



31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

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

Under the Racing Industry Act 2020, the Constitution of Harness Racing New Zealand, and the New Zealand Rules of Harness Racing, the following rules of New Zealand Harness Racing (the Rules) and the Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated Constitution (the Constitution) were amended at the annual general meeting of Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at Christchurch and come into force as set out below.

The full amended Rules and Constitution will be available on the HRNZ website on 1 November 2024.

**1. Rule 105(1), 846(1), and 865(1) and (2) Totalisator Race**  
***This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2024***

In rule 105(1) definition of twilight meeting, rule 846(1) and rule 865(1) and (2) the words “*totalisator race*” are deleted and replaced with the words “*betting race*”.

**2. Rule 105(1), Definition of Working Day**  
***This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2024***

The definition of working day in rule 105 is amended by inserting the word “*Matariki*” after “*the Sovereign’s birthday*”.

**3. Rule 213(2) Refund of Entry Fees**  
***This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2024***

Rule 213(2) is amended to state:

*Where any horse is scratched from a race or declared to be ineligible to start in a race the Club concerned may refund to the owner all fees paid by the owner in respect of such horse in such race except when the terms or conditions of the race state the fees shall not be refunded.*

**4. Rule 213 and 1003 Non-Runners**  
***This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2024***

Rule 213 is amended by adding a new sub-rule (5) that states:

- (5) *A Stipendiary Steward shall not scratch a horse from a race that is placed first, second, third, or fourth, including after the determination of any protest, regardless of any rule to the contrary.*

Rule 1003 is amended by adding a new sub-rule (3) that states:

- (3) *A horse that is placed first, second, third, or fourth, including after the determination of any protest, shall not be scratched from a race regardless of any rule to the contrary.*

**5. Rule 402 Qualification for Horses**

***This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2024***

The current rule 402 is deleted and a new rule is inserted that states:

- 402 *A horse is not eligible to enter or start in a workout, trial, or race unless it is eligible or qualified under the Qualifying Regulations made by the Board.*

**6. Rule 834(9) – Dual Acceptors**

***This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2024***

Rule 834(9) is amended to state:

- (9) *Where a horse has been accepted for more than one race at the same meeting on the same day, it must be scratched from all subsequent races for which it has been accepted for on that day unless the conditions for the race permit.*

**7. Rule 858 (1) - Drivers Talking on the Track**

***This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2024***

Rule 858 (1) is amended by inserting a new paragraph (n) whereby rule 858(1)(n) states:

- 858 (1) *A driver must not:*
- (n) *After entering the racetrack prior to the start of the race a driver must not speak to another driver until they have passed the finishing line except for safety reasons or in an emergency.*

**8. Rule 1004KA Withdrawal of Blood - “bloodletting”**

***This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2024***

A new rule 1004KA is inserted after rule 1004K that states:

- 1004KA (1) *A person shall not directly or indirectly withdraw blood from a horse for any purpose other than for:*
- (a) *diagnostic, laboratory, or veterinary testing procedures; or*
- (b) *as permitted under rule 1004K(2).*

- (2) *A person who commits a breach of this rule shall be liable to:*
  - (a) *a fine not exceeding \$20,000; and*
  - (b) *be disqualified or suspended from holding or obtaining a licence for any specific period not exceeding five years.*
- (3) *A horse connected with a breach of this rule must be disqualified from the race and be disqualified for a period of one year.*

**9. Rules 1205, 1303, 105, and 1001(1)(zd) Disqualification - Exemptions**  
***This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2024***

Rules 1205 (and its heading) and 1303 are deleted and a new rule 1303 is inserted that states:

- 1303 (1) *A disqualified person during a period of disqualification must not:*
- (a) *As principal or agent enter or run a horse in any race, either in their own name or in the name of any other person.*
  - (b) *Train any horse, assist or be involved in any capacity in the training of any horse.*
  - (c) *Assist or be involved in any capacity in the gaiting of any horse after 1 October in the year before it becomes a two-year-old.*
  - (d) *Drive any horse in a race or in any exhibition, workout, trial, race meeting, or harness race event.*
  - (e) *Assist or be involved in any capacity with the preparation or presentation of a horse to race at a race meeting, picnic meeting, trial, workout, or gymkhana.*
  - (f) *Be engaged by a trainer to work as a stable hand or to work as a stable hand for any period of time.*
- (2) *A disqualified person during the period of disqualification must not without the written consent of the Exemptions Committee:*
- (a) *Assist or be involved in any capacity in the gaiting of any horse after 1 October in the year before it becomes a two-year-old.*
  - (b) *Enter or remain on a racecourse or any other place under the control of a club when being used for trials, workouts, or race meetings.*
  - (c) *Transfer the ownership of any horse either to or from themselves.*
  - (d) *Enter upon the stable area or area used for training of any property of a licensed person.*

- (3) *A disqualified person may apply for the restrictions in sub-rule (1) and (2) to be removed (an exemption) provided that an application for an exemption under sub-rule (1) cannot be made before the disqualified person has completed:*
  - (a) *half their disqualification where the disqualification is for a finite period; and*
  - (b) *five years disqualification where the disqualification is for life: or*
  - (c) *where special circumstances exist such other period as the Exemptions Committee may permit.*
- (4) *An application for an exemption shall be determined by an Exemptions Committee established by the Board.*
- (5) *The Exemptions Committee may grant an exemption on conditions. and may review any exemption and any conditions from time to time.*
- (6) *The Exemptions Committee in considering whether an exemption should be granted to a restriction must, to the extent applicable, have regard to:*
  - (a) *The period for which exemption should be granted.*
  - (b) *The period of disqualification that has been completed.*
  - (c) *The disqualified person's behaviour during disqualification.*
  - (d) *Rehabilitative steps taken by the disqualified person.*
  - (e) *The effect of any conditions that may be imposed.*
  - (f) *Any risk to harness racing participants.*
- (7) *The Exemptions Committee may review any exemption, and any conditions imposed from time to time. For the avoidance of doubt the Exemptions Committee may amend, vary, or cancel any exemption, any condition, or both.*
- (8) *A subsequent application to cancel a disqualification cannot be made by a disqualified person for a period of 12 months from the date the preceding application was determined.*
- (9) *A person whose exemption is granted on conditions may apply in writing to have the conditions amended provided that an application may not be made for a period of 12 months from the conditions being imposed or a preceding application was determined.*
- (10) *Nothing in sub-rule (8) or sub-rule (9) prevents the Exemptions Committee reviewing an exemption or conditions before a period of 12 months.*
- (11) *The Exemptions Committee or its Chairperson may direct that any application under this rule and any review of an exemption be served on any body or person and every body or person served shall be entitled to appear and be heard on the hearing of the application.*

- (12) *On hearing an application under this rule the Exemptions Committee may order that all or any of the reasonable costs and expenses of:*
- (a) *any party to the hearing;*
  - (b) *any person served with the application or appearing at the hearing-*  
*be paid by such person or body as it thinks fit.*
- (13) *If a costs order made under sub-rule (12) is unpaid within 28 days after the date on which that amount was ordered to be paid, it shall be deemed to be Arrears and may be placed on the Unpaid Forfeit List.*
- (14) *A person who, subject to any exemption, commits a breach of sub-rule (1), sub-rule (2), or any condition imposed by the Exemptions Committee shall, in addition to any other penalty which may be imposed pursuant to rule 1003, be disqualified for a period of not less than six months. For every second or subsequent breach of sub-rule (1), sub-rule (2), or a condition imposed by the Exemptions Committee they shall, in addition to any other such penalty, be disqualified for a period of not less than 12 months to commence at the expiry of the previous disqualification.*
- (15) *Where a person was disqualified before this rule came into force they may apply under the rules in force at the time of their disqualification for any exemption or cancellation of their disqualification or for an exemption under this rule.*

The definition of train or training is amended in rule 105 to state:

**TRAIN or TRAINING** means preparing a horse for racing purposes but not gaiting a horse.

Rule 1001(1)(zd) is amended to state:

- zd *being a licensed person or registered owner aids, assists, or associates with any prohibited person or disqualified person for the purpose of not complying with or contrary to:*
- (i) *Any restrictions on disqualified persons under rule 1303(1) or 1303(2) unless an exemption has been granted to the restriction.*
  - (ii) *Any condition of any exemption under rule 1303(5) or 1303(7).*

**10. Rule 1311(3) Suspension**  
***This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2024***

Paragraph (a) of rule 1311(3) is deleted.

**11. Clause 2.4(a)(ii) HRNZ Constitution and rule 105 Special Resolutions**  
***This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2024***

Clause 2.4(a)(ii) of HRNZ's Constitution is amended to state:

*A special resolution requires a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes cast and one-third of the members present and voting to vote in favour of the resolution.*

The definition of special resolution in clause 105 of the rules is amended to state:

***SPECIAL RESOLUTION*** means a resolution passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes cast and one-third of the members present and voting to vote in favour of the resolution, notice, and of which notice to the satisfaction of the chair of the meeting, to have been given to each member and published in the official notifications at least 20 working days before it is voted on.

**12. Clause 2.4(a)(i) HRNZ Constitution Resolutions**

***This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2024***

Clause 2.4(a)(i) of HRNZ's Constitution is amended to state:

*A resolution requires a majority of the votes cast to vote in favour of the resolution and the following resolutions shall in addition require one-third of the members present and voting to vote in favour of the resolution:*

- (a) *A resolution to suspend a member's speaking or voting rights at a general meeting.*
- (b) *Removal of a director at a general meeting of HRNZ.*

**13. Clause 5.10(a)(i) and 5.11(a)(i) HRNZ Constitution**

***This amendment comes into force on 1 November 2024***

Clause 5.10(a)(i) and 5.11(a)(i) of HRNZ's Constitution is amended by deleting the words "*audited financial statements*" and replacing with the words "*financial statements required to be prepared under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022*".

Dated this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October 2024.



**Brad Steele**  
**Chief Executive**