

AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

Shockwave therapy and eligibility to race

Summary:

AR.64H prohibits shockwave therapy within seven clear days of racing and links the therapy to eligibility to race.

Whilst Racing Australia supports the concept that shockwave therapy should not be given within seven clear days of racing, it believes that not all breaches of AR.64H should necessarily have the one outcome, that being a mandatory placing disqualification. Stewards should have the opportunity to look at all the circumstances and decide if a horse should be disqualified.

Therefore, AR.64H is redrafted to allow Stewards a discretion as to whether or not to disqualify a horse and read in conjunction with AR.47(3) effectively making post-race disqualifications of placing mandatory.

AR.47(3) provides, amongst other things, that any horse that runs in a race for which it is ineligible, shall be disqualified from the race.

Consequently, AR.47(3) is re-drafted to provide that ineligible horses be subject to a discretionary decision to disqualify by the Stewards.

1. Delete AR.64H and replace with the following:

“AR.64H. (1) A horse that has been subjected to any form of shockwave therapy is ineligible to participate in any race, official trial or jump-out at any time during the seven clear days (as defined in AR.1) following midnight on the day on which the shockwave therapy was administered.

(2) Where a horse has been nominated and/or entered for a race, official trial or jump-out, a person must not administer, cause to be administered, attempt to administer or be a party to the administration of any form of shockwave therapy to a horse, at any time within seven clear days (as defined in AR.1) of that race, official trial or jump-out.

(3) A trainer must not enter or permit a horse to participate in any race, official trial or jump-out where the horse has been subjected to any form of shockwave therapy during the seven clear days (as defined in AR.1) prior to the race, official trial or jump-out.

(4) Where a horse has been subjected to, or the Stewards reasonably suspect a horse has been subjected to, any form of shockwave therapy at any time during the seven clear days (as defined in AR.1) prior to the day of a race, official trial or jump-out, the Stewards may order the withdrawal of the horse from the relevant race, official trial or jump-out.

(5) Any person who breaches AR.64H(2), or trainer who breaches AR.64H(3), commits an offence and may be penalised.

***Note:** For the purpose of AR.64H and by way of example, if a horse was subjected to any form of shockwave therapy at any time on a Monday (1st day of month), that horse would be ineligible to trial or race until the Tuesday in the following week (9th day of month).*

Date of Effect: 1 August, 2016

2. Delete AR.47(3) and replace with the following:

“(3) Any horse that runs in a race:

- (a) for which it is ineligible, may be disqualified;
- (b) in which it carries less weight than the weight it should carry, shall be disqualified for the race, provided that a rider shall be allowed by the Clerk of the Scales a half kilogram for the weight of his bridle.”

Date of Effect: 1 August, 2016