

Policy: 634.1
Effective: 1 December 2011
Revised: October 2011
Subject: Change of Tactics
Reference: *Harness Racing Act 2009*
HRNSW Board Meeting – 26 October 2011

CHANGE OF TACTICS

1. PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

- 1.1 To maintain the integrity and professionalism of the harness racing industry.
- 1.2 To advise stewards, stakeholders and punters of proposed changes in driving tactics.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 A horse's usual racing pattern is to be determined based on performances from its recent starts.
- 2.2 If an individual horse has a similar racing pattern from its recent starts and connections decide to change that pattern, they must advise Stewards of the change no later than 45 minutes prior to the advertised starting time of the race for which the horse is engaged.
- 2.3 Rule 44 of the Australian Harness Racing Rules is applicable, and states:

TACTICS

44.

- (1) A driver or 1 or more of the connections of a horse intending to adopt during a race tactics contrary to the horse's usual racing pattern shall, as soon as practicable, so notify the stewards.
 - (2) The stewards may approve or disapprove the change of tactics.
 - (3) In the event of the Stewards approving a change of tactics, then in the absence of exceptional circumstances, the horse shall be driven in accordance with the approved change.
 - (4) A person who fails to comply with sub rules (1) or (3) or changes tactics without approval given under sub rule (2) is guilty of an offence.
- 2.4 Upon approval of the change of tactics Stewards shall place the change on the www.hrnsw.com.au website under the Integrity/Change of Tactics banner and also advise the on-course broadcaster so that an announcement can be made to on-course patrons, Sky Sports Radio listeners and Sky Racing viewers (where applicable).

POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.5 Once a driver, or 1 or more of the connections has advised a change of tactics, the change will be deemed its new racing pattern. Should connections wish to revert back to the previous or another racing pattern Clauses 2.2 and 2.3 are applicable.
- 2.6 To alleviate any confusion concerning a usual racing pattern, a driver or 1 or more of the connections of a horse should advise stewards how they intend to drive their horse in their accepted engagement.
- 3. FAILURE TO NOTIFY**
- 3.1 Failure to notify a change of tactics as described in Clause 2 carries a minimum penalty of \$300.