CLARIFICATION OF DRIVING RULES

As previously advised, effective 12 February 2018 the Guidelines for Assessing LR164 incidents was abolished.

The abolishment of these guidelines was not intended to alter the style of the competitive racing that occurs in WA or the interpretation and application of the relevant rules.

LR164 provides protection for a horse maintaining its position or making a forward move on the outside of runners until entering the front straight with a lap to go. From that point until entering the back straight on the final occasion a horse cannot be obliged to race wider than three wide.

To assist Driver’s in meeting their obligations and confidently complying with Rule 163 the Stewards provide the following clarifications:

• It is expected that all drivers will make moves with safety to ensure that their drives obtain the best possible finishing position. The driver who initiates the move must exercise care and must have a clear advantage. Head to head movement is discouraged as any undue pressure or jostling may result in action being taken.

• It is therefore imperative that any driver wishing to change position exercises due care and affords sufficient time to the other driver and horse to react to the move.

• The driver of the horse being eased must also exercise due care if attempting to resist the move. If not in a position to resist the move, it is expected the driver react by moving wider and going with the horse or it may be deemed careless if they continue to resist.

Any assessments in relation to interference will be determined on the merits of each case, having regard to the Australian Harness Racing Rules, the above and any other relevant facts that apply.

Barbara Scott
Chief Steward, Harness
13 June 2018