



## Australian Racing Board

### AMENDMENT TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

#### Summary:

At present, AR.175(q) provides a general offence for misconduct, improper conduct or unseemly behaviour.

The ARB Board believes that there is a need for a specific offence for the inappropriate use of social media. Stewards have raised the ever increasing problems arising from social media usage by licensed persons.

The Board considers it necessary to have a specific and targeted rule dealing with inappropriate social media usage. This would spell out to persons involved in the racing industry that comments on such mediums as Facebook, Snapchat and Twitter are not regarded as private conversations between individuals. It is further noted that a number of main stream media now regularly include comments lifted from these mediums to sensationalise racing issues.

#### Addition of Rule 175(qq)

Please insert AR.175(qq) as follows:

“**AR.175.** The Principal Racing Authority may penalise;

(qq) Any person who in their opinion, is guilty of engaging in the publishing or posting on any social media platform or channel any material, content or comment that is obscene, offensive, defamatory, racist, threatening, harassing, discriminating or abusive to any other person or entity involved in the racing industry.”

**Date of Effect: 1 March 2015**