



**URGENT  
INDUSTRY NOTICE  
NEW AR.178AB  
COMMENCEMENT DATE 1 OCTOBER 2015**

Trainers and other industry participants are again notified that **Australian Rule of Racing AR.178AB becomes effective from 1 October 2015**. This rule prohibits the use of injections of any type in horses during the One Clear Day prior to a scheduled race and an official trial.

The rule makes it an offence for any person (including a trainer, anyone else in charge of a racehorse or a veterinarian) to insert a hypodermic needle into a horse within the one clear day prior to a race or official trial. This includes a ban of taking of blood one clear day prior to a race or official trial.

For the purpose of definition, a "Clear Day" means a 24 hour period from 12.01am to 12.00 midnight. By way of example, if a horse is racing on a Saturday, the last time that the horse may be injected is midnight on the Thursday prior to the race. The horse must not be injected on the Friday or at any time on the Saturday prior to the running of the race.

However a trainer can seek the express permission of stewards, for an exemption to the ban to insert a needle into a horse for the purpose of blood sampling for a health and fitness assessment during the one clear day.

The one clear day ban on injections includes, but is not limited to, the administration by injection, whether intravenously, intramuscularly, subcutaneously or any other route, of the following medications and substances:

- intravenous infusions, fluids and electrolytes;
- vitamin and mineral supplements;
- haematopoietic (blood building) agents;
- all Schedule 4 Prescription Animal Remedies and Prescription Medicines for injection; and
- any other agents for administration by injection.

It is noted that, for the purpose of proving a breach of AR.178AB, it is not necessary to establish what (if any) substance was injected, or was attempted to have been injected, into the horse.

The obvious exception to the rule is the collection of official pre-race or out-of-competition blood samples at the direction of the Stewards for the purpose of drug analyses.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The timing of the administration of many injectable products will be determined by the detection periods for the prohibited substances contained in those products. In most cases, the detection periods will be in excess of the one clear day prior to competition.

**The new rule is as follows:**

**“AR.178AB:**

- (1) A person must not, without the permission of the Stewards, inject a horse, cause a horse to be injected or attempt to inject a horse, which is engaged to run in any race or official trial:
  - (a) at any time on the day of the scheduled race or official trial, prior to the start of such event; and
  - (b) at any time during the One Clear Day prior to 12.01am on the day of the scheduled race or official trial.
- (2) Where there has been a breach of AR.178AB(1), or the Stewards reasonably suspect that there has been a breach of AR.178AB(1), the Stewards may order the withdrawal of the horse from the relevant race or official trial.
- (3) Where there has been a contravention of AR.178AB(1), the horse may be disqualified from the relevant race in which it competed.
- (4) Any person who breaches, or is a party to a breach of, AR.178AB(1), commits an offence and may be penalised.
- (5) For the purpose of this rule:
  - (a) injection includes, but is not limited to, the insertion of a hypodermic needle into a horse;
  - (b) it is not necessary to establish whether any substance was injected, or the nature of any substance injected.”

Monday 14 September 2015