



AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

Amendment - AR 231, AR283

Background:

In June 2023 and May 2024 COSC discussed the possible application of a minimum mandatory penalty regime to the possession aspect of AR231(2)(b) and an increase to the minimum mandatory penalty regime for the use aspect of AR231(2)(a). At the COSC meeting in August 2024, advice was considered about the matter.

AR231(2) states; A person must not:

(a) use, or attempt to use, any apparatus or other device capable of affecting the performance of a horse in a race, official trial, jump-out or training gallop;

(b) have in the person's possession any electric or electronic apparatus or other device capable of affecting the performance of a horse in a race, official trial, jump-out or training gallop

COSC noted:

- That for the use of any electric or electronic apparatus – AR283(6)(e) makes provision for a penalty of disqualification for a period of no less than...2 years.
- That for the possession of any electric or electronic apparatus – AR283(6) makes no provision for a minimum period of disqualification as a penalty.

COSC Consideration and Recommendation:

COSC considered that;

- For the use of an electric or electronic apparatus on a horse – the penalty of a disqualification referred to in AR283(6)(e) of 2 years is insufficient in context having regard for the seriousness of the matter regulated for in AR231(2)(a), and that a more significant period of disqualification should be prescribed to act as a strong deterrent.
- For the possession of an electric or electronic apparatus capable of being used on a horse - a penalty of a disqualification of no less than a specified period should be adopted under a new sub-rule to AR283(6) – that being AR283(6)(k) to introduce a penalty of disqualification for a period of not less than that specified.

Consultation with and by the PRA's was undertaken between August 2024 and January 2025.

The increase to the mandatory minimum penalty for use for jiggers to 5 years was supported by all PRAs.

The adoption of a mandatory minimum for possession **only** of jiggers was not supported and will not be advanced.

The proposed amendments to the rules are set out below in red.

Amend AR 283(6)(e) to vary the "2 years" reference to "5 years".

Date of effect: 1 May 2025