



VICTORIAN LOCAL RULES

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Definitions

Bookmaker's Clerk is an individual employed by a licensed bookmaker to assist in bookmaking operations and is registered with the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (VGCCC).

Key Employee refers to an individual employed by a bookmaker who holds a managerial role, is authorised to make decisions critical to the bookmaker's business operations and is involved in any other activities related to the bookmaker's operations as specified by the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission (VGCCC).

Serious Offence

"Serious offence" means an offence under, or breach of, one of the following Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHRR):

- (a) AHRR 15A(4);
- (b) AHRR 15B(2);
- (c) AHRR 147;
- (d) AHRR 148;
- (e) AHRR 173(1), (4) & (5);
- (f) AHRR 187;
- (g) AHRR 189(9);
- (h) AHRR 190(1), (2), (3), (4) & (5);
- (i) AHRR 190A;
- (j) AHRR 190AA(1) & (2);
- (k) AHRR 190AB(1) & (2);
- (l) AHRR 192;
- (m) AHRR 193(1), (2) & (3);
- (n) AHRR 194;
- (o) AHRR 194A;
- (p) AHRR 195;
- (q) AHRR 196A;
- (r) AHRR 196B(1);
- (s) AHRR 196D(1);
- (t) AHRR 213;
- (u) AHRR 213A;

(v) AHRR 213B(1);
(w) AHRR 215;
(x) AHRR 216;
(y) AHRR 217;
(z) AHRR 218;
(aa) AHRR 218A
(bb) AHRR 221;
(cc) AHRR 222;
(dd) AHRR 227;
(ee) AHRR 228;
(ff) AHRR 229;
(gg) AHRR 230;
(hh) AHRR 231(1);
(ii) AHRR 232;
(jj) AHRR 235A;
(kk) AHRR 235B;
(ll) AHRR 236;
(mm) AHRR 241;
(nn) AHRR 243;
(oo) AHRR 244;
(pp) AHRR 245;
(qq) AHRR 247;
(rr) AHRR 254A(1).

PART 1: CLUBS

VLR1 A club shall take all action and provide all assistance considered by the Controlling Body to be necessary to enable the Controlling Body to fulfil its obligations under any applicable agreements or arrangements governing the conduct, supply, or programming of racing, including without limiting the generality of the foregoing:

Assist the Controlling Body in the timely preparation of:

- (a) the racing program as it relates to harness racing in Victoria; and
- (b) an annual marketing program as it relates to harness racing in Victoria;
- (c) performing the racing program to the extent that it relates to the club; and
- (d) providing to the Controlling Body the racing product (as defined in the Product Supply Agreement) in respect of all races conducted by the club.

A club which fails to comply with sub-rule (1) is guilty of an offence.

VLR2 (1) A club shall obey and comply with all directions of the Controlling Body that the Controlling Body considers to be reasonably necessary or desirable to ensure that the Controlling Body is able to comply fully with its obligations under the Racing Program Agreement and the Product Supply Agreement.

(2) A club which fails to comply with a direction given under sub-rule (1) is guilty of an offence.

(3) Notwithstanding any other penalty which may be imposed on a club or an officer or employee of the club pursuant to these Rules, if a club is in breach of any provision of sub-rule (1) then the Controlling Body may in its discretion :

(a) withhold financial grants, payments and assistance to the club;

(b) revoke or suspend the club's registration for such period as the Controlling Body thinks fit.

PART 2: BOOKMAKERS AND BETTING

VLR3 The Controlling Body may make determinations relating to Betting, Bookmakers' and Key Employees.

VLR4 A person shall not carry on the business of a bookmaker at any harness racing meeting unless he or she:

- (a) holds a licence from the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission,
- (b) is registered with the Victorian Bookmakers' Association; and
- (c) holds a licence from the Controlling Body.

VLR5 An application for a bookmaker's licence shall be made in the manner and form and be accompanied by such documentation, information and fees as the Controlling Body may determine.

- VLR6** The Controlling Body may grant a licence for such period and upon such terms and conditions as it sees fit.
- VLR7** An application may be refused by the Controlling Body without any reason.
- VLR8** The Controlling Body may at any time cancel any bookmaker's licence.
- VLR9** A person shall not act as a Bookmaker's Clerk or Key Employee at any meeting unless they are registered with the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission.
- VLR10** A bookmaker shall not permit any person to act for him or her as a Key Employee or Bookmaker's Clerk at any meeting unless such person is registered as required by VLR9.
- VLR11** Only a bookmaker and his or her registered staff may occupy the stand allocated.
- VLR12** Repealed 22/7/05.
- VLR13** The Controlling Body may determine fielding fees for any meeting it conducts.
- VLR14** Leave of Absence
- (a) A bookmaker desiring leave of absence from fielding at a meeting must notify the Controlling Body or Club holding the meeting for approval.
 - (b) If a bookmaker takes a leave of absence without the prior approval of the Controlling Body holding the meeting, he or she may be liable for the payment of fielding fees determined for that meeting.
- VLR15** The Controlling Body or Club conducting a meeting may appoint a person to carry out the duties of Bookmakers' Supervisor at that meeting.
- VLR16** The Bookmakers' Supervisor shall exercise the powers conferred on him or her by the Controlling Body and these Rules.
- VLR17** A bookmaker operating or intending to operate at a meeting or his or her Key Employee shall not enter an area reserved by the club for the use of licensed participants during the conduct of a meeting and for the period of two hours prior to the commencement thereof.
- VLR18** A bookmaker fielding at a meeting shall be on the stand allocated and shall display the odds offered by him or her at least 20 minutes before the advertised starting time of the race on which he is fielding.
- VLR19** A bookmaker may only offer bet types as approved by the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission.

- VLR20** A bookmaker shall:
- (a) exhibit a “CLOSED” notice on his or her betting board until all the horses engaged in the race have been listed on the betting board in an approved manner.
 - (b) Where applicable, exhibit against each horse so listed the odds being offered by him or her.
 - (c) When betting commences immediately remove the “CLOSED” notice and replace it with a “BETTING” notice and display the type of betting offered.
- VLR21** A bookmaker betting “win and place” shall not be permitted to display “win only” against any horse after betting has commenced.
- VLR22** A bookmaker shall adhere to the [HRV’s Minimum Bet Liability Policy](#).
- VLR23** In respect of each bet a bookmaker shall issue a voucher or ticket which has legibly written or printed on the face thereof:
- (a) the name or the initial letters of the horse or horses against which the bet was made;
 - (b) the amount and type of bet;
 - (c) if no place bet was laid a distinct X
 - (d) and deliver such voucher or ticket to the bettor and shall also record thereon the surname and initial of the bettor.
- VLR24** Where a betting voucher or ticket is delivered to a bettor the onus shall be on the bettor to:
- (a) inspect the markings on the voucher or ticket;
 - (b) retain the voucher or ticket until “All Clear” has been signalled.
- VLR25** In respect of any bet there must be a possibility to win when the bet is made.
- VLR26** A bookmaker shall:
- (a) Keep proper betting books recording -
 - (i) date of the meeting;
 - (ii) name of the club conducting the meeting;
 - (iii) names of all persons employed by the bookmaker at the meeting;
 - (iv) number of each race;
 - (v) hold and take out on each race;
 - (vi) any other details as required by the Controlling Body.
 - (b) Repealed (1 January 2026)
 - (c) Write all tickets in consecutive order showing at the commencement of each 1,000 tickets full letters and full numbers;
 - (d) Offer to bet on each and every race on the program at the meeting on which he or she is fielding unless otherwise permitted by the Stewards or Bookmakers’ Supervisor;
 - (e) On demand by a Steward or Bookmakers’ Supervisor produce his or her licence to operate as a bookmaker.

VLR27 A bookmaker must record all bets immediately after the bet is made including a “bet back” to reduce his or her liability or any other transaction whether with another bookmaker or the totalizator.

VLR28 A bookmaker shall not:

- (a) enter fictitious bets or bets made in fictitious names;
- (b) erase or obliterate any entry in his or her betting book;
- (c) make any alteration to any entry in his or her betting book unless the words, figures or letters which are the subject of such alteration remain clearly visible after such alteration has been made;
- (d) fail to bet on a race;
- (e) after betting has commenced and until the starting time of a race refuse to accept a wager demanded in accordance with these Rules on any horse listed.
- (f) bet on the result of a photo finish or protest.

VLR29 Place bets shall be paid on 1st, 2nd and 3rd placing if there are eight or more horses in the race when the wager is made, and on 1st and 2nd placings if there are not less than three nor more than seven horses in the race when the wager was made.

VLR30 Repealed (1 January 2026)

VLR31

- (a) In the event of a dead-heat for first place, the money wagered for a win shall be put together and equally divided. In the event of a dead-heat for third place, the money wagered for a place shall be put together and equally divided.
- (b) In the event of a triple dead-heat for second place, the bettor shall be paid two-thirds of the face value of the place wager.

VLR32

- (a) In the event of a horse being withdrawn from a race after on course betting has commenced, the Stewards may declare all bets off and order that betting recommence.
- (b) In the event of a horse being withdrawn or declared a non-runner after the commencement of betting, all bets made before the withdrawal or declaration of a non-runner on the horses remaining in the race shall stand subject to a deduction to be calculated in accordance with the Table set out in Appendix “1” to this Part.
- (c) Where only one horse is withdrawn or declared a non-runner and the odds prevailing for that horse are outside the limits of the odds enumerated in “Appendix 1” or where more than one horse is withdrawn or declared a non-runner, the settlement of bets shall be at the discretion of the Stewards.
- (d) In respect of all bets on a race outside the racecourse on which the bet is made, deductions shall be made on the same basis as is ordered by the Stewards officiating at the race meeting at which such race is held.
- (e) In the event of a horse being withdrawn or declared a non- runner after the commencement of on-course betting, no deductions shall be made which

would return to the bettor a sum less than the amount wagered by him or her except in the event of a dead-heat for any placing.

- (f) The provisions of these Rules shall not apply to bets made before the day of the race.
- (g) Doubles bets shall be subject to deduction in accordance with the relevant provisions of Appendix "1" or as otherwise directed by the Stewards. Where a deduction is so made in respect of each race forming a leg of a winning double, the deduction for the first leg shall be applied before the deduction for the second leg.

VLR33 Repealed (1 January 2026)

VLR34 Repealed (1 January 2026)

VLR35 Repealed (1 January 2026)

VLR36 (1)

- (a) A bookmaker desiring to operate "favout" betting on a race must make application to the Stewards at least 45 minutes prior to the advertised starting time of the race.
- (b) The Stewards may grant or refuse such an application and if an application is granted shall designate the horse to be excluded from betting ("the designated horse").
- (c) Once a bookmaker commences to operate "favout" betting he or she shall not be permitted to change his or her mode of betting.
- (d) On a race in which any bookmaker is operating "favout" betting, the Chairman of Stewards at the meeting shall immediately after "all clear" has been notified, ensure that an announcement is made over the course Public Address System of the placings that are to be paid out by bookmakers in respect of the race.
- (e) If a designated horse is withdrawn prior to the race, or is declared a non-runner after the race, there shall be no alteration to the betting on the race.
- (f) The Stewards may determine the number of bookmakers allowed to bet "favout" on a race.

VLR37 All winning bets shall be paid on the declaration of "all clear".

VLR38 All bets stand unless otherwise determined by these Rules.

VLR38A

- (a) In this Rule, "Totalisator Odds" means Odds which are determined or to be determined by the result of the operation of a totalisator on any event.
- (b) Repealed (1 January 2026)
- (c) Repealed (1 January 2026)

VLR39 The following bets are refundable:

- (a) A bet made on a horse which was scratched when the bet was made.
- (b) A bet made on any race in which there is only one horse under the starters orders.

- (c) A bet made on the course on the day of the race on any horse which is withdrawn or declared a non-runner.

VLR40 Where a betting voucher or ticket is lost, discarded or destroyed by the bettor and the bettor claims a payment thereof, he or she shall produce to the Bookmakers' Supervisor or Stewards evidence of such fact together with such particulars of the bet or other information as may be required.

VLR41 Subject to VLR43, no bet can be declared off except:

- (a) by mutual consent;
- (b) where the stake is not produced on the demand of the bookmaker before the race;
- (c) if the bettor is a person who is disqualified or warned off.

VLR42 If any race is abandoned then all bets shall be refunded, excluding those made prior to the declaration of the final field.

VLR43 Settlement of a bet made in accordance with these Rules shall not be disturbed except where there is an allegation of fraud or corrupt practice in which case the Stewards may investigate the allegation and may declare a bet or bets off.

VLR44 Unclaimed wagers resulting from transactions from the meeting must be recorded on the bookmaker's holding card and lodged with the Controlling Body at the conclusion of the meeting.

VLR45 Any dispute between a bookmaker and a bettor maybe investigated and adjudicated upon by the Stewards.

VLR46 A bookmaker or Key Employee who fails to comply with any provision of a Rule contained in this Part is guilty of an offence.

APPENDIX 1 - Betting Deduction Scale

Price Range	Win Deductions (Cents in dollars)	Place Deductions (3 place dividends)	Place Deductions (2 place dividends)
1.01 - 1.16	80	30	44
1.17 - 1.18	79	30	44
1.19 - 1.20	78	30	44
1.21 - 1.22	77	30	44
1.23 - 1.24	75	29	43
1.25 - 1.26	74	29	43
1.27 - 1.28	73	29	43
1.29 - 1.30	72	29	42
1.31 - 1.35	69	29	42
1.36 - 1.40	67	28	41
1.41 - 1.45	64	28	41
1.46 - 1.50	62	28	40
1.51 - 1.55	60	27	39
1.56 - 1.60	58	27	39
1.61 - 1.65	57	27	38
1.66 - 1.70	55	27	38
1.71 - 1.75	53	26	37
1.76 - 1.80	52	26	37
1.81 - 1.85	51	26	36
1.86 - 1.90	49	25	36
1.91 - 1.95	48	25	35
1.96 - 2.00	47	25	35
2.01 - 2.05	46	25	35
2.06 - 2.10	45	24	34
2.11 - 2.15	43	24	34
2.16 - 2.25	42	24	33
2.26 - 2.30	41	24	33
2.31 - 2.35	40	23	32
2.36 - 2.40	39	23	32
2.41 - 2.45	38	23	32
2.46 - 2.50	37	23	31
2.51 - 2.60	36	22	30
2.61 - 2.70	35	22	30
2.71 - 2.80	33	21	29
2.81 - 2.90	32	21	29
2.91 - 3.00	31	21	28
3.01 - 3.10	30	20	27
3.11 - 3.20	29	20	27

3.21 - 3.30	28	20	26
3.31 - 3.40	27	19	26
3.41 - 3.50	27	19	25
3.51 - 3.60	26	19	25
3.61 - 3.70	25	19	25
3.71 - 3.80	25	18	24
3.81 - 3.90	24	18	24
3.91 - 4.00	23	18	23
4.01 - 4.20	22	17	23
4.21 - 4.40	21	17	22
4.41 - 4.60	20	16	21
4.61 - 4.80	19	16	21
4.81 - 5.00	19	16	20
5.01 - 5.50	17	15	19
5.51 - 6.00	16	14	18
6.01 - 6.50	14	13	16
6.51 - 7.00	13	12	16
7.01 - 7.50	12	12	15
7.51 - 8.00	12	11	14
8.01 - 8.50	11	11	13
8.51 - 9.00	10	10	13
9.01 - 9.50	10	10	12
9.51 - 10.00	9	10	12
10.01 - 11.00	8	9	11
11.01 - 12.00	8	8	10
12.01 - 13.00	7	8	9
13.01 - 14.00	7	7	9
14.01 - 16.00	6	7	8
16.01 - 19.00	5	6	7
19.01 - 20.00	5	5	6
20.01 - 21.00	4	5	6
21.01 - 26.00	3	4	5
26.01 - 31.00	3	3	4
31.01 - 41.00	2	3	3
41.01 - 51.00	2	2	2

* Price > \$51.00 = No deduction.

PART 3: OTHER

VLRR 53 A “serious offence” means an offence under, or breach of, one of the following Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHRR):

- (a) AHRR 15A(4);
- (b) AHRR 15B(2);
- (c) AHRR 147;
- (d) AHRR 148;
- (e) AHRR 173(1), (4) & (5);
- (f) AHRR 187;
- (g) AHRR 189(9);
- (h) AHRR 190(1), (2), (3), (4) & (5);
- (i) AHRR 190A;
- (j) AHRR 190AA(1) & (2);
- (k) AHRR 190AB(1) & (2);
- (l) AHRR 192;
- (m) AHRR 193(1), (2) & (3);
- (n) AHRR 194;
- (o) AHRR 194A;
- (p) AHRR 195;
- (q) AHRR 196A;
- (r) AHRR 196B(1);
- (s) AHRR 196D(1);
- (t) AHRR 213;
- (u) AHRR 213A;
- (v) AHRR 213B(1);
- (w) AHRR 215;
- (x) AHRR 216;
- (y) AHRR 217;
- (z) AHRR 218;

- (aa) AHRR 218A
- (bb) AHRR 221;
- (cc) AHRR 222;
- (dd) AHRR 227;
- (ee) AHRR 228;
- (ff) AHRR 229;
- (gg) AHRR 230;
- (hh) AHRR 231(1);
- (ii) AHRR 232;
- (jj) AHRR 235A;
- (kk) AHRR 235B;
- (ll) AHRR 236;
- (mm) AHRR 241;
- (nn) AHRR 243;
- (oo) AHRR 244;
- (pp) AHRR 245;
- (qq) AHRR 247;
- (rr) AHRR 254A(1).

(Effective 1 May 2024) (Added AHRR 218A – Effective 1 January 2026)

VLR 54

- (1) A person must comply with any policy adopted or ratified by the Board.
- (2) A person who fails to comply with sub-rule (1) shall be guilty of an offence.
(Effective 15 October 2021)

VLR 90

- (1) The Controlling Body may from time to time approve and thereby give effect to the Harness Racing Victoria Licensing Policy which may prescribe:
 - (a) any condition or requirement for the grant, renewal or retention of a licence, including a stablehand's licence, trainer's licence or driver's licence, and
 - (b) any basis or criteria upon which any such licence may be refused, suspended, cancelled, revoked or varied by the Controlling Body or by the Stewards; as deemed appropriate by the Controlling Body.

- (2) In addition to any other conditions, requirements or criteria set out in these Rules, any person applying to be licensed with the Controlling Body must satisfy the conditions and requirements contained in the Harness Racing Victoria Licensing Policy as approved by the Controlling Body from time to time, and once licensed is subject to the bases and criteria for retention, renewal, suspension, cancellation, revocation or variation of their licence set out therein.
- (3) The Stewards may grant a licence for such period and upon such terms and conditions as they think fit. *(Effective 3 September 2020)*

VLR 155A. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Rules 154 and 155 any horse which has broken gait free of interference, and remains in the incorrect gait when its nose reaches the finish line, and is covered by any other horse or horses in the correct gait it shall be placed behind such horse or horses.

(2) For the purposes of sub-rule (1) “covered” means when a horse has its nose in line with any part of the breaking horse’s body excluding its tail or extended hind legs when the nose of the horse which has broken gait reaches the finish line.

(Effective 1 May 2022 ,replacing Australian Harness Racing Rule 155A which is repealed on this date.)

VLR164A A driver may ease his or her horse out after passing the candy pole situated in the back straight on the final occasion, or at another location designated by an appropriate marker, provided that such move does not cause or contribute to interference.

*(Effective 1 February 2003) [Relates to AHRR 164A] (Amended 21 November, 2003) (Further amended 23 Feb 07)
(Amended 1 May 07) (Amended 1 January 2026)*

VLR75A be renumbered as AHRR 77A(1) and (2) (19.03.04)

Local Rule VLR2A be renumbered as AHRR 195A (16.2.00) – *(Effective 14 March 2016)*

VLR 267A (1) The Controlling Body or the Stewards may immediately or otherwise disqualify any person who is the subject of an exclusion order made by the Chief Commissioner of Police under Division 5 of Part 1 of the Racing Act 1958 for such time as the exclusion order remains in force. *(effective 14 March 2016)*

VLR 234A (1) A person shall not place, or have placed on their behalf, or have any other interest in, a bet on Victorian harness racing with a Non-Approved Wagering Service Provider. *(Effective 14 March 2016)*

VLR 234A (2) For the purpose of sub-rule (1), Non-Approved Wagering Service Provider:

- a) means a wagering service provider as defined in Section 1.3 of the Gambling Regulation Act (GR Act) 2003 (Vic), which did not hold, at the time the relevant bet or interest was placed, approval from Harness Racing Victoria to publish, use or otherwise make available in the course of business, in Victoria or elsewhere, a race field (as defined in section 1.3 of the GR Act) in accordance with section 4.2.3C of the GR Act;
- b) does not include the wagering and betting licensee or the wagering and betting operator (as defined by the GR Act);

c) does not include a bookmaker approved by Harness Racing Victoria. *(Effective 14 March 2016)*

VLR256(8) The maximum fine which may be imposed on a person, Club or body guilty of an offence is \$250,000. *(Amended December 2017, Effective 31 January 2018)*

VLR 292(5)(a) The Controlling Body may charge interest on all arrears owed to it from the time an entry is made on the list. The interest shall be the rate for the time being fixed under section 2 of the Penalty Interest Rates Act 1983. *(Effective 1 June 2003)*
[Relates to AHRR 292(5)]