

RWWA Harness Industry Notice – Amended rule HR 196B

Amended rule to ban all injections to horses within one clear day of competition

Trainers and other Harness racing industry participants would be aware of new Australian Harness Rule of Racing 196B that became effective in Western Australia from 1st September, 2015. This Rule prohibited the use of injections of any type in horses during the One Clear Day prior to racing.

This rule has undergone amendments as of 13 October, 2015 in order to clarify the intention of the rule in respect of banning either the introduction or extraction of substances via injection within one clear day of racing.

196B. (1) A person shall not without the permission of the Stewards within one (1) clear day of the commencement of a race administer, attempt to administer or cause to be administered an injection to a horse nominated for that race.

(2) For the purposes of this Rule -

(a) One clear day means the twenty four (24) hour period from 12.01 a.m. to 12 midnight;

(b) Administering an injection to a horse means the use of a syringe, needle or other instrument to introduce or extract any substance from the horse;

(c) It is not necessary to establish whether any substance was injected or the nature of the substance injected.

(3) A person who fails to comply with sub-rule (1) is guilty of an offence.

Implications of HR 196B

This 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.

By way of example, if a horse is racing on a Friday, the last time that the horse may be injected is midnight on the Wednesday prior to the race. The horse must not be injected on the Thursday or at any time on the Friday prior to the running of the race.

For the purpose of proving a breach of HR 196B, it is not necessary to establish what (if any) substance was injected, or was attempted to have been injected, into the horse.

The one clear day ban on injections prior to competition 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;



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- all Schedule 4 Prescription Animal Remedies and Prescription Medicines for injection, including those specified in AR 178B(2) such as antibiotics, mucolytic agents and anti-arthritic agents; and
- any other agents for administration by injection.

For the purpose of this rule “injection” means, but is not limited to, the insertion of a hypodermic needle into a horse. Under the amended rule, a person also must not insert a needle into a horse for the purpose of blood sampling for health and fitness assessment during the one clear day prior to competition. 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.