



29 July 2021

## Official Notice

### AMENDMENTS TO HARNESS RACING NEW ZEALAND REGULATIONS

- CENTRALISED STAKES PAYMENT REGULATIONS
- HANDICAPPING / GUIDING PRINCIPLES

On 26 July 2021, the Board of Harness Racing New Zealand Inc approved changes to the Centralised Stakes Payment Regulations and Handicapping Regulations including associated Guiding Principles. These amendments will be effective 2 August 2021.

#### Background

At its meeting on 20 July 2021, the Board agreed in principle to cease payment of stake money for 5<sup>th</sup> place in standard races. Fifth place and lower will all now attract a 1.75% (previously 2.0%) also ran payment. Group and Listed races continue to pay to 5<sup>th</sup>, but the also ran payment will be reduced to 1.75%. This decision was arrived at following consultation with trainers and owners and the Board believes this amendment will create a more effective differentiation between 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> placed stakes. The Guiding Principles to the Ratings Handicapping System have been amended to accommodate the above changes.

In addition, the Board has approved a change in points structure for horses graduating from the “non-win” level. Horses winning their first totalisator race will not increase any rating points but will lose their “MR” rating.

The Race Winners Matrix has also been amended following consultation with industry participants to better reflect the differentiation in stakes and competition levels at various venues.

The Board has also agreed to lift the minimum stake from \$6,000 to \$7,000. No race in the 2020/21 season was programmed for less than \$7,000. Given the approved stakes increases for the 2021/22 season, the Board sees no reason for the minimum stake level to be less than \$7,000.

The amended Centralised Stakes Payment Regulations and Handicapping Regulations with associated Guiding Principles are attached, with changes marked up.

Dated at Christchurch this 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Woodham', with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

**Gary Woodham**

**Chief Executive**

Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated