

October 2020

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Amendments to Rules 806(1), 806(2) and 881(2); Replacement of “Racecourse Inspector” with “Racing Investigator”; and Amendments to Centralised Stakes Payment Scheme Regulations

At its meeting on 1 October 2020, the Board of Harness Racing New Zealand Inc amended the below rules under rule 103A. The amendments come into force on 1st October 2020.

a. Amend the Rules by replacing the words “racecourse inspector” with “racing investigator” wherever they appear in the Rules.

b. Amend Rules 806(1), 806(2), and rule 881(2) whereby the respective Rules will state:

806 (1) The owner (or, where appropriate, the racing manager of the owner), the trainer, and driver of every horse which is entered in a race must before the horse starts notify HRNZ or the Club in writing whether they are registered under the Goods and Services Tax Act 1985 and carrying on a taxable activity within the meaning of that Act and, if they are so registered, their Goods and Services Tax (GST) registration number. This sub-rule does not apply if the owner, trainer or driver has previously notified HRNZ or the Club they are registered for GST and their GST registration number.

806 (2) Subject to the provisions of sub-rule (4) hereof all stakes, payments or prizes and any Goods and Services Tax applicable thereto shall be paid over and delivered respectively by the Club to the owner, trainer or driver within the period provided in the Centralised Stakes Payment Scheme Regulations unless a proceeding or an appeal affecting them is being held or is pending.

881 (2) After a period referred to in sub-rule (1) and such further period provided in the Centralised Stakes Payment Scheme Regulations the Club, shall pay or deliver the stake in accordance with the placings of the horse in the race as set out in the authority for payment of dividends unless:-

(a) the Club or HRNZ has been advised by the Chief Executive to withhold payment of the stake in respect of any horse or horses;

- (b) proceedings have been commenced before a Judicial Committee which may affect to whom the stake or any part thereof is paid; or
- (c) the time for filing an appeal has not expired, or the hearing of an appeal the determination of which may affect to whom the stake or any part thereof is paid, has not been concluded.

In addition to the amendments to rules 806(1), 806(2) and 881(2), the HRNZ Board has amended the Centralised Stakes Payment Scheme Regulations, effective from 1st October 2020.

BACKGROUND

RITA devolving into TAB NZ on 1 August 2020 has changed the method and timing in which all three codes will be funded for the 2020/21 season. Total distributions will now flow through Racing New Zealand and will be paid to HRNZ in arrears. This is a significant departure from the prior season method of next day funding to Clubs.

The changes to Rules 806 (2) and 881 (2) are to reassign the number of days for stakes payments to be made from the Rules to the Centralised Stakes Regulations, and allow HRNZ to pay Clubs and participants in line with when funds are received from Racing New Zealand. HRNZ's reserves are not sufficient during the peak racing season to continue next day funding to Clubs, given that funds will now be received in arrears.

The changes to Rule 806 (1) are to clarify the requirement to advise the Clubs or HRNZ of owners/trainers/drivers GST registration.

The changes recommended in part a to this notice are to correct the language around the current role names for the RIU staff.

Copies of the amended HRNZ Rules and Regulations dated 1st October 2020 are available on the HRNZ website.

Dated at Christchurch this 12th day of October 2020



Phil Holden
Chief Executive, Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated