

RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

AMENDMENTS TO RWWA RULES OF THOROUGHBRED RACING

In accordance with Section 45 (1) (a) of the *Racing and Wagering Western Australia Act 2003*, notice is hereby given that the Board of Racing and Wagering WA has resolved that the RWWA Rules of Thoroughbred Racing be amended as detailed below.

AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL RULES effective 1 May 2024

1. Add to AR 2 as follows:

AR 2 Definitions

Bloodletting means the withdrawal of blood from a horse for any purpose, including the withdrawal, manipulation and reinfusion of homologous, heterologous, or autologous, blood products or blood cells into the circulatory system other than for;

- (i) diagnostic/laboratory testing procedures; or
 - (ii) use by a veterinary surgeon in any procedure/s performed for lifesaving purposes; or
 - (iii) in the use of veterinary regenerative therapies for the treatment of musculoskeletal injury or disease.
- as the case may be.

2. Add new AR 88E as follows:

AR 88E Horses that have had a bloodletting procedure

- (1) If a horse has been subjected to a bloodletting procedure in Australia:
 - (a) the horse is ineligible for a minimum period of 12 months; and
 - (b) a person must not enter or start the horse in, any race, official trial, jump-out or track work.
- (2) If a horse is subject to a bloodletting procedure, the owner of the horse or that owner's authorised agent must provide written notification of that to the Stewards as soon as practicable. The Stewards will then seek to ensure that:
 - (a) details of the procedure and the horse's ineligibility to race are recorded in Racing Australia's national online database; and
 - (b) if applicable, the Thoroughbred Identification Card of the horse is endorsed with details of the procedure and the horse's ineligibility to race.

Summary

The International Agreement on Breeding, Racing and Wagering is a voluntary agreement designed for the guidance of recognised Racing and Breeding authorities. The Agreement is reviewed once a year by the IFHA Annual Conference.

Article 6 C (RACING) PROHIBITED PRACTICES deals with practices, that jeopardize the health and welfare of the horse, the welfare of the rider, and other participants as well as the integrity of horseracing, that are inappropriate and prohibited.

In 2021 a number of additional items were added to Article 6C including.

2) SPECIFIED PROHIBITED PRACTICES

Prohibited practices include but are not limited to:

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(D) The withdrawal of blood from a horse for any purpose other than for diagnostic/laboratory testing procedures or as permitted by 2(E) below.

(E) The withdrawal, manipulation and reinfusion of homologous, heterologous, or autologous, blood products or blood cells into the circulatory system with the exception of those procedures performed for lifesaving purposes or in the use of veterinary regenerative therapies for the treatment of musculoskeletal injury or disease.

The practice of bloodletting, which involves the removal of a volume of blood from the body via a vein, has been practiced for hundreds of years in humans and other animal species, in the original belief that it expelled illness through the elimination of impure fluids.

Modern human medical practice now considers bloodletting to be a valid therapy in only a limited range of conditions, including haemochromatosis, and it is now recognised, in both human and veterinary medical practice, that there are a variety of more modern and effective therapies and management interventions available to treat conditions that might once have been treated through the practice of bloodletting.

There is no sound scientific basis to attribute any beneficial effect of bloodletting in healthy Thoroughbred horses. Consideration has also been given to the potential for the practice of bloodletting to adversely affect horse welfare and racing integrity.

It should be noted that the prohibition of bloodletting does not extend to:

- the withdrawal of small volumes of blood for diagnostic or testing procedures; or
- use in veterinary regenerative therapies for the treatment of musculoskeletal injury or disease.

Such procedures should be performed by a veterinarian and recorded in the trainer's treatment records.

These amendments come into effect as from 1 May 2024.