



## **TRNT BOARD POLICY NO:**

**042**

**Date Introduced:**

**27 April 2017**

**Date Amended:**

## **Procedures to be followed in the Event of a Raceday Track Inspection Involving Riders**

*Thoroughbred Racing Northern Territory (TRNT) and the Northern Territory Jockey Association (NTJA) have agreed Stewards and riders will refer to the following policy in the event of a track inspection being required on raceday.*

- If, at any stage on race-day prior to the first race or during the race meeting, the Stewards and/or riders express concerns regarding the condition of the track, the Stewards and riders will initially discuss those concerns in the Stewards' room.
- If, following that discussion, it is considered necessary by the Stewards, the Stewards, the track manager and all riders or a delegation of riders who are engaged to ride in the first (or the next race) will inspect the track at the areas of concern. Riders who are also NTJA Committee members will be invited to inspect the areas of concern (irrespective of whether those riders are riding in the upcoming race). No other riders are able to enter upon the course-proper during this time and until a decision has been made in respect of the continuation of the race meeting.
- For the duration of the track inspection, all riders will be under the strict control of the Stewards and must comply with any directions or orders of the Stewards.
- Following the track inspection, the Stewards, all riders (or the delegation of riders), and the track manager will discuss implementing any remedial work which may address the concerns surrounding the affected area. If remedial work is considered possible, the track manager will be instructed by the Stewards to carry out that work. If remedial work is carried out, the site will be further inspected.
- Following the track inspection (or the final inspection following any remedial work), the Stewards, and all riders who are engaged to ride at the race meeting will return to the Stewards' Room to discuss the condition of the track.
- At the conclusion of this discussion, the Stewards may ask the riders to participate in a secret ballot to inform the Stewards whether each rider considers it is safe to continue riding at the race meeting.
- Where the Stewards ask the riders to participate in the ballot, the Stewards will facilitate the secret ballot in which all riders in attendance and engaged to ride will vote. The process for the vote is as follows:

- a) Each rider will be handed an appropriate ballot paper.
- b) It is compulsory to complete the ballot paper, and each rider will be asked to indicate “Yes” or “No” to the following question: “Do you believe that it is safe to continue riding based on the current condition of the track?”
- c) Once completed, the ballot will be given to the Stewards.
- d) The Stewards will then collate and count the “Yes” and “No” answers.

The table below sets out the number of riders which are required to indicate that they believe it is not safe to ride in the next race based on the current condition of the track, for the Stewards to consider whether to abandon the race meeting (based on rider concern).

Number of voting riders	6 or less	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Riders indicating not safe	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	8

- If the requisite number of votes (as set out above) is not obtained for the race meeting to be abandoned, and the Stewards decide to continue the race meeting, then the next race will go ahead. However, any rider or riders who did not wish to ride in the next race would not be required to do so, and other riders prepared to ride would be offered the opportunity to ride the horses of those who did not wish to continue riding. If no rider is able to be found, the horse (or horses) will be withdrawn from the race.
- Apprentice riders can participate in a track inspection as required and may cast a vote. Inexperienced apprentices have the option of not voting. If the following race is one for apprentice riders only, senior riders will be included in the track inspection process.
- If the requisite number of riders vote that they believe that it is not safe to ride in the next race due to the condition of the track, the Stewards may, in their absolute discretion and pursuant to AR 8(q), make a formal determination as to postponement of the race or races (if this is reasonably practicable) or abandonment of the race meeting, and will advise all riders accordingly.
- Should the Stewards decide not to proceed with the race meeting, then the following procedures should be enacted:
  - Riders must remain in the confines of the jockeys’ room until all announcements are made.
  - Stewards are to inform the Club CEO and also make the appropriate oncourse announcements via the relevant broadcasters and advise the TAB.
  - Advise the TRNT CEO who will discuss with the Club the options available to either postpone the meeting (or balance of the programme) to another day or abandon the race meeting (or part thereof).
  - The Stewards will outline the reasons for any decision in the race day Stewards report
  - The Race Club may choose to issue a media release to inform the public of the decision and the reasons for the decision.