



## AMENDMENTS TO LICENSING CONDITIONS

Both the RWAA Integrity Department and the WA Trainers Association are committed to maintaining the image and integrity of Racing in Western Australia, and in particular believe they have an obligation to ensure that Registered Trainers maintain the highest of standards in this regard.

Following discussions before the Thoroughbred Racing Consultative Group, a review of licensing criteria throughout Australia was conducted. It was determined that for the most part, WA's licensing criteria was in alignment with other states, however could be further improved through a more stringent application of the criteria for the small number of new applicants each year and review of suitability of renewal in certain cases.

Recently senior members of the RWAA Thoroughbred Integrity (Stewards) Department and WA Trainers Association met to further discuss their shared concerns regarding the professionalism, and ability to maintain financial solvency, of a small percentage of Thoroughbred trainers within the racing industry. These isolated cases of concern reflected negatively on the high standards maintained by the majority of licensed persons as expected under the Rules of Racing.

These concerns stem in part from feedback and observations in a small minority of cases, of consistent failures to pay or address training debts to external parties, ie: Veterinary Surgeons, Stock Feed Merchants, Farriers etc, and a perceived general lack of professionalism.

With this in mind, the following refinements to conditions and policies with respect to the issue and renewal of trainer's license has been agreed and endorsed by both parties and will be implemented.

- Prior to the issue of Trainers License renewals season those trainers that have a past history of debt related issues will be contacted and required to satisfy the licensing Stewards that their license to train should be renewed and that their continued operation as a trainer does not reflect negatively on, or bring into disrepute, the positive professional image of the majority of trainers. At this time they may be required to provide financial records to the Stewards to satisfy them that they are currently solvent and that they have no outstanding debts owing.
- All new applicants for a Permit to Train will only be permitted to train a maximum of five horses for the first 12 month period of their license, or until such time that they demonstrate a suitable level of success and solvency within their business. After such time they may apply to Stewards for an increase in number. In this respect Stewards will review the operations of new trainers after 12-months to ensure they continue to be solvent.
- All new applicants for a Trainers License must currently supply three (3) references from persons within the Racing Industry. This will now be altered so as to include that at least one of these references must be from a licensed Open Class or B Class trainer, where the licensing Stewards will conduct reference checks to ensure suitable standards of competency and professionalism will apply.

All trainers licensed with the WA racing industry are required to maintain certain standards to ensure that the image of the industry is maintained and these measures will assist in ensuring that this occurs.