



AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

Adopted by Tasracing 18th December 2023, Effective 1 February 2024

AR248, AR2, AR17, AR286, AR253

Selective Androgen Receptor Modulators (SARMs)

Summary:

Interest in Selective Androgen Receptor Modulators (SARMs) for human clinical purposes has increased following in vitro and in vivo studies showing these compounds to be effective anabolic agonists, without side-effects often associated with anabolic-androgenic steroids. Consequently these compounds are prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA). Andarine (S-4), an arylpropionamide derived compound [S-3-(4-acetylamino-phenoxy)-2-hydroxy-2-methyl-N-(4-nitro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-propionamide], was the lead compound in this class. Literature reports of andarine (S-4) detection first described a black-market product analysed by the Cologne anti-doping laboratory in 2009, followed by two adverse analytical findings in human sports doping control urine samples analysed by the Lausanne and Los Angeles anti-doping laboratories in 2011 and 2013, respectively.

In 2014, the first findings of andarine (S-4) in equine sports were made in Australian thoroughbred racing samples. During the subsequent Stewards inquiries, the trainer and veterinarian involved in these matters placed considerable emphasis on andarine (S-4) not being classified as an anabolic-androgenic steroid.

The timing of the cases was conspicuous, being less than one year after the prohibition of anabolic-androgenic steroids at all times in racing (former AR178H) was introduced on 1 November 2013. Fortunately, there have been no further findings of SARMs in Australian thoroughbred racing.

The number of different SARMs being investigated for legitimate human clinical use has expanded over recent years. Unfortunately, this has resulted in greater availability of non-approved compounds via illicit markets with more than 20 SARM compounds now posing a threat to the integrity of sport. One example is LGD-4033, also known as Ligandrol, which has been the subject of a number of findings in human sports in Australia and internationally.

Australian racing laboratories have the capability to screen for the presence of a growing number of SARMs, subject to the availability of reference materials, at low levels in routine equine plasma and urine samples. Work is also underway to investigate the potential of detection in equine hair samples, which may increase the retrospectivity (i.e. detection period) in controlling misuse of these substances.

Notwithstanding the continuous evolution in monitoring for the presence of SARMs, the persistent threat of SARM misuse necessitates a review the Rules of Racing, specifically AR 248 Administration of anabolic androgenic steroids, to ensure that the principle to control the long-term effects of anabolic substances is applied to SARMs.

Racing Australia has introduced a number of changes to AR 248 along with consequential changes to AR 2, AR 17, AR 253 and AR 286 as a result of this review.

Further, Australian racing laboratories have the capability to issue a “clearing certificate” in respect of SARMs, and that reference to same in the relevant sub rules would be appropriate.

1. Amend AR 248 as follows:

AR 248 Administration of anabolic androgenic steroids and selective androgen receptor modulators

- (1) A person must not:
 - a. administer;
 - b. cause to be administered;
 - c. attempt to administer; or
 - d. be a party to the administration or attempted administration of, an anabolic androgenic steroid and/or a selective androgen receptor modulator to a horse.
- (2) If a person breaches subrule (1), a disqualification for a period of not less than 2 years must be imposed, unless there is a finding that a special circumstance exists, in which case that penalty may be reduced.
- (3) If the Stewards are satisfied that a horse has been, or is likely to have been, administered an anabolic androgenic steroid and/or a selective androgen receptor modulator, the Stewards may prevent the horse from starting in any race, official trial or jump-out.
- (4) If a sample taken at any time from a horse has detected in it an anabolic androgenic steroid and/or a selective androgen receptor modulator, the horse is not permitted to start in any race, official trial or jump-out:
 - a. for a period of not less than 12 months from the date of the collection of the sample; and
 - b. until after an Anabolic Androgenic Steroid Clearing Certificate and/or a Selective Androgen Receptor Modulator Clearing Certificate, as the case may be, is provided in respect of a sample taken from the horse on a date directed by a PRA or the Stewards.
- (5) An owner, lessee, nominator, trainer and/or other person in charge of a horse must not, when directed by the Stewards or another official employed or engaged by a PRA, fail to produce or otherwise give full access to the horse so that a sample can be taken and analysed to determine whether any anabolic androgenic steroid and/or a selective androgen receptor modulator is in the system of the horse.
- (6) Subrule (5) requires an owner, lessee, nominator, trainer or other person in charge of a horse to produce the horse, or otherwise give full access to the horse, even if the horse is:
 - a. under the care or control of another person; and/or
 - b. located at the property of another person.
- (7) If an owner, lessee, nominator, trainer and/or other person in charge of a horse breaches subrule (5), the horse will not be permitted to start in any race, official trial or jump-out:
 - a. for a period of not less than 12 months following the day that the horse is produced or made fully accessible to the Stewards or another official employed or engaged by a PRA, so that a sample can be taken and analysed to determine whether any anabolic androgenic steroid and/or a selective androgen receptor modulator is in the system of the horse; and
 - b. until after an Anabolic Androgenic Steroid Clearing Certificate and/or a Selective Androgen Receptor Modulator Clearing Certificate, as the case may be, is provided in respect of a sample taken from the horse on a date directed by a PRA or the Stewards.

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2. Add to AR 2 as follows:

AR 2 Dictionary

Selective Androgen Receptor Modulator Clearing Certificate means a certificate from an Official Racing Laboratory stating that a sample (taken under the supervision of the Stewards or another official employed or engaged by a PRA to do so) is free of selective androgen receptor modulators.

Date of effect: 1 February 2024

3. Amend AR 17 as follows:

AR 17 Taking samples at horse sales

Without limiting any other PRA powers, a PRA has the following powers in respect of taking samples at horse sales:

- (a) if, in the opinion of a PRA, a thoroughbred horse selling agent or organisation has in place satisfactory arrangements (including as between a buyer and seller of a horse) for taking samples from horses at horse sales for the purpose of testing for anabolic androgenic steroids **and/or selective androgen receptor modulators**, to officially approve as a “PRA-approved vet” (which approval can be withdrawn at the discretion of a PRA) a veterinary surgeon employed, engaged or authorised by the selling agent or organisation, to take a sample from a horse for that purpose; and
- (b) to declare either before or after a sample is taken by a PRA-approved vet under subrule (a) that the sample is to be treated as a sample for the purpose of these Australian Rules.

Date of effect: 1 February 2024

4. Amend AR 286 as follows:

AR 286 Lodgement of Foal Ownership Declaration

- (3) It is a condition precedent to any lodgement under this rule that the manager or his or her authorised agent lodging the Foal Ownership Declaration undertakes to be bound by the Rules and, upon action being taken in compliance with this rule (including by a Syndicate as applicable), the unnamed horse and its owners become subject to, and agree to be bound by, the Rules for the following purposes only as a consequence of, and relating to, the lodgement of the Foal Ownership Declaration:
 - a. the testing of a named horse which has not been retired from racing under AR 297 for the presence of substances that are prohibited at any time by the Rules;
 - b. the testing of an unnamed horse for the presence of anabolic androgenic steroids, **and/or selective androgen receptor modulators**;
 - c. the observation of other horses for health and welfare reasons only where there is concern for their health and welfare based on reasonable grounds; and
 - d. the rules that relate to traceability (any rule under this Part 14 and any relevant Local Rules).

Date of effect: 1 February 2024

5. Amend AR 253 as follows:

AR 253 Testing for anabolic androgenic steroids and/or selective androgen receptor modulators before registration

- (1) This rule applies to all unnamed horses.
- (2) The Stewards or another official employed or engaged by a PRA may, at any time, direct that a horse be produced to provide a sample to be analysed to determine whether any anabolic androgenic steroid and/or a selective androgen receptor modulator is present in the system of the horse.
- (3) If a horse is not produced to provide a sample as directed under subrule (2), that horse is ineligible to start in any race or official trial:
 - (a) until at least 12 months after the latter of:
 - (i) the date on which the horse, once registered with Racing Australia under these Australian Rules, is permitted under these Australian Rules to start in a race (and subject to any further conditions imposed by a PRA or the Stewards in their discretion); and
 - (ii) the date on which the horse is produced to provide a sample to be analysed to determine whether any anabolic androgenic steroid and/or a selective androgen receptor modulator is present in the system of the horse; and
 - (b) only after an Anabolic Androgenic Steroid Clearing Certificate and/or a Selective Androgen Receptor Modulator Clearing Certificate, as the case may be, is provided in respect of a sample taken from the horse on a date directed by a PRA or the Stewards.
- (4) If an anabolic androgenic steroid (other than an anabolic androgenic steroid at or below a permitted threshold identified in Schedule 1, Part 1, Division 3) and/or a selective androgen receptor modulator is detected in a sample taken at any time from a horse, the horse is ineligible to start in any race, official trial or jump-out:
 - (a) until at least 12 months after the latter of:
 - (i) the date on which the horse, once registered with Racing Australia pursuant to these Australian Rules, is permitted under these Australian Rules to start in a race (and subject to any further conditions imposed by the Stewards in their discretion); and
 - (ii) the date the relevant sample was taken; and
 - (b) only after an Anabolic Androgenic Steroid Clearing Certificate and/or a Selective Androgen Receptor Modulator Clearing Certificate, as the case may be, is provided in respect of a sample taken from the horse on a date directed by a PRA or the Stewards.
- (5) If directed under subrule (2) by the Stewards or another official employed or engaged by a PRA, a person must produce, or otherwise give full access to a horse so that a sample may be taken and analysed to determine whether any anabolic androgenic steroid and/or a selective androgen receptor modulator is in the system of the horse.
- (6) Subrule (5) requires an owner, lessee, nominator and/or trainer to produce a horse, or otherwise give full access to a horse, even if the horse is:
 - (a) under the care or control of another person; and/or
 - (b) located at the property of another person.

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