



RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **CIRCULAR TO ALL TRAINERS AND HORSES HANDLERS**

### **LEADING OF TWO OR MORE HORSES**

Following a serious accident at Ascot on 23 December 2010 which saw three horses galloping onto Great Eastern Highway resulting in one of those colliding with a van, Stewards were obliged to review the current practice of persons leading two or more horses at the one time when conveying horses to the racecourse.

RWWA as the Principal Racing Authority constantly seeks to improve the health and safety of participants, the horse and the broader community. It is within the best interests of the industry to strive for improved practices at all times. In addition incidents such as that which occurred on the 23 December 2010 have the potential to significantly impact the image and reputation of racing. These matters have been discussed with representatives of the Trainer's Association who appreciate the overriding safety matters that support improvement in this area.

After reviewing these principles the RWWA Integrity Assurance Committee, acting on the recommendation of the Stewards resolved to adopt the following Local Rule 87A which states:

#### *Leading of Horses*

- 1. The practice of leading two or more riderless horses at the same time is prohibited*
- 2. The Stewards may penalise any person breaching this rule or found responsible for a breach of this rule.*

The new rule prohibits any person from leading two or more riderless horses at the same time at any place or time.

The principles of duty of care demand that the industry adopts a responsible approach to these matters in light of the now demonstrated risks. Whilst the Stewards fully appreciate the added burden and inconvenience, in the interests of improving safety and reducing risk, such measures are the responsible approach which the industry must follow.

Participants therefore should appreciate the overriding safety and legal implications to which this new rule is based upon and are requested to amend existing practices to comply with the new requirements and by doing so greatly reduce the risk of incidents such as that of 23 December 2010 occurring in future.

**April 2011**