



RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

21 May 2025

Notice to Drivers

Increased Penalties for Driving Offences Involving Interference

Following a number of serious incidents recently involving drivers causing interference, Stewards have conducted a review of the penalties imposed and now intend to introduce stronger deterrents by implementing an increased penalty scale.

The Stewards believe that such approach is now required to improve driving standards to minimise interference in races directly attributable to carelessness which will achieve the desired outcome for all industry participants of protecting horse and driver safety.

Accordingly, all drivers are placed on notice that Stewards intend to impose harsher penalties for careless driving and causing interference type offences with emphasis also being given to incidents which cause a horse to receive an injury.

Further, in addition to increased periods of suspension, Stewards intend to consider an additional penalty in the form of a fine for egregious type offences involving higher level carelessness and interference, or where the degree of carelessness shown demonstrates a lack of regard for other drivers and horses, particularly in cases where the driver is deemed to have benefited from their actions through an enhanced finishing position.

In assessing the quantum of fine in addition to suspension from driving in races for a certain period, Stewards will consider the total amount earned by the driver from the percentage of prizemoney and any direct ownership they may have in the horse.

The increased penalty scale will apply at any stage throughout the running of the race and therefore all drivers must ensure that all the rules related to driving in races are strictly obeyed to avoid causing interference and the imposition of an increased penalty.

Such policy is effective from the Gloucester Park race meeting on Friday, 23 May 2025.

Brad Lewis

Chief Steward Thoroughbred & Harness

