.178A should be amended to make it an offence for any person, without the permission of stewards, to administer a prohibited substance to a horse post-race, on course during the course of a race meeting (or in a float/vehicle being used to transport the horse from the race meeting). The "without the permission of the Stewards" clause will allow trainers to seek permission where emergency treatments are required post-race, on a welfare basis.

The following rule amendments are proposed along with current AR.178A(3) becoming AR.178A(4) (and the references in that sub-rule being amended accordingly).

# 1. Amend AR.178A(1) and (2) as follows:

- "(1) No person, unless he has first obtained the written permission of the Stewards, shall have in his possession on a racecourse where a race meeting is being conducted or in any motor vehicle, horse float or other mode of transport used for the purpose of conveying a horse or horses to and/or from a race meeting any prohibited substance or a syringe, needle, naso-gastric tube or other instrument that could be used -
  - (a) to administer a prohibited substance to a horse; or
  - (b) to produce a prohibited substance in a horse.
- (2) The Stewards may at their complete discretion grant written permission for a person to have in his possession on a racecourse where a race meeting is being conducted or in any motor vehicle or horse float used for the purpose of conveying a horse or horses to and/or from a race meeting any prohibited substance or a syringe, needle, nasogastric tube or other instrument that could be used
  - (a) to administer a prohibited substance to a horse, or
  - (b) to produce a prohibited substance in a horse.

The Stewards may impose terms or conditions on a permission granted under this subrule."

Date of Effect: 1 August, 2016

#### 2. Delete AR.178A(3) and replace with the following:

- "(3) Following the running of a horse in a race, a person must not, without the express permission of the Stewards, administer, cause to be administered, attempt to administer or be a party to the administration of a prohibited substance to that horse:
  - (a) on the race course where the race meeting is being conducted; or
  - (b) in any motor vehicle or horse float or other mode of transport used for the purpose of conveying that horse or other horses from the race meeting.

## (4) A person who:

- (a) fails to comply with AR.178A(1) or with a term or condition imposed under AR.178A(2) is guilty of an offence, and any substances or items concerned may be confiscated; or
- (b) breaches AR.178A(3) is guilty of an offence."

Date of Effect: 1 August, 2016