

# NZ Junior Driver Championship 2023 GUIDELINES



These conditions govern the conduct of the NZ Junior Driver Championship. They are made by the board pursuant to the Rules of Racing.

The qualifying period for the 2024 NZ Junior Driver Championship is January 1, 2024 to September 15, 2024 (inclusive).

Within that qualifying period Junior Drivers will earn points in every race for which a Junior Driver competes.

Points will be allocated to Junior Drivers within the qualifying period (January 1, 2024- September 15, 2024) on the following basis:

- All races: 1st = 7 points, 2nd = 5 points, 3rd = 3 points, 4th = 2 points, 5th = 1 point.

The 12 drivers for the championship will be selected by a regional basis this will be by the following method:

- (a) The top four points scorers in Canterbury, the top three points scorers in the North Island, and the top two points scorers in the Southern region (South of the Waitaki) at the conclusion of the qualifying period shall qualify to compete in the NZ Junior Driver Championship run during October 2024.
- (b) The next two highest points scorers overall.
- (c) Wildcard (The final spot will be by invite only by the Chief Executive of Harness Racing NZ).

All horsepersons holding a Junior Driver's licence at the start or have gained a licence during the current licencing season will be eligible to compete (January, 2024 - December, 2024). If a Junior Driver moves to an Open or Graduation Driver during the qualifying period they will not be eligible to compete in the Championship. If a Junior Driver who has qualified for the Junior Championship moves to an Open or Graduation Driver after the qualifying period has ended an extension will be granted to that Junior Driver so they can compete in the Championship - they will move to an Open or Graduation driver at the conclusion of the Championship.

In the event of an equality of points for any position at the conclusion of the qualifying period (September 15, 2024), placings will be determined by the following count-back procedure:

- On the basis of the greatest number of lifetime wins.

The NZ Junior Driver Championship will be conducted over six races. Each race will comprise of a maximum of 12 starters with up to two emergencies in each race.

Championship races will be run under the track safety limits of the host clubs/venues.

The re-entry time for championship races shall be 12.00pm on the day of the meeting for a night meeting and 7.30am on the day of the meeting for a day meeting.

In the event a driver changes location (islands) within the qualifying period, the location where the greatest amount of time has been spent within the qualifying period shall be the island of representation for the championship qualifying.

The allocation of drivers for the first race of the championship shall be made by lot. In subsequent races the allocation of drives shall be rotated in their lot with each lot drawing 1-4, 5-8, 9-12 twice each in the series.

Points awarded for each of the NZ Junior Driver Championship races shall be:

1st	17 points
2nd	12 points
3rd	10 points
4th	9 points
5th	8 points
6th	7 points
7th	6 points
8th	5 points
9th	4 points
10th	3 points
11th	2 points
12th	1 point



In the event of a dead heat for any place, the drivers of the dead heaters shall share equally the total points earned.

In the event of only 11 or fewer starters competing in a championship race, points will be allocated from first place through to the last placed runner as per the above schedule.

In the event of a tie for first place following the 2024 NZ Junior Driver Championship, final placings shall be determined by applying the following count back procedure:

- (a) On the basis of number of wins in the championship races.
- (b) On the basis of the number of seconds in the championship races.
- (c) On the basis of the number of thirds in the championship races.
- (d) On the basis of the total number of races won for the season.
- (e) On the basis of total lifetime wins.

In the event of a Junior Driver selected to compete in the NZ Junior Driver Championship being suspended or unable to compete due to accident, illness or for any other reason, prior to the close of the driver notification period for the first race of the championship, the next highest eligible qualifying Junior Driver, as per the Junior Driver Qualifying Points, will be offered the place in the championship.

In the event of a Junior Driver selected to compete in the NZ Junior Driver Championship being suspended or unable to compete due to accident, illness or for any other reason, following the close of the driver notification period for the first race of the championship, HRNZ shall arrange a substitute Junior Driver but no points shall be awarded to that driver. If no substitute Junior Driver is available the horse shall be scratched.

In the event of a scratching which prevents a selected driver from participating in any championship race, 7 points will be added to his/her championship tally.

In the event of a full field of 12 horses not being available, any driver who does not have a drive will receive 7 points.

In the event of a runner being disqualified, from any finishing position. The competing driver of the disqualified runner will receive 1 point.

Driving fees will be paid to Junior Drivers competing in the championship.

If any matter should arise concerning the NZ Junior Driver Championship, which is not covered by these regulations, it shall be determined by the Chief Executive of Harness Racing New Zealand, whose decision shall be final.