



30th October 2022

OFFICIAL NOTICE

AMENDMENTS TO THE NEW ZEALAND RULES OF HARNESS RACING AND HARNESS RACING NEW ZEALAND CONSTITUTION

Under the Racing Industry Act 2020 and the New Zealand Rules of Harness Racing, the following Rules of New Zealand Harness Racing (the Rules) and Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated Constitution (the Constitution) were amended at the Annual Meeting of Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated held on 15th October 2022 at Christchurch and come into force as set out below.

The full amended Rules and Constitution will be available on the HRNZ website on 1st November 2022.

AMENDMENTS WHICH COME INTO EFFECT ON 1 NOVEMBER 2022

1. **Rule 869(7B) - Track Markers**
This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2022

Rule 869(7B) is amended by after the word “race” adding the words “or relegated to behind any horse in respect of which an advantage may have been gained” whereby the rule states:

(7B) Where any horse or its sulky wheel moves inside the track marker line and gains an advantage the horse shall be disqualified from that race or relegated to behind any horse in respect of which an advantage may have been gained except where it is established that the breach was caused by interference by another horse or driver.

2. **Rule 869(2) Whip and Rein Regulations**
This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2022

Rule 869(2) is amended by deleting the words “the Use of the Whip Regulations” and substituting the words “the Whip and Rein Regulations”.

3. **Rule 1004F, 1004G, 1004H, and 1004K**
This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2022

Rules 1004F(2), 1004G(4), 1004H(5), and 1004K(6) are amended by deleting the “1005E” and substituting “1004E”.

4. **Rule 105(1)**
This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2022

Rule 105(1) is amended by amending the current definition for the horse as follows:

horse means a horse to which the rules apply and includes any horse registered or eligible for registration under the rules but does not include a horse whose registration has been refused, a horse that HRNZ has been notified is not to be registered, or a horse deregistered under the rules, unless application is made for re-registration.

5. **Rules 1709 to 1722 Horse Care Rules**
This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2022

Part 17 of the rules is amended by deleting rules 1709 to 1722 and inserting the following new rules:

Horse Care Regulations

- 1709 *The Horse Care Regulations made by the Board may include (without limitation);*
- (a) Horse care principles that participants must comply with.*
 - (b) Duties and responsibilities of the Accountable Person.*
 - (c) The issuing of an improvement notice to participants for non-compliance with this part of the rules and the regulations.*
 - (d) The issuing of a possession order, the power to review a possession order, and the participants liability for costs associated with a possession order.*
 - (e) Any other matter relating to an improvement notice, a possession order, or horse care the Board considers appropriate.*

Breaches of the Rules

- 1710 *The Board may include a breach of the regulations in the Minor Offence Regulations.*
- 1711 *A breach of the rules or regulations that results in a horse suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain, distress, or injury is declared to be a serious racing offence.*

General Provisions

Rules 1723 to 1729 are renumbered as rules 1712 to 1718.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION WHICH COMES INTO EFFECT ON 17 NOVEMBER 2022

6. **Voting - Second Schedule of the Constitution of HRNZ and the Third Schedule of the Rules**
This amendment comes into force on 17 November 2022

That the amendment passed at the 2020 Annual General Meeting amending the voting system in the Second Schedule of the Constitution of HRNZ and the Third Schedule of the Rules for two years ending on 17 November 2022 be extended for one further year to end on 17 November 2023 subject to any alternative voting system being adopted.

If no alternative voting system is adopted on or before 17 November 2023 the voting system shall revert to that provided in the Constitution and the New Zealand Rules of Harness Racing immediately before the 2020 Annual General Meeting unless the current voting system is further extended by special resolution.

AMENDMENTS WHICH COME INTO EFFECT ON 1 FEBRUARY 2023

7. Rule 402 – Two Year Old Racing

This amendment comes into force on 1 February 2023

Rule 402 is amended to state:

- 402 (1) *No horse under the age of two years shall compete in any race (except that nothing in this rule precludes a horse being entered and starting in a workout or trial after 1 October in the year before it becomes a two-year old under rule 401).*
- (2) *No two-year-old shall compete in any race the distance of which exceeds 2700 metres.*
- (3) *In all totalisator penalty bearing pacing or trotting races including age group races under the Handicapping System no horse shall be entered unless it has previously been deemed to have qualified under regulations made by the Board or has passed a qualifying test or tests as the Board may from time to time by regulation determine.*

AMENDMENTS WHICH COME INTO EFFECT ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE BOARD

8. Rule 870 - Relegation for Galloping

This amendment comes into force on a date to be determined by the Board

Rule 870 is amended by deleting the strikethrough words and inserting the highlighted words and inserting a new rule 870A:

- 870 (1) *When any horse breaks from its gait in any race its driver shall immediately take all reasonable steps to return it to its proper gait and where clearance exists immediately take such horse clear of the field.*
- (2) *The following shall be a breach of sub-rule (1) hereof:*
- (a) *failure to take the horse clear of the field;*
- (b) *failure to take all reasonable steps to return the horse to its proper gait;*
- (c) *failure to lose ground by the break.*
- (3) *Any horse which breaks from its gait shall promptly regain its proper gait.*
- (4) *Any horse which breaks from its gait in any race and:*
- (a) *which fails to promptly regain its proper gait; and/or*
- (b) *which is not taken clear of the field; and/or*
- (c) *in respect of which all reasonable steps are not taken to return it to*

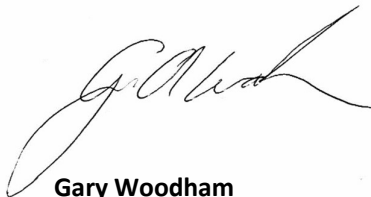
its proper gait; and/or
(d) which fails to lose ground by the break;

may (in addition to any ~~other~~ penalty **that may be** imposed pursuant to Rule 1003 hereof) subject to the provisions of the Breaking Horse Regulations made by the Board, be placed by the ~~Adjudicative Committee~~ **Stipendiary Steward** immediately after any other horse in respect of which any advantage may have been gained.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-rule (4) hereof any horse which is not in the correct gait when its nose reaches the finishing line and which is lapped on by any other horse or horses in the correct gait shall be placed by the ~~Adjudicative Committee~~ **Stipendiary Steward** behind such horse or horses provided that where such first mentioned horse is not in its correct gait as a result of interference to such horse or its driver, then subject to rule 869A such relegation of the horse shall be at the discretion of the ~~Adjudicative Committee~~ **Stipendiary Steward**.

870A (1) The licenced person in charge of a horse that finished in a stake-bearing place that may be relegated or disqualified under rule 870 may elect to have the matter determined by the Adjudicative Committee rather than by a Stipendiary Steward. The election must be notified to the Stipendiary Steward at the time the licensed person is first advised the horse may be relegated or disqualified under rule 870.

Dated this 30th day of October 2022.



Gary Woodham
Chief Executive