



HARNESS RACING VICTORIA

Expected Behaviour of Participants

1. Purpose

Harness Racing Victoria's (HRV) function is to administer, develop and promote the sport of Harness Racing in Victoria. Its mission is *“to develop a vibrant Harness Racing industry that promotes participation, integrity and racing excellence, grows wagering and other revenue streams and maximises returns to its stakeholders.”*

Harness Racing Victoria has developed this Statement of Expected Behaviour of Participants so all **participants**:

- Are aware of the standards of conduct and behaviour expected
- Ensure that activities undertaken by participants inspire public trust and confidence of stakeholders and the broader community
- Are aware of the consequences of failing to meet the standards of conduct and behaviour required

This statement seeks to promote and strengthen the good reputation of Victorian harness racing by highlighting the core principles and behaviours which all participants must demonstrate when operating within in the harness racing industry.

2. Scope

All Licensed Participants will be required to read, acknowledge and abide by this statement. Owners and lessees will also be required to read, acknowledge and abide by this Statement as part of the horse transfer process.

3. Principles

At every level of harness racing the principles of fairness, respect, responsibility, safety and integrity must be maintained.

HRV is committed to upholding the principles of:-

a. Fairness

Operate within the spirit of the rules, never take an unfair advantage and make informed and honourable decisions at all times.

Acceptable behaviours	Unacceptable behaviours
Comply with the Australian Harness Racing Rules	Use substances on horses in order to gain an unfair advantage
Act and communicate in an honest, open and transparent way	Condone or encourage others to break the Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHR)

b. Respect

Recognise the contribution that owners, trainers, drivers, officials and stewards make to harness racing, treating them with dignity and consideration, as well as care for the property and equipment they use.

Acceptable behaviours	Unacceptable behaviours
Display professional conduct, act as a role model, respect and follow HRV's policies	Conduct which threatens, disparages, vilifies or insults another person associated with the harness racing industry on any basis, including but not limited to, a person's race, religion, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, special ability/disability, or sexual orientation, preference or identity.
Raise concerns or make complaints to the appropriate personnel with a focus on problem solving	Swear or use other disrespectful language, be abusive or use aggression when talking with other industry participants

c. Responsibility

Take responsibility for one's actions and be a positive role model at all times.

Acceptable behaviours	Unacceptable behaviours
Take responsibility for all actions and behaviours	Blame others for actions and behaviours
Accept consequences of actions in a professional and respectful manner	React aggressively and/or defensively to consequences of actions

d. Safety

Promote safe practices; prevent and report dangerous behaviour; while demonstrating concern for others.

Acceptable behaviours	Unacceptable behaviours
Comply with the AHRR in relation to safety including wearing of appropriate attire (including vest and helmet) and ensuring staff are licensed as required	Behave in an unsafe manner that puts the safety and wellbeing of other industry participants at risk
Report dangerous practices and behaviour to the appropriate personnel.	Condone or permit dangerous practices and behaviours

4. Licensing

Harness Racing Victoria grants the *privilege of a licence* to participants committed to achieving the core principles and values of this statement, and any participant, whether licensed or not, accepts the importance of, and adherence to this statement and the (AHRR)

HRV may grant a licence for such period and upon such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, and may refuse a licence without assigning any reason whatsoever [Rules 90(4) & (5)].

HRV or the Stewards may suspend or cancel a licence for:

- breach of a term or condition of the licence [Rule 90(6)(a)] OR
- Where HRV is satisfied that the person holding the licence is not a fit and proper person to be associated with harness racing [Rule 90(6)(b)].

Ultimately, the grant, refusal to grant, refusal to renew, suspension, cancellation or otherwise of a licence, including the imposition of terms or conditions on a licence, is at the discretion of HRV.