



31st October 2024

OFFICIAL NOTICE

AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS

At its meeting on 25th September 2024, the HRNZ Board approved the following amendments to the Regulations. The changes to the regulations were discussed and agreed by the HRNZ Rules Sub-Committee, and are implemented with the support of the RIB and the NZ Trainers and Drivers' Association. All amendments are effective 1st November 2024.

Shifting Ground Regulations

The current wording at the start of the Shifting Ground Regulations was updated due to a situation that arose whereby a charge was raised against an Open Driver. It was submitted that the wording concerned "Where a horse does not have clear passage during a race the driver shall be permitted to shift ground" was not applicable in this case as the driver's horse did have clear passage prior to him attempting an "easing down" manoeuvre.

The RIB proposed that the Shifting Ground Regulations be amended to allow a driver to shift ground even if the horse has clear passage, by changing the introduction of the regulation to:

"During any race a driver shall be permitted to shift ground:"

Prohibited Substance and Practices Regulations

The Prohibited Substance and Practices Regulations currently only specify a cobalt concentration at or below 100 micrograms per litre in urine, but do not specify a level for cobalt in plasma. Good practice is for the cobalt levels in plasma for harness to be aligned with those for New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing, which are 25.0 micrograms per litre. Therefore, clause 4.11 of the Prohibited Substance and Practices Regulations has been amended to state:

4.11 Cobalt at a concentration at or below 100 micrograms per litre in urine or 25.0 micrograms per litre in plasma.

Qualifying Regulations

The current Qualifying Test Races Regulations will be replaced in their entirety by the new Qualifying Regulations, which have been updated to provide clarity on eligibility and qualification for all standardbreds, and to provide additional information on the qualifying criteria for two year olds.

The Qualifying Regulations set out the criteria for a horse being eligible to enter or start a workout, trial or race.

The full Qualifying Regulations are **attached**.

Standing Down of Breaking Horses Regulations

The Standing Down of Breaking Horses Regulations have been updated to clarify the position from both mobile and standing starts and to provide additional information for trotters that break. The updated Standing Down of Breaking Horses Regulations replace the existing Standing Down of Breaking Horses Regulations in their entirety after the introductory paragraph. The updated regulations provide clarity on the expectations of the horses during the start of the race, and the warnings and penalties for horses that do not meet the requirements.

The full Standing Down of Breaking Horses Regulations are **attached**.

Starting Regulations for Unruly Horses

The starting Regulations have been updated to include clauses relating to “Unruly Horses Warnings and Standing Down’.

- 28 *UNRULY HORSES WARNINGS AND STANDING DOWN*
- 28.1 *A US, UM, USTR, or UMTR warning shall be placed on a horse’s barrier record if it moved from the field to the unruly position under the Starting Regulations.*
- 28.2 *A horse shall start from the unruly position in its next three race starts after receiving a US or UM warning.*
- 28.3 *After receiving a US or UM warning a horse shall not be reinstated to the barrier draw under clause 4.8 before completing three starts to the satisfaction of a stipendiary steward in a race or trial (with preferably at least one start being at a trial).*
- 28.4 *An owner, trainer, or driver may request the starter to move their horse to the unruly position.*
- 28.5 *After receiving a USTR or UMTR warning a horse shall not be reinstated to the barrier draw under clause 4.8 before completing two starts to the satisfaction of a stipendiary steward in a race or trial (with preferably at least one start being at a trial).*

A full copy of the amended Regulations as at 1st November 2024 is available on our website.

Dated this 31st day of October 2024.



Brad Steele
Chief Executive Officer



QUALIFYING REGULATIONS

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1. NAME AND COMMENCEMENT

1.1 These regulations are the Qualifying Regulations made by the Board under the New Zealand Rules of Harness Racing and clause 31.1 of the Constitution of Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated.

1.2 These regulations come into force on 1 November 2024.

2. INTERPRETATION

2.1 In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:
chief executive means the chief executive or the chief executive's nominee.
race betting has the same meaning as in section 5 of the Racing Industry Act 2020.

2.2 The age of a horse shall be determined under rule 401.

3. ELIGIBILITY FOR WORKOUTS AND TRIALS

3.1 A horse is eligible to enter and start in a workout or trial from 1 October in the year before it becomes a two-year-old.

3.2 A horse under the age of two years is not eligible to compete in any workout, trial, or qualifying race that exceeds 2400 metres in the distance.

3.3 A two-year-old horse is not eligible to compete in any workout or trial that exceeds 2700 metres in the distance.

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR RACES

- 4.1 A horse is eligible to enter and start in a race if:
 - (a) it has qualified to start in a race; and
 - (b) it is at least two years old on the date of the race; and
 - (c) it is not otherwise ineligible to start.
- 4.2 A horse must trial from the start type to the satisfaction of a Stipendiary Steward at a trial or workout before being eligible to be nominated for a race of that start type at which race betting occurs.
- 4.3 A two-year-old horse is not eligible to compete in any race that exceeds 2700 metres in the distance.
- 4.4 A two-year-old horse does not need to qualify to start:
 - (a) A workout, trial, or race on which there is no race betting with a stake of \$1000 or less.
 - (b) A two-year-old barrier trial.

5. QUALIFYING RACES

- 5.1 Separate qualifying races must be conducted for pacing and trotting.
- 5.2 A qualifying race shall be conducted by a club or other body approved by the chief executive.
- 5.3 A qualifying race shall be conducted on the course the body conducting the race usually races or such other course approved by the chief executive.
- 5.4 A body may hold a qualifying race at times agreed to by the chief executive.
- 5.5 The chief executive may direct a club to hold a qualifying race.
- 5.6 A horse may only start in one qualifying race on the same day except when:
 - (a) the horse suffers interference and takes no further part in the race; and
 - (b) a Stipendiary Steward permits the horse to compete in a further qualifying race on that day.
- 5.7 Qualifying races may be conducted from a standing start or mobile start over a distance of not less than 2000 metres and not more than 2700 metres, provided that two-year-olds may, in addition, qualify from 1609 and 1700 metres.
- 5.8 Where there are sufficient horses for the front line under the Safety Number For Approved Tracks Regulations, one race shall be run, but where there is an excess of that number, the horses shall be allotted to as many races as necessary as directed by a Stipendiary Steward.
- 5.9 The rules of harness racing apply to qualifying races.

6. QUALIFICATION

- 6.1 A horse qualifies to start in a race if it completes a qualifying race in a time equal to, or faster than, that specified in the First Schedule of this regulation for the course on which the qualifying test race is conducted.
- 6.2 Where the qualifying race is a mobile qualifying race, a horse will only qualify if it betters the time for the course in the First Schedule by three seconds or more.
- 6.3 If up to three unqualified horses are in a trial with Non-Win (MR) horses of the same gait, they shall qualify if they satisfy the qualifying times in clauses 6.1 and 6.2 (and the trial shall be deemed a qualifying race for the purpose of this regulation). Should any such horse win its barrier trial, it shall also become a second preference Non-Win (MR) for field selection purposes.
- 6.4 A two-year-old horse will also qualify to start in a race if it has completed a workout, trial, or race on which there is no race betting with a stake of \$1000 in a time equal to or faster than that specified in the First Schedule for the distance and for the course on which the race or trial is conducted.

7. RESULTS

- 7.1 Immediately after the qualifying race the secretary of the Club or body conducting the race or trial must forward to HRNZ a full list of starters in each race, official result sheets containing details of placed horses and the times recorded, together with the following details and for those horses which have passed the qualifying requirements.

8. CONVERSION OF GAIT

- 8.1 No pacing horse converted to the trotting gait shall be qualified as a trotter unless it complies with the requirements for qualifying as a trotter in these regulations.
- 8.2 No trotting horse converted to the pacing gait shall be qualified as a pacer unless it complies with the requirements for qualifying as a pacer in these regulations.

9. CONTINGENCIES

- 9.1 A horse's qualification must be cancelled, regardless of whether the horse bettered the required qualifying time, if:
- (a) the horse was not eligible to start in the qualifying race;
 - (b) the horse is relegated in the qualifying race;
 - (c) in the opinion of the Stipendiary Steward, a horse's racing or barrier manners are not satisfactory; or
 - (d) the horse's ownership papers were not in order or if any transfer or joint interest had not been registered with HRNZ at the time of qualifying.

FIRST SCHEDULE

1. The standard qualifying time for a given course for 2400 metres from a standing start for pacing and trotting is set out in Table 1.
2. In the case of qualifying test races for trotters, the qualifying time is calculated at 7 seconds slower than the base 2400 metre standing start time for pacers.
3. In the case of mobile starts for both pacers and trotters, the qualifying time is calculated at 3 seconds faster than the respective standing start time.
4. The standard qualifying times from a standing start for a distance other than 2400 metres are set out in table 2 by using the base 2400 metre time for that course.

Table 1

Current Standing Start Qualifying Times for 2400 Metres

Courses	Pacing	Trotting
Addington (AW 1193m)	3.14	3.21
Alexandra (G 1200m)	3.20	3.27
Alexandra Park (AW 1006m)	3.15.5	3.22.5
Ashburton (AW 1481m)	3.13	3.20
Balfour (G 1600m)	3.19	3.26
Cambridge (AW 1000m)	3.16	3.23
Chertsey (AW 1000m)	3.18	3.25
Claudlands (AW 800m)	3.17.5	3.24.5
Cromwell (G 1627m)	3.20	3.27
Forbury Park (AW 1007m)	3.16	3.23
Gore (AW 1000m)	3.16	3.23
Greymouth (AW 807m)	3.18	3.25
Hawera (G 1600m)	3.22	3.29
Hawkes Bay (G 1700m)	3.23	3.30
Hutt Park (AW 900m)	3.18	3.25
Invercargill (AW 1029m)	3.16	3.23
Kaikoura (AW 1119m)	3.16	3.23
Kumeu (AW 800m)	3.17	3.24
Manawatu (AW 900m)	3.18	3.25
Methven (G 1585m)	3.21	3.28
Motukarara (G 1811m)	3.20	3.27
Motukarara (AW 1000m)	3.16	3.23
Nelson (G 1800m)	3.23	3.30
Nelson (AW 1432m)	3.15.5	3.22.5
New Plymouth (AW 1000m)	3.18	3.25
Oamaru (AW 1200m)	3.16	3.23
Omakau (AW 1200m)	3.16	3.23
Orari (G 1650m)	3.19	3.26
Otaki (G 1800m)	3.22	3.29
Parawai (G)	3.21	3.28
Pukekohe (AW 900m)	3.16	3.23
Rangiora (G 1764m)	3.21	3.28

Rangiora (AW 1200m)	3.14	3.21
Reefton (G 1149m)	3.22	3.29
Rotorua (G 1600m)	3.23	3.30
Roxburgh (AW 1010m)	3.16	3.23
Ruakaka (AW 1006m)	3.17	3.24
Stratford (G 1600m)	3.23	3.30
Timaru (AW 1200m)	3.15	3.22
Waikouaiti (G 1550m)	3.22	3.29
Waimate (G 1600m)	3.21	3.28
Wanganui (G 1650m)	3.23	3.30
Waterlea (AW 1503m)	3.15.5	3.22.5
Westport (G 1224m)	3.23	3.30
Westport (Special Qualifying Track - AW 1150m)	3.17	3.24
Winton (AW 1407m)	3.14	3.21
Wyndham (AW 1498m)	3.14	3.21

Table 2
STANDARD QUALIFYING TIMES
(1609m and 1700m is for two-year-olds only)

1609m	1700m	2000m	2050m	2125m	2200m	2300m	2400m	2500m	2550m	2600m	2700m
2.03.4	2.10.3	2.33.3	2.37.5	2.43.8	2.50.0	2.58.5	3.07.0	3.15.6	3.19.9	3.24.2	3.32.9
2.03.7	2.10.7	2.33.8	2.37.9	2.44.2	2.50.5	2.59.0	3.07.5	3.16.1	3.20.4	3.24.7	3.33.5
2.04.0	2.11.1	2.34.2	2.38.4	2.44.6	2.51.0	2.59.5	3.08.0	3.16.6	3.20.9	3.25.3	3.34.0
2.04.4	2.11.4	2.34.6	2.38.8	2.45.1	2.51.4	2.59.9	3.08.5	3.17.1	3.21.5	3.25.8	3.34.6
2.04.7	2.11.8	2.35.0	2.39.2	2.45.5	2.51.9	3.00.4	3.09.0	3.17.7	3.22.0	3.26.4	3.35.1
2.05.0	2.12.1	2.35.4	2.39.6	2.46.0	2.52.3	3.00.9	3.09.5	3.18.2	3.22.5	3.26.9	3.35.7
2.05.4	2.12.5	2.35.8	2.40.1	2.46.4	2.52.8	3.01.4	3.10.0	3.18.7	3.23.1	3.27.4	3.36.3
2.05.7	2.12.8	2.36.3	2.40.5	2.46.9	2.53.3	3.01.8	3.10.5	3.19.2	3.23.6	3.28.0	3.36.8
2.06.0	2.13.2	2.36.7	2.40.9	2.47.3	2.53.7	3.02.3	3.11.0	3.19.7	3.24.1	3.28.5	3.37.4
2.06.4	2.13.5	2.37.1	2.41.3	2.47.7	2.54.2	3.02.8	3.11.5	3.20.3	3.24.7	3.29.1	3.38.0
2.06.7	2.13.9	2.37.5	2.41.8	2.48.2	2.54.6	3.03.3	3.12.0	3.20.8	3.25.2	3.29.6	3.38.5
2.07.1	2.14.2	2.37.9	2.42.2	2.48.6	2.55.1	3.03.8	3.12.5	3.21.3	3.25.7	3.30.2	3.39.1
2.07.4	2.14.6	2.38.3	2.42.6	2.49.1	2.55.5	3.04.2	3.13.0	3.21.8	3.26.3	3.30.7	3.39.6
2.07.7	2.14.9	2.38.8	2.43.1	2.49.5	2.56.0	3.04.7	3.13.5	3.22.3	3.26.8	3.31.2	3.40.2
2.08.1	2.15.3	2.39.2	2.43.5	2.50.0	2.56.5	3.05.2	3.14.0	3.22.9	3.27.3	3.31.8	3.40.8
2.08.4	2.15.7	2.39.6	2.43.9	2.50.4	2.56.9	3.05.7	3.14.5	3.23.4	3.27.8	3.32.3	3.41.3
2.08.7	2.16.0	2.40.0	2.44.3	2.50.8	2.57.4	3.06.2	3.15.0	3.23.9	3.28.4	3.32.9	3.41.9
2.09.1	2.16.4	2.40.4	2.44.8	2.51.3	2.57.8	3.06.6	3.15.5	3.24.4	3.28.9	3.33.4	3.42.5
2.09.4	2.16.7	2.40.8	2.45.2	2.51.7	2.58.3	3.07.1	3.16.0	3.24.9	3.29.4	3.33.9	3.43.0
2.09.7	2.17.1	2.41.3	2.45.6	2.52.2	2.58.8	3.07.6	3.16.5	3.25.5	3.30.0	3.34.5	3.43.6
2.10.1	2.17.4	2.41.7	2.46.0	2.52.6	2.59.2	3.08.1	3.17.0	3.26.0	3.30.5	3.35.0	3.44.1
2.10.4	2.17.8	2.42.1	2.46.5	2.53.1	2.59.7	3.08.6	3.17.5	3.26.5	3.31.0	3.35.6	3.44.7
2.10.7	2.18.1	2.42.5	2.46.9	2.53.5	3.00.1	3.09.0	3.18.0	3.27.0	3.31.6	3.36.1	3.45.3
2.11.1	2.18.5	2.42.9	2.47.3	2.53.9	3.00.6	3.09.5	3.18.5	3.27.5	3.32.1	3.36.7	3.45.8
2.11.4	2.18.8	2.43.3	2.47.7	2.54.4	3.01.0	3.10.0	3.19.0	3.28.1	3.32.6	3.37.2	3.46.4
2.11.7	2.19.2	2.43.8	2.48.2	2.54.8	3.01.5	3.10.5	3.19.5	3.28.6	3.33.2	3.37.7	3.47.0
2.12.1	2.19.6	2.44.2	2.48.6	2.55.3	3.02.0	3.11.0	3.20.0	3.29.1	3.33.7	3.38.3	3.47.5
2.12.4	2.19.9	2.44.6	2.49.0	2.55.7	3.02.4	3.11.4	3.20.5	3.29.6	3.34.2	3.38.8	3.48.1
2.12.8	2.20.3	2.45.0	2.49.5	2.56.2	3.02.9	3.11.9	3.21.0	3.30.2	3.34.8	3.39.4	3.48.6
2.13.1	2.20.6	2.45.4	2.49.9	2.56.6	3.03.3	3.12.4	3.21.5	3.30.7	3.35.3	3.39.9	3.49.2
2.13.4	2.21.0	2.45.8	2.50.3	2.57.0	3.03.8	3.12.9	3.22.0	3.31.2	3.35.8	3.40.4	3.49.8
2.13.8	2.21.3	2.46.3	2.50.7	2.57.5	3.04.3	3.13.3	3.22.5	3.31.7	3.36.3	3.41.0	3.50.3
2.14.1	2.21.7	2.46.7	2.51.2	2.57.9	3.04.7	3.13.8	3.23.0	3.32.2	3.36.9	3.41.5	3.50.9
2.14.4	2.22.0	2.47.1	2.51.6	2.58.4	3.05.2	3.14.3	3.23.5	3.32.8	3.37.4	3.42.1	3.51.5
2.14.8	2.22.4	2.47.5	2.52.0	2.58.8	3.05.6	3.14.8	3.24.0	3.33.3	3.37.9	3.42.6	3.52.0
2.15.1	2.22.7	2.47.9	2.52.4	2.59.3	3.06.1	3.15.3	3.24.5	3.33.8	3.38.5	3.43.2	3.52.6
2.15.4	2.23.1	2.48.3	2.52.9	2.59.7	3.06.5	3.15.7	3.25.0	3.34.3	3.39.0	3.43.7	3.53.1
2.15.8	2.23.4	2.48.8	2.53.3	3.00.1	3.07.0	3.16.2	3.25.5	3.34.8	3.39.5	3.44.2	3.53.7
2.16.1	2.23.8	2.49.2	2.53.7	3.00.6	3.07.5	3.16.7	3.26.0	3.35.4	3.40.1	3.44.8	3.54.3
2.16.4	2.24.2	2.49.6	2.54.2	3.01.0	3.07.9	3.17.2	3.26.5	3.35.9	3.40.6	3.45.3	3.54.8
2.16.8	2.24.5	2.50.0	2.54.6	3.01.5	3.08.4	3.17.7	3.27.0	3.36.4	3.41.1	3.45.9	3.55.4
2.17.1	2.24.9	2.50.4	2.55.0	3.01.9	3.08.8	3.18.1	3.27.5	3.36.9	3.41.7	3.46.4	3.56.0
2.17.4	2.25.2	2.50.8	2.55.4	3.02.4	3.09.3	3.18.6	3.28.0	3.37.4	3.42.2	3.46.9	3.56.5
2.17.8	2.25.6	2.51.3	2.55.9	3.02.8	3.09.8	3.19.1	3.28.5	3.38.0	3.42.7	3.47.5	3.57.1
2.18.1	2.25.9	2.51.7	2.56.3	3.03.2	3.10.2	3.19.6	3.29.0	3.38.5	3.43.3	3.48.0	3.57.6
2.18.5	2.26.3	2.52.1	2.56.7	3.03.7	3.10.7	3.20.1	3.29.5	3.39.0	3.43.8	3.48.6	3.58.2
2.18.8	2.26.6	2.52.5	2.57.1	3.04.1	3.11.1	3.20.5	3.30.0	3.39.5	3.44.3	3.49.1	3.58.8

STANDING DOWN OF BREAKING HORSES

Amended 1 November 2024

The following are guidelines which the Stipendiary Stewards may adopt in applying the requirements of Rule 213 of the Rules of Harness Racing.

BREAKING HORSES - MOBILE STARTS

- (1) Any horse which breaks free of interference in the score up and loses its position will have a warning placed on its barrier record (WM).
- (2) Any horse which is unable to maintain its position from the candy pole until the start point, i.e. more than half of a length out of position, will have a warning placed on its barrier record (WM).
- (3) Any horse which breaks at the start or in the first 150m free of interference will have a warning placed on its barrier record (WM).
- (4) Any horse which reoffends whilst racing on a warning in its last three starts is to either be placed on the Unruly or stood down to complete a satisfactory trial (or workout in the North Island) before a Steward.
- (5) Any horse that is out of position or breaks within the first 150m free of interference which has been stood down to trial at its last start will have a warning placed on its barrier record (WM).
- (6) Any horse that reoffends in the next three starts after being stood down and has a warning on its record shall be stood down to complete two satisfactory trials.
- (7) Any horse that refuses to score up with the field behind the mobile shall be declared a non-runner from the race for unsatisfactory barrier manners and may be stood down to complete one satisfactory trial. For the avoidance of doubt, this means when a horse does not move away with the field from the pre-race formation - not when a horse breaks in the score up.
- (8) Any horse which delays the start through its own manners will receive a delayed start penalty [DS] and/or have a warning placed on its barrier record (WM).
- (9) Any penalties incurred more than 3 months prior shall be reset. Any penalties recorded against a horse shall be reset if a change of trainer has occurred.

BREAKING HORSES – STANDING STARTS

- (1) Any horse which breaks at the start or in the first 150m free of interference will receive a BS on its penalty record.
- (2) Any horse which breaks free of interference with a BS in two consecutive starts on its record in the last three starts will have a warning placed on its barrier record (WS).
- (3) Any horse which breaks at the start or in the first 150m free of interference and loses all chance will have a warning placed on its barrier record (WS).
- (4) Any horse which breaks free of interference within 150m of the start and checks another runner will have a warning placed on its barrier record (WS).
- (5) Any horse which reoffends whilst racing on a warning in its last three starts will either be declared Unruly or stood down to complete a satisfactory trial (or workout in the North Island) before a Steward.
- (6) Any horse that breaks within the first 150m free of interference which has been stood down to trial at its last start will have a warning placed on its barrier record (WS).
- (7) Any horse that reoffends in the next three starts after being stood down and has a warning on its record shall be stood down to complete two satisfactory trials.
- (8) Any horse that refuses to come into line with the field or turns away prior to the start and is declared a non-runner for unsatisfactory barrier manners may be stood down to complete a satisfactory trial.
- (9) Any penalties incurred more than 3 months prior shall be reset. Any penalties recorded against a horse shall be reset if a change of trainer has occurred.

ALL HORSES – IN THE RUNNING

- (1) Any horse which breaks free of interference will receive a BR on its penalty record.
- (2) Any horse which breaks free of interference and already has a BR on its penalty record in the last three starts will have a warning placed on its racing record (WR).

- (3) Any horse which breaks free of interference and checks another horse and/or loses all chance will have a warning placed on its racing record (WR).
- (4) Any horse which reoffends when racing on a warning will be stood down to complete a satisfactory trial (or workout in the North Island) before a Steward.
- (5) Any horse that breaks free of interference which has been stood down to trial at its last start will have a warning placed on its racing record (WR).
- (6) Any horse that reoffends in the next three starts after being stood down and has a warning on its record shall be stood down to complete two satisfactory trials.
- (7) Any penalties incurred more than 3 months prior shall be reset. Any penalties recorded against a horse shall be reset if a change of trainer has occurred.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR TROTTERS THAT BREAK

- (1) Any horse that breaks from a standing start or during the running and loses all chance for the second time in three starts will have a warning placed on its penalty record.
- (2) Any horse that has a BS or BR for a second time in its last three starts and reoffends will have a warning placed on its record.
- (3) Any horse that breaks at the start or in the first 150m free of interference, does not interfere with another horse, does not lose all chance and has a clear record in its last three starts will not receive a penalty – the “free kick” principle.”