



RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Apprentice/Jockey Licence – Visiting Riders

To avoid confusion or disappointment the following advice is provided in relation to visiting persons and the requirements that apply with respect to being eligible to ride in races.

Australian Rule of Racing 81 (2) provides that:-

“(2) Subject to any Local Rule, the Stewards of a meeting may grant permission to ride to any visiting rider at such meeting who hold a licence or permit to ride from the Principal Racing Authority or an Association in the territory from which he comes, and who produces a certificate that he is not disqualified or suspended from the Principal Racing Authority or Association under the jurisdiction of which he last rode.”

In accordance with the above rule, RWAA recognises and reciprocates accordingly the same category of licence issued by most other racing jurisdictions, subject to appropriate clearances and other considerations, for visiting apprentices, jockeys or other riders. In this respect a Visiting Jockey Licence Application must be lodged with the Stewards. A Jockey from another jurisdiction with a temporary visa can be approved as a visiting rider to ride in races and recognised as a Jockey.

Visiting apprentices must hold the appropriate Visa in order to be eligible to be licensed as an apprentice by RWAA. Persons holding temporary Visa's, such as working holiday Visa's, are unable to be licensed as an Apprentice Jockey, however can be issued with trackrider licences. Such persons can be sponsored by a licensed trainer where upon granting of residency they are able to be licensed as an apprentice by RWAA. Such person would be required to complete the required number of trial rides to the satisfaction of stewards before riding in races. Interested persons can contact the RWAA training department for further assistance or advice in these matters (08 9445 4124).

The issue of a Jockey licence in Western Australia is subject to stringent criteria which requires completion of an apprenticeship (generally over a minimum period of 4-years or less if over 18 and out-ridden claim) that includes a Certificate IV in Racing – Jockey. Pursuant to Local Rule 81B, an apprentice must have completed a minimum of 20 trial rides to the satisfaction of the Stewards before applying for a permit to ride in races.

The issue of Jockey licences is also a matter governed by national and local standards that each jurisdiction endeavours to apply in a uniform fashion given the reciprocal arrangements that apply in Australia. Unless a person has completed an apprenticeship or is the holder of a Jockey licence issued by another recognised body, they are unable to be recognised as Jockey's in Western Australia. Visiting apprentices from other international jurisdictions with temporary visas cannot be issued Jockey licences in lieu of completion of apprenticeship.

RWAA and the Stewards would be exposed to potential liabilities that may arise in the event of a race riding accident were a visiting apprentice to be issued with a Jockey licence or permitted to ride in races without completing an apprenticeship or demonstrating they have fully met the requirements that apply for such permission.

(Please note that Invitation races or series (eg. International Apprentice Challenges or similar) are governed by specific criteria which outline eligibilities relating to the respective races/series.)

Any queries with respect to these matters can be directed to the Stewards or the RWAA training department.

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