



HARNESS RACING VICTORIA

PARTICIPANT MENTORING POLICY

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HRV Participant Mentoring Policy

INT-PO-010
(Jul 2020)

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Education and mentoring of young and inexperienced drivers is vital to increasing and retaining participation levels within the Harness Racing industry and maintaining high levels of professionalism.

This policy further aims to limit reoffending under the Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHRR) by educating, supporting and guiding participants, particularly those who are inexperienced.

1.2. Objectives

The objectives of this policy are:

- To provide adequate support to inexperienced participants upon commencing exposure to race competition and the associated pressures;
- To provide a formal process for the reviewing of skills of inexperienced industry persons;
- To provide adequate support and remedial training of licensed persons who breach the AHRR on a frequent basis.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- All licensed Trainers and Drivers who compete in races conducted within Victoria.

3. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy the following definitions apply:

Penalty – A penalty imposed by the HRV Stewards or Victorian Racing Tribunal as defined by AHRR 256.

Approved Mentor – A person who has been approved by the HRV Integrity Department as being suitable to perform the role of Approved Mentor as required by this policy.

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HRV Participant Skills Panel – As a minimum the panel shall consist of the Chairman of Stewards and/or Deputy Chairman of Stewards and a HRV Approved Mentor.

4. APPROVED MENTOR

4.1. Approved Mentor Allocation

A minimum of four (4) Approved Mentors will be in place where possible.

4.2. Approved Mentor Duties

- The duties of an Approved Mentor will include:
- Providing advice and guidance to participants when required;
- Providing advice and guidance to participants when the need is self-identified;
- Attendance at Stewards Inquiries when requested to do so by a Grade B licensee and such request is approved by the HRV Stewards;
- Recommend to the HRV Stewards any participant attend before the HRV Participant Skills Panel;
- Attendance at HRV conducted participant forums from time to time.

4.3. Approved Mentor Approval

In determining the suitability of an Approved Mentor the HRV Integrity Department will place particular weight on the following:

- Industry offence record;
- Industry performance record;
- Recommendations from the Victorian Trainers and Drivers Association;
- Frequency of attendance at race meetings;
- Subject to any current serious integrity related investigations.

5. HRV PARTICIPANT SKILLS PANEL (HRV PSP)

5.1. HRV PSP Referral Procedure

Following a penalty being imposed by the HRV Stewards or the Victorian Racing Tribunal the Chief Steward who officiated at the relevant race meeting may recommend to the

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Chairman of Stewards and/or the Deputy Chairman of Stewards that the participant attend before the Participant Skills Panel.

A licensed person may request in writing to the Chairman of Stewards and/or Deputy Chairman of Stewards to attend before the HRV PSP to assist in any area of their harness racing participation.

The Chairman of Stewards and/or the Deputy Chairman of Stewards will consider the recommendation or request and notify the parties accordingly.

In certain circumstances a participant will be directed to attend a mandatory hearing before the HRV PSP by the Chairman of Stewards and/or the Deputy Chairman of Stewards.

5.2. HRV PSP Voluntary Attendance

Should the recommendation or request be approved the participant will be invited to voluntarily attend a hearing before the HRV PSP.

The participant will be offered:

- Attendance at a skills session before the HRV PSP conducted at the HRV offices or other negotiated venue;
- The opportunity for a Support Person of their own choosing to attend the skills session before the HRV PSP;
- The potential that the HRV Stewards may consider suspending up to 50% of the penalty imposed should attendance and participation occur to the Stewards satisfaction. The suspending of any portion of the penalty will be subject to no further offences occurring under the same rule within the period specified by the HRV Stewards;
- Access to HRV Stewards Video Footage and other relevant evidence during the HRV PSP session;
- The potential for a portion penalty to be suspended will not be offered for a penalty which was subject to final determination before the Victorian Racing Tribunal.
- Attendance before the HRV PSP will not be offered for any matter which remains subject to current proceedings before the Victorian Racing Tribunal.

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5.3. HRV PSP Mandatory Attendance

In certain circumstances a participant will be directed to attend a mandatory hearing before the HRV PSP by the Chairman of Stewards and/or the Deputy Chairman of Stewards.

The process outlined in 6.2 will be applied with the added condition that a participant may not be permitted to drive, or present a horse to start, in races until attending and participating in a hearing before the HRV PSP to the Stewards satisfaction. Such hearing will be scheduled as soon as practicable.

In determining whether to issue a direction to attend a mandatory hearing before the HRV PSP the Chairman of Stewards and/or the Deputy Chairman of Stewards will place particular weight on the following factors:

- Continual offences under a particular AHRR;
- Continual offences under the AHRR generally;
- A participants experience in the industry;
- The seriousness of the offending.

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