

3.11 Racing Plates and Shoeing

(a) Only aluminum racing plates as provided by the Club and which, including nails, must not exceed 1½ lb in weight collectively are to be used in races.

(b) No horse shall be permitted to race unshod.

(c) The use of steel training shoes will not be permitted in races.

(d) Trainers are advised that the approval of the Head Farrier / allocated Clinical Veterinary Surgeon must first be obtained for the plating of horses for races in any way other than with a standard shoe. The use of wedges, glue-on shoes, bar shoes or any other horseshoe of non-standard design, leathers or any substance between the plate and the hoof in any form of plating also requires inspection and the approval of the Head Farrier / allocated Clinical Veterinary Surgeon. The application of non-standard plates will be reserved for horses that have a diagnosed condition necessitating their use.

(e) Calks, toe grabs, cutting plates or other devices may represent a danger not only to the horse wearing them but also to other horses and as such are not permitted to be worn in training or racing.

Non-Standard Plates

A list of non-standard plates approved for racing is maintained by the DVRWBP. The Head Farrier and the HVRWBP/EMVRO are responsible for the assessment and approval of any special farriery requests.

The approval of a senior Veterinary Surgeon is required to race a horse in any bar or three-quarter plate or when a pad or hoof packing is intended to be used. Approval will only be granted following a clinical examination and consultation with the Head Farrier (or his delegate). Further, approval must be obtained on each occasion a horse is intended to be raced with these items applied.

If a horse is re-plated at any time after the pre-race veterinary inspection and prior to racing, the trainer must, as soon as is practicable, ensure that a Veterinary Officer is informed of the incident. A Veterinary Officer may re-inspect the horse to assess its suitability to race.

It should be noted that glue-on racing plates will not be permitted to be applied or re-applied, less than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled start time of the race in which the horse is due to start. In the event that a horse shifts or casts a glue-on plate within two (2) hours of the time a horse is due to start in a race but prior to the horse entering the track to proceed to the start, the horse's trainer or his assistant trainer, a representative of the DVRWBP and the attending Farrier will consider the suitability or otherwise of a standard nailed plate being fitted to the horse. If it is agreed that a standard nailed plate can be satisfactorily fitted to the horse, such plate will be applied after which the horse will be examined by the representative of the DVRWBP to ascertain the horse's suitability to race. However, should any one of the aforementioned persons be of the opinion that it is not appropriate to apply a standard nailed plate to the relevant horse it shall be withdrawn from the race. In the event that a standard nailed plate is fitted to a horse in these circumstances and the horse subsequently shifts or casts the plate at any time, no further attempt will be made to apply a further plate and the horse will be withdrawn from its race.

The trainer of a horse which has been approved to wear a non-standard plate should consult with the Head Farrier or his delegate by no later than the day prior to the relevant race meeting as to whether it would be appropriate for a plate to be re-applied to the horse in the event that a non-standard plate is lost at any time prior to the horse arriving at the barrier stalls for the start of a race. If a trainer does not want any attempt to be made to re-apply a plate lost under these circumstances, it is the responsibility of the trainer to ensure that he has documented this instruction in writing using the "Race Day Non-Standard/Special Plates" form available through the Head Farrier. If a trainer does not complete the stated form, it is accepted that an attempt will be made to re-apply a plate to the relevant horse after which the horse will be examined by the Veterinary Officers to ascertain the horse's suitability to race. No further attempt to contact the trainer will be made in the event that a non-standard plate is lost once the horse proceeds to the start of a race. If in the opinion of the Duty Farrier or the Veterinary Officer at the race meeting a standard plate cannot be satisfactorily fitted to the horse, such horse will be withdrawn from its intended race.

The following are some of the more commonly used plates in Hong Kong: -

Standard front plate

Natural balance

Rim pad



Standard hind plate

World racing plate

Rim pad



Hoof life for glue on plates



Straight bar shoe

Rim pad

