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Refer to HRNZ Rules & Regulations under Official Documents

RACING INTEGRITY BOARD

Q. Who is the RIB?

A. RIB stands for Racing Integrity Board. The Racing Integrity Board was established on 1 July 2021 under the Racing Industry Act 2020 and employs the Stipendiary Stewards and Racing Investigators.

Q. What are the main functions of the RIB?

A. The Racing Integrity Board promotes and ensures compliance with high standards of integrity, animal welfare and professionalism by people in the racing industry.

The Racing Integrity Board's core functions are:

- 1) Compliance and enforcement with racing rules and regulations
- 2) Prohibited substances testing for animals and people
- 3) Race day veterinary services and monitoring racing code animal welfare policies and initiatives
- 4) Adjudicative services

Many of these functions were previously provided by the Racing Integrity Unit and the Judicial Control Authority which were disestablished on 30 June 2021.

Q. What is an Adjudicative Committee?

A. An Adjudicative Committee is appointed to rule on any matter presented to them by the Stewards, or by any person with the Committee's permission. The Adjudicative Committee appointed on race day determines the outcome of protests and charges and can be asked to rule over any matter associated with a race day.

Q. If a driver breaches the Rules and a penalty is imposed by the Adjudicative Committee, what rights do they have following this?

A. Lodge an appeal against the decision.

This must be accompanied by a \$250 filing fee lodged with the RIB Appeals Registrar.

The form can be found on the RIB website (www.racingintegrityboard.org.nz).

Appeals against race day decisions must be lodged by 5.00pm on the third working day after the written decision of the Adjudicative Committee is published on the RIB website.

Appeals against other decisions must be lodged by 5.00pm on the tenth working day after the written decision of the Adjudicative Committee is published on the RIB website.

Q. Can a driver request a deferment of their penalty?

A. Yes – a suspension can be deferred for up to 10 days if a driver has confirmed driving engagements.

Q. Can a decision to change the placings in a race as a result of a protest be appealed?

A. No

Q. Explain the Minor Infringement Schedule?

A. The Minor Infringement Schedule (refer Minor Infringements Regulation) is designed to avoid lengthy hearings for admitted breaches of minor Rules. Defendants can, if they wish, sign the form and accept the penalty for which they are liable without having to front an Adjudicative Committee. If a person wishes to dispute the charge they are entitled to appear before the Committee.

BETTING

- Q. What limitations are placed upon a driver regarding betting?**
A. A driver in a race shall not bet, or have another person bet on their behalf, on any horse or combination of horses in a race, in which he or she is driving. This includes all multi horse bets such as quinellas, trifectas, first fours etc. This includes a drivers challenge bet which drivers are prohibited from betting on.
- Q. Should you allow someone else to use your betting account?**
A. No - a bet placed on a driver's betting account shall be a bet of the driver regardless of who placed the bet.
- Q. Are drivers able to withdraw cash from a betting window?**
A. A driver who is dressed in his or her driving gear may not place a bet at a racecourse or approach a betting window.

PRELIMINARIES AND STARTING PROCEDURES

- Q. How long before their first drive must a driver be available on course?**
A. 30 minutes.
- Q. If you will be late arriving for any reason what should you do?**
A. Phone the Stipendiary Steward in charge of the meeting or the Racing Investigator
- Q. How long after their last drive must a driver remain on course and why?**
A. 25 minutes. The Stewards may wish to question you regarding your horse's performance or any incident which occurred during the race and you may be required to attend a hearing in the Stewards room.
- Q. What is a driver's correct attire?**
A. Durable white trousers, a white stock or skivvy and black boots or shoes.
- Q. What safety gear must a driver wear when in the sulky?**
A. An approved safety vest and a securely fastened and approved safety helmet.
The manufacturers label must be attached which states it complies with the relevant safety standard and helmet must be less than 10 years old from the date of manufacture.
- Q. How many winners must a driver have driven to drive in a Group or Listed race or at a Premier meeting?**
A. 15
- Q. Where is a horse to be paraded prior to its race and why?**
A. Horses must be paraded in the assembly area approved by the Stipendiary Stewards not later than the time notified in the Official race book or in the Regulations for the race meeting so the Stewards can verify the correct horse with its notified gear, correct number, colours and driver has been presented to race.
- Q. What time should your horse be on the track by?**
A. At least ten minutes before the start time for the race.
- Q. If a trainer wishes to take a fractious horse onto the track early, what should they do?**
A. Obtain permission from a Stipendiary Steward.
- Q. Is a driver able to drive his or her horse in the opposite direction to the way of the course?**
A. Yes – provided they drive in the opposite direction on the extreme outside of the course.

Q. Who must you obey on the track?

A. Any orders or directions of a Stipendiary Steward, the Clerk of the Course, the Starter or any Assistant of the Starter.

Q. Once on the track are you allowed to return to the stabling area?

A. No - your horse is not permitted to leave the track without the consent of the Starter or a Stipendiary Steward.

Q. What obligations are placed on the driver with regard to their barrier position?

A. Every driver shall ensure they know their barrier position and no driver shall permit a horse to start other than from its correct barrier position or on a mark in advance of its correct barrier position (either at a standing, mobile, or moving start), unless directed by the Starter. In the case of starting from a handicap the driver shall ensure they are at the correct mark. If any driver feels they are at the incorrect point they should immediately inform the Starter who will not start the race until they have clarified this with the Stewards.

Q. Where does an unruly horse start from?

A. Mobile – No closer in than position 5 on the second line.
Standing Start – Extreme outside of the track and behind the front lines of horses.
Where there are two lines of horses the unruly horse(s) start on the extreme outside of the 2nd line and clear of the front and 2nd line horses.
Handicapped Standing Start – On the outside of the track and clear of horses on the same handicap.

Q. If there is a scratching from a race, does your barrier position change?

A. Yes.
For a standing start if a scratching occurs - all horses shall move in to take up the vacant position left by the scratching, which includes horses starting on the second line they shall be promoted to the outside of the front line. However, after the right of re-entry time, there shall be no movement from second line horses to the front line.
For a mobile or moving start - all horses shall move in to take up the vacant position left by the scratching however there shall be no horses promoted from the second line to the front line regardless of scratchings. If there are any late scratchings, on the front line and second line outside runners move in to fill the vacant position(s).

Q. What should you do at the five minute call when the Starter blows the whistle?

A. Proceed immediately to the starting assembly point. The Starter will advise the correct barrier position which will be maintained while circling around prior to the start.

Q. What should you do prior to the three minute call?

A. Ensure all gear including overcheck, halter shorteners and tongue strap etc are in place.
If a driver notices something incorrect with his gear or sulky after arriving at the starting assembly point that may result in a delay he must immediately advise the Starter so the Stipendiary Stewards can notify Raceday Control.

Q. What does the three minute call signal?

A. All drivers are required to be occupying their sulkies from the three minute call unless permission is given by the Starter to dismount.

Q. In a standing start what happens at the two minute and one minute calls?

A. At the two minute call the Starter will be on their rostrum or starting platform and the front line horses will break into two circles.
At the one minute call the Starter will blow the whistle to notify the drivers they are to complete one more full circle and come into line and the track should be cleared of all Starter's Assistants.
The horse drawn barrier 1 is brought into position as close to the track markers as possible to ensure outside runners have sufficient room.

- Q Are horses required to stop and stand?**
A. Horses are to line up back from the tape and walk forward under direction from the Starter. There is no requirement for a field to stop and stand provided the horses are in a satisfactory line. However the Starter retains discretion to make the field stop and stand if they have reason to believe a fair start may be compromised.
- Q. What word does the Starter call out when the start is effected?**
A. RIGHT.
- Q. How will you be notified if there is a false start?**
A. The Starter will blow his whistle and the Clerk of the Course will be in a position on the track to notify drivers there has been a false start.
- Q. What may happen to any horse which misbehaves at the start of any race?**
A. The Starter may order that horse go to any position but not one which alters its handicap (most likely the outside unruly position).
- Q. Can a driver be charged for anticipating the start and causing a delay?**
A. Yes – any driver who causes or contributes to a delay to the start by approaching the barrier at a speed greater than the general line or by coming into contact with the barrier strand is likely to be issued with a charge unless there is a valid explanation.
- Q. In a mobile start what happens at the two minute and one minute calls?**
A. At the two minute call the Starter will be in the mobile seat and the mobile arms are extended. Drivers shall ensure they are assembled in their allocated number order.
At the one minute call the Starter will blow the whistle to notify drivers they are to complete one more circle and come into line and the track is cleared of all Starter's assistants.
The Starter shall commence the mobile rolling to allow horses to come out of the pre-race formation and take up their positions behind the gate.
- Q. As the speed of the mobile increases what does the Starter call to the drivers?**
A. The distances to the start point eg 100 metres and 50 metres.
- Q. What is the purpose of the candy pole?**
A. To ensure that all drivers have their horse in position on the mobile gate at the candy pole which is 50 metres prior to the start point.
- Q. What happens at the start?**
A. The Starter will call out the word RIGHT and activate the Green flashing light.
In the case of a false start the Starter will activate a Red flashing light.
- Q. Is there any allowance given for being out of position at the start?**
A. Provided the horse is within half a length of the mobile at the candy pole and/or start, no penalty against the horse or driver will be imposed.
- Q. When a false start has been declared behind the mobile what should a driver do?**
A. Follow the Starter's direction and pull up their horse with safety and return to the assembly point unless advised to remain behind the mobile.
- Q. If a horse causes a false start behind the mobile what are the options available to the driver?**
A. The driver should remain in his allocated barrier position for the restart however can elect to go to the unruly position if the horse's manners won't allow them to stay in their position.

- Q. If that same horse immediately causes another false start what will happen?**
A. It will be scratched by the Stewards.
- Q. If the mobile barrier is unable to be used how will the start be effected?**
A. By way of a moving start.
- Q. Who controls the speed and line of a moving start?**
A. The Clerk of the Course and the driver of the horse drawn on the inside of the front line is responsible for gradually increasing the pace to not more than a strong jog.
- Q. Who controls the start of a moving start?**
A. The Starter. If the Starter is satisfied the horses are in a reasonable line when they are within five metres of the starting point, the Starter will call the word RIGHT.
- Q. What constitutes being denied a fair start?**
A. When a false start should have been declared but was not.
Mobile –
A horse starts ahead of the barrier arm
There is interference prior to the start
A horse has broken equipment
A horse falls before the word RIGHT is given
An emergency occurs
A horse is in the wrong position
- A. **Stand**
Interference prior to the barrier strand(s) being released
A barrier strand fails to release, or its incorrect release interferes with a horse
A Starter's assistant impedes the progress of a horse
- Q. What should you do following the race if you believe you have been denied a fair start?**
A. Immediately approach the Stewards. This must be done prior to the payment of dividends.
- Q. For what reason can Stewards late scratch a horse following a race?**
A. If that horse was denied a fair start.
If the horse refused to score up and took no part in the race or refused to address the barrier strand.
If in the opinion of the Stipendiary Steward there are any other reasonable circumstances which warrant that horse being scratched.
- Q. What is the procedure to be followed if a race is Stopped by the Stipendiary Stewards?**
A. If the horses have run more than 1000 metres the race will not be re-run on the day of the race meeting due to animal welfare considerations.
If the race is stopped within 1000 metres of the start of the race, the Stipendiary Stewards have the discretion to have the race re-run. Prior to this all horses will be checked by the Veterinarian.
The re-run must be held within 45 minutes of the original start time of the race.
- Q. Does the trainer or driver have the option to scratch their horse?**
A. Yes – Drivers are given the option of having their horse late scratched if they believe it is not in a fit condition to race and its performance would be impaired. Likewise any trainer who does not wish their horse to take part in the re-run should immediately inform a Stipendiary Steward.

DRIVING DURING THE RACE

Q. What must a driver do when his horse breaks from its gait during any race?

A. The driver shall take all reasonable measures to return the horse to its proper gait and if a suitable clearance exists, take the horse clear of the field.

Q. What may happen if a horse continues in its incorrect gait?

A. If the Stewards find that the horse has failed to promptly regain its proper gait and/or gained an advantage through galloping then it may be disqualified or relegated by the Stewards.

The driver may also face charges for failing to return the horse to its proper gait.

If a driver wishes to contest a disqualification or relegation the matter will be determined by the Adjudicative Committee.

Q. How long is a horse eligible to break from its gait before facing disqualification?

A. 150 metres at the start or during the running or 50 metres inside the final 200 metres unless that galloping was caused by interference.

Q. Define lapped on and where it is applicable in a race?

A. Lapped on is when a horse is in a break from its gait over the finishing line and another horse is within one length, ie has its nose in line with any part of the galloping horse's body excluding the tail.

Q. What happens to a horse which gallops over the finishing line free of interference and is lapped on by other horses?

A. It may be relegated behind the horses it was deemed to have lapped on by the Stewards. If a driver wishes to contest a relegation the matter will be determined by the Adjudicative Committee.

Q. Are drivers required to keep their feet in the footrests throughout the race?

A. Yes - however an allowance is given in the early stages of a standing start or when activating removable gear.

Q. Explain 'half carting'?

A. Half carting is when a driver fails to follow the sulky seat of the horse in front of them.

Q. What must all drivers know regarding track markers?

A. That every driver who moves inwards shall ensure

a) That contact is not made with any track marker

b) That any part of the sulky does not protrude inside the marker line

c) That the movement does not cause any other driver, horse or sulky to contact any track marker or protrude inside the marker line.

Q. If any driver is forced inside the track markers what should they do?

A. Restrain their horse and with safety re-join the field in the first vacant position without causing interference.

Q. What is the push out rule?

A. Prior to the 1000 metres a horse shall not be forced to race wider on the track and no driver shall shift outwards once the nose of a wider runner is in line with or past their sulky wheel until that horse is fully past. Inside the final 1000 metres drivers can improve their position outwards if they ensure their move does not cause interference.

Q. Explain shifting ground?

A. Subject to Rule 869(3) Careless Driving and Rule 869(4) Causing Interference, drivers are permitted to shift ground inwards or outwards during the race provided they have sufficient advantage and the move is made with safety by conducting it in a gradual and acceptable manner thereby enabling the driver of the runner being moved to be able to take the necessary action to accommodate the manoeuvre.

- Q How should a horse be shifted down?**
A. Must have sufficient advantage over the horse about to be shifted inwards and that horse must be clear of other horses to its inside so it can be moved in.
- Q. Is there any stage of the race when you are not able to shift or ease another horse inwards?**
A. No – provided the driver has an advantage and the shift is done with safety and does not cause interference.
- Q. Can a driver be charged for contesting a position?**
A. Yes – a driver who fails to concede when not in a position to maintain his/her place due to not having a clear advantage, may be charged with careless driving, Rule 869(3)(b).
- Q. Can a driver be charged for easing the pace?**
A. Yes – if they do so in a manner which causes interference to trailing runners.
- Q. If a crash occurs during a race or a driver is dislodged from their sulky what must the remaining drivers do?**
A. Drivers are required to continue driving in a competitive manner until advised by the Clerk of the Course, Starter or Starters Assistants that the race has been abandoned or the race is completed.
Drivers must not take it upon themselves to pull their horses up assuming the race will be called off.
- Q. In any race, the leading driver entering the final straight must do what?**
A. The leading driver shall ensure they maintain as straight a course as possible while allowing trailing horses full access to the inside passing or expanded lanes where applicable.
- Q. Under the home straight Regulations what must all drivers do in the run home?**
A. Maintain as straight a course as possible to the finish line except when looking to shift ground to improve their position. If this does not happen then offenders may face relegation, disqualification or being charged.
- Q. If a driver has any reasonable chance of running first, second, third, fourth, or fifth, what must they do?**
A. Continue to drive their horse out until the end of the race either with their whip or reins.
- Q. What is the criteria for lodging a protest against another horse?**
A. Firstly, your horse must have finished in the first five placings for you to be eligible to lodge a protest. Secondly you must be able to prove to the Adjudicative Committee that had it not been for the interference you received from the horse you are protesting against you would have beaten that runner home. Your intention to lodge a protest or review the films must be notified to a Stipendiary Steward immediately following the race. Generally a Stipendiary Steward will be present as you leave the track however if not you must not leave the area until you have notified one.
- Q. If any horse's gear is lost, broken, damaged, malfunctions or is tampered with during any race what must that driver do?**
A. Report the matter to the Stipendiary Stewards immediately.
- Q. If your horse wears removable gear which is not activated or your hobble shorteners do not release, what are you required to do?**
A. Immediately notify a Stipendiary Steward.
- Q. If anything becomes apparent with a horse that may affect or may have affected its performance in a race what are all Licence Holders obliged to do?**
A. Notify a Stipendiary Steward as soon as practicable.
- Q. If a driver is involved in an accident can the Stewards confiscate their safety helmet?**
A. Yes
- Q. Can Stewards stand down a driver until they produce a Medical clearance?**
A. Yes

WHIP AND REIN REGULATIONS

Q. Explain what is expected of any driver carrying a whip during a race?

A. A driver may only apply the whip in a wrist only flicking motion whilst holding a rein in each hand with the tip of the whip pointed forward in an action which does not engage the elbow or shoulder.

Q. What does “wrist only flicking motion” mean?

A. Ensuring no force is generated by the use of the elbow or shoulder when applying the whip.
The forearm is not raised beyond forty-five degrees relative to the racing surface.
Not applying the whip with overt force.

Q. Explain the “Whip and Rein Regulations”?

A. See attached document (last page)

MY HRNZ AND YOUR LICENCE

Q. What is My HRNZ?

A. My HRNZ is the online service available for licence holders and owners to transact with HRNZ. Mobile users can also use the HRNZ App which can be downloaded from the App Store or Play Store. To register and set up your username and password go to MY HRNZ login on the website or register on the app. If you ever forget your username or password you can use the ‘reset password’ option.

Q. What date is your licence valid to each season?

A. 31 July.

Q. By what date must your licence renewal be lodged and paid for to avoid late penalties?

A. 30 June.

Q. How do you apply to renew your licence?

A. Online via your My HRNZ login on the HRNZ Website or on the HRNZ app on your mobile phone.

Q. How do you prove that you hold a current licence?

A. HRNZ issues a digital licence which you display on your mobile phone via your My HRNZ login on the HRNZ app.

Q. What is required before driving in Australia?

A. A Clearance must be issued by Harness Racing NZ to the Australian State Controlling Body. All NZ Trainers, Drivers and Stablehands must pay for insurance direct to Harness Racing Australia before being able to undertake any harness racing activities there – refer to Australian Insurance form under Official Documents on HRNZ website.

Q. The HRNZ Code of Conduct Regulations apply to who?

A. All participants in harness racing including owners, breeders, licence holders, officials, employees or members of industry organisations and any person associated with harness horses.

Q. What is the purpose of the Code of Conduct Regulations?

A. To establish a clear understanding of what is expected and required in our conduct and behaviour in order to protect our sport, our participants and harness racing’s reputation.
When making public statements or using social media related to harness racing, all participants should be mindful that any commentary or opinion is respectful, courteous and without harassment and does not cause damage to the reputation of harness racing.
The code of conduct places an obligation on all licence holders to read, understand, keep up to date with, comply, and uphold all applicable harness racing rules, regulations, directives, and orders.

WHIP AND REIN REGULATIONS

Effective 1 October 2020

1. NAME AND COMMENCEMENT

- 1.1 These regulations are the Whip and Rein Regulations made by the Board under rule 866 of the New Zealand Rules of Harness Racing and Rules and clause 14.4 of the Constitution of Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated.
- 1.2 These regulations come into force on 1 October 2020.

2. APPROVAL OF WHIP

- 2.1 A Stipendiary Steward may approve for use a whip that:
 - 2.1.1 has a maximum overall length of 1200 mm or less;
 - 2.1.2 is flexible with a core of fiberglass with a handle base and shaft;
 - 2.1.3 has a leather keeper to a maximum 60 millimetres in length and 20 millimetres in width; and
 - 2.1.4 is coloured black or dark tan.
- 2.2 A list of approved whips is set out in the First Schedule.
- 2.3 A driver may only use an approved whip.
- 2.4 A driver shall not use or carry a metal lined whip.
- 2.5 A whip may not be modified other than any whip sold with a cracker or tassel must have these removed prior to use.
- 2.6 A driver may only use a whip that is maintained in good condition and complies with the requirements of this regulation.

3. USE OF THE WHIP

- 3.1 A driver may only apply the whip in a wrist only flicking motion whilst holding a rein in each hand with the tip of the whip pointed forward in an action which does not engage the shoulder.
- 3.2 For the purposes of clause 3.1, “wrist only flicking motion” means:
 - 3.2.1 Ensuring no force is generated by the use of the elbow or shoulder when applying the whip.
 - 3.2.2 The forearm is not raised beyond forty-five degrees relative to the racing surface.
 - 3.2.3 Not applying the whip with overt force.
- 3.3 A driver shall not use a whip in an unapproved manner.
- 3.4 For the purposes clause 3.3 a driver shall be deemed to have used the whip in an unapproved manner in the following circumstances which are not exclusive:
 - 3.4.1 If the whip is applied other than as permitted in clause 3.1.
 - 3.4.2 If the whip is applied excessively, continuously, or without allowing the horse time to respond.
 - 3.4.3 If the whip is applied when the horse:
 - 3.4.3.1 is not visibly responding.
 - 3.4.3.2 is not in contention.
 - 3.4.3.3 cannot maintain or improve its position.
 - 3.4.3.4 is clearly winning.
 - 3.4.3.5 has passed the winning post at the finish of a race.

3.4.4 If the whip is used when the reins are lengthened so as to result in loose reining.

3.4.5 If the whip is used in a prodding or jabbing fashion.

3.5 A driver must not use the whip in a manner which causes injury to a horse.

3.6 A whip shall not be used in a manner that may obstruct, strike or endanger another driver or horse.

3.7 A driver must ensure a whip does not project outside his or her sulky.

4. USE OF THE REINS

4.1 A driver may not use the ends of a rein as a whip.

4.2 A driver must drive throughout the race with a hand on each rein (subject to 4.4 below).

4.3 A driver must not extend either hand on the rein in a manner which results in excessively lengthening or loosening the rein.

4.4 A driver may not cross the reins except:

4.4.1 when activating gear; or

4.4.2 for safety reasons.

FIRST SCHEDULE – APPROVED WHIPS

Whip Name or Brand
Westfield diamond weave
Blue Tag dressage whip - non-slip grip
Finntack trotting training whip 48 inch
Jacks
Racingtack.it
Zilco
Walsh
Yonie's