

HRV Board approves licencing policy changes

The Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Board has approved changes to the existing HRV Licencing Policy by introducing a C Grade Drivers' Permit and a C Grade Trainers' Licence.

The changes were made following consultation with the Victorian Trainers and Drivers Association (VTDA) and the Bendigo Harness Racing Training Centre (BHRTC) and are effective from March 1.

"The introduction of a C Grade Trainers' Licence requires those persons who are breaking-in, preparing, educating and exercising a horse to be licenced irrespective of where these activities are being conducted, but C Grade Trainers' Licence holders cannot nominate a horse to trial or race," HRV General Manager – Integrity Brent Fisher said.

The introduction of a C Grade Trainers' Licence was required with the amendment of Australian Harness Racing Rule (AHRR) 203, which now states: *"A person shall not train a horse unless that person holds a training licence."*

"The C Grade Drivers' permit allows prospective licensees to be practically assessed by driving in an education trial behind the mobile barrier. This will assist in better gauging competency, prior to a full C Grade Drivers' Licence being granted," Mr Fisher said.

The HRV Licensing Policy includes an overarching requirement for the participant to be *"of good reputation and character, and is a fit and proper person to hold the licence for which the applicant has applied"*.

The criteria for determining the above is set out in Schedule 1 of the policy, which [can be read online here](#).

"The community has the right to demand the highest levels of integrity and professionalism from those involved in our industry and the introduction of C Grade Trainers' Licences allows greater oversight of all aspects of the training of a horse including breaking-in and pre-training activities," Mr Fisher said.

"HRV will continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure appropriate integrity and animal welfare safeguards are in existence."

Those conducting breaking-in or pre-training activities who are not the holder of a current licence are advised to contact the HRV Licensing Department on (03) 8378 0213 prior to March 1 as it will be an offence under the AHRR to perform such activities without the appropriate licence from that date.

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