

HORSE RACING ALBERTA

2027 RULE CHANGE PETITION

Proposed Amendment to Directive No. 241-2026

Current Directive:

Directive No. 241-2026 currently states:

“A horse is not permitted to start more than twice in any previous twenty-one (21) day period.”

Proposed Rule:

We respectfully request that Directive No. 241-2026 be amended to read:

“A horse is not permitted to start more than twice in any previous twenty (20) day period.”

Reason for Proposed Change

The purpose of this proposed amendment is to maintain the existing limitation of no more than two starts within the applicable period while reducing the restriction from twenty-one (21) days to twenty (20) days.

The proposed change would provide a small amount of additional flexibility in the scheduling of horses without removing the underlying protection provided by the rule. A horse would continue to be limited to two starts within the applicable rolling period.

The change would also better accommodate the actual scheduling of race cards and the circumstances faced by trainers, owners, racing offices, and race officials when determining whether horses are eligible to compete.

Under the current twenty-one (21) day restriction, there have been situations in which a horse has been unable to race because of the additional day created by the rolling calculation. This can result in a horse having to wait for an additional race date and can also contribute to races being altered, combined, or reshuffled because an otherwise eligible horse cannot participate.

Changing the period from twenty-one (21) days to twenty (20) days would address these situations while retaining the fundamental limitation of no more than two starts within the prescribed period.

Impact on Racing

The proposed amendment is intended to provide greater flexibility in race scheduling while maintaining a clear and enforceable limitation on the frequency with which a horse may start.

It would:

- Continue to limit a horse to no more than two starts within the applicable rolling period.
- Eliminate the additional day that can prevent a horse from participating in a race for which it would otherwise be eligible.
- Provide race offices with additional flexibility when filling races.
- Reduce circumstances in which race cards must be adjusted because of the twenty-one-day restriction.

- Provide trainers and owners with a modest increase in scheduling flexibility.
- Maintain a straightforward and objective rule that can be applied by racing officials.

Request

We respectfully request that Horse Racing Alberta accept this petition for consideration through the 2027 Rule Change Process and consider amending Directive No. 241-2026 from a twenty-one (21) day period to a twenty (20) day period.

We believe the proposed amendment preserves the intent of the existing rule while providing additional flexibility for horsemen and race officials and reducing avoidable disruptions to race cards.

Proposed Rule Change:**Current:**

“A horse is not permitted to start more than twice in any previous twenty-one (21) day period.”

Proposed:

“A horse is not permitted to start more than twice in any previous twenty (20) day period.”

Submitted by: _____

Organization / Association: A.C.T.R.A – Alberta Community Thoroughbred Racing Association

Date: October 15, 2026