

2019 RULE AMENDMENTS

The proposed amendments to the Rules of Harness Racing New Zealand to be considered at the 2019 Annual General Meeting of Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated on 28 September 2019 at Christchurch are:

1. Amend the term horseman to driver (*proposed by the HRNZ Board*)

Remits

Amend the rules by deleting the words “Horsemen”, “Horsemen’s”, “horsemen”, “horsemen’s”, “Horseman”, “Horseman’s”, “horseman”, and “horseman’s” and replace with the words “Driver”, “Driver’s”, “driver” or “driver’s” as appropriate, including any consequential grammatical corrections.

Amend the rules by deleting the words “stablemen” and “stableman” and replace with the word “stablehand”.

Reason

To provide for gender neutral language. Consequent changes will also be reflected in the Regulations.

2. Rule 102(4), rule 105(1), and 706 HARNESED (*proposed by the HRNZ Board*)

Remits

Amend rule 102(4) by deleting the words “or against the printers or publishers of, or persons selling, distributing or delivering the publication HARNESED,”

Amend in rule 105(1) the definition of **ADVERTISE** to state:

ADVERTISE means to publish, either in full or effect in the Official Notifications, and advertised and advertisement shall have a corresponding meaning.

Amend rule 105(1) by deleting the definition of “**HARNESED**”.

Amend rule 105(1) by, in the definition of **OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION**, removing the words “which if authorised by the Board may also be published in the Harness Racing New Zealand monthly publication “HARNESED”.

Amend rule 706 by removing the words “and also to the Editor of the publication HARNESED.”

Reason

This amendment reflects the fact that HRNZ no longer has a publication called HARNESED.

3. **Rule 305 - Notifiable surgeries and procedures (*proposed by HRNZ Board*)**

Remit

Amend rule 305 by adding a new paragraph (d) that states:

- (d) report in writing to a Stipendiary Steward as soon as practicable any surgery or procedure performed on a horse listed in the Notifiable Surgeries and Procedure Regulations made by the Board.

Reason

The intent behind this proposal is to provide a better level of information to punters on horses which have had any significant veterinary procedure performed on them since last racing. Ideally this information would not only be captured by HRNZ but also displayed in the fields. A Notifiable Surgeries and Procedures Regulation will be implemented, with the following included as part of that regulation.

Preliminary 'Notifiable Surgeries and Procedures' Regulation

1. Gelding
2. Caslicks in mares
3. Notifiable upper respiratory tract surgeries further defined into:
 - a. laryngeal hemiplegia (tie backs, Hobday (ventriculectomy/cordectomy), nerve transplants, prosthetic laryngoplasty)
 - b. soft palate surgery (Tie forward, dorsal displacement soft palate surgery, soft palate cautery)
 - c. epiglottic surgery
4. Bone fracture surgery - Tarsus, carpus, PI, PII, PIII. Surgery on bone cysts
5. Surgery on joints - removal of chips and screwing slab fractures.
6. Surgery on tendons, suspensories including injection of stem cells etc into tendons or suspensory, stab incisions of or splitting of tendons or suspensory. Ligament section etc.

4. **Rule 318A - Assistant Trainers (*proposed by HRNZ Board*)**

Remit

Delete rule 318A

Reason

There has never been an application for an Assistant Trainer's licence and it is believed that the requirement for this formal category of licence is not required as there are other mechanisms for potential trainers coming into the industry.

5. Rule 403(2) - Ineligible horses (*proposed by HRNZ Board*)

Remit

Amend rule 403(2) by adding paragraphs (n), (o), and (p) that state:

- (n) any horse under the age of four years that has had administered to it bisphosphonate.
- (o) any horse that has administered to it bisphosphonate in the period 30 clear days prior to racing.
- (p) any horse that has any substance directly or indirectly injected to a joint in the period eight clear days prior to racing.

Reason

Research has discovered that bisphosphonates can have a significant detrimental effect on the bones of young horses which can contribute to later severe and traumatic injuries and inhibit a horse's ability to self-heal. There is a potential link between young horses being administered bisphosphonates and then later breaking down. Veterinary advice is that once bone density increases as the horse matures that the bisphosphonate has does not have this adverse impact. Consequently veterinary advice is that as a horse's bone development is mature at four years old, bisphosphonates may be administered without this adverse impact.

6. Rule 505 - Betting on Horseman's Betting Account (*proposed by HRNZ Board*)

Remit

Amend rule 505(1) to state:

- 505 (1) A driver may 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.

Reason

To make clear it is an offence for a driver to have someone place a bet on their behalf in a drivers challenge and on a race.

7. Rule 857(3)(i), 857(4)(d), and 857(6) and 857(6A) - Reasons for recall (*proposed by the HRNZ Board*)

Remits

Amend rule 857(3)(i) to state:

- (i) RECALL - REASONS FOR. The Starter may sound a recall for the following reasons:
 - (i) a horse starts ahead of the barrier arm;
 - (ii) there is interference;
 - (iii) a horse has broken equipment;
 - (iv) a horse falls before the word RIGHT is given;
 - (v) an emergency occurs; and
 - (vi) a horse is in the wrong position,

Amend rule 857(4)(d) to state:

- (d) The Starter may sound a recall for the following reasons:
 - (i) there is interference;
 - (ii) a horse has broken equipment;
 - (iii) a horse falls before the word RIGHT is given;
 - (iv) an emergency occurs;
 - (v) a horse is in the wrong position; and
 - (vi) where any horse is clearly ahead of the general line.

Amend rule 857(6) to state:

(6) STANDING START

RECALL - REASONS FOR

The Starter may sound a recall for the following reasons:

- (a) interference prior to the barrier strand(s) being released;
- (b) a barrier strand fails to release, or its release interferes with a horse;
- (c) a Starter's Assistant impedes the progress of a horse

Amend rule 857 by inserting after sub-rule (6) and new sub-rule (6A) that states:

- (6A) When a recall is sounded each horse involved in the reason for the recall shall remain in its allotted position for the second start unless the:
 - (a) horse is unable to remain in its allotted barrier position; or
 - (b) starter under Rule 860(8) places the horse in another position.

In the event a subsequent recall is sounded any horse involved in the reason for a previous recall shall be declared a late scratching.

Reason

The replacement of the word "shall" with "may" provides the starter with the discretion to determine the approach to be taken based on the actual circumstances of the race start. Where a horse is involved in a second recall it is then declared a late scratching. Secondly it will have the added benefit of acting as a disincentive to drivers attempting to anticipate the start and contacting the barriers.

8. Rule 866 and 869(2) - Amendments relating to use of the whip (*proposed by HRNZ Board*)

Remit - to come into force on 15 December 2019

Delete rule 869(2) and amend rule 866 whereby the rule states:

- 866 A driver in a race must not use:
- (a) a whip not approved under the Whip and Rein Regulations made by the Board (the Whip and Rein Regulations);
 - (b) a whip in contravention of the Whip and Rein Regulations;
 - (c) the reins in contravention of the Whip and Reins Regulations.

Reason

The Rules relating to the Use of the Whip have been transferred to a Whip and Rein Regulation. This Whip and Rein Regulation encompasses improvements to the previous Use of the Whip Rules and is in line with international protocols regarding Use of the Whip. It is anticipated this rule and regulation will become effective on 15 December 2019, following an education process with industry participants.

9. Rule 868(3) – Failure to Drive Out (*proposed by HRNZ Board*)

Remit

Amend rule 868(3) to state:

- (3) Every driver shall drive his or her horse out to the end of the race if he or she has any reasonable chance of running first, second, third, fourth, or fifth.

Reason

If a driver is not in a reasonable position to run in the first five (or any stake bearing position), they should not be required to unnecessarily pressure their horse which may be weakening and some distance away.

10. Rule 869(6)(b) Push out rule (*proposed by HRNZ Board*)

Remit

Amend rule 869(6)(b) by deleting the words “making a forward movement”

Reason

This amendment is proposed to combat the situation where a driver shifts out late and causes another horse to race wider. This amendment reverts the rule back to its original intent and it is proposed that an education process is undertaken with industry participants.

11. Rules 105, 1004, 1004AA, 1004A, 1004AB, 1004B to 1004E, 1001(1)(q), and 1001(1)(qa) Prohibited Substance and Practices. (*proposed by the HRNZ Board*)

Remits

Amend rule 105(1) by inserting the following clauses:

a clear day prior to racing means the twenty-four-hour period before 12.01 am on the day the horse is to race and includes the day of racing.

laboratory means a laboratory approved by the Board.

a day of racing commences at 12.01 am on the day on which the horse is to race and concludes half an hour after the last race.

working day means any day of the week other than—

- (a) Saturday, Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Anzac Day, Labour Day, the Sovereign’s birthday, and Waitangi Day;
- (b) a day in the period commencing with 25 December in any year and ending with 15 January in the following year; and
- (c) if Waitangi Day or Anzac Day falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the following Monday.

Amend rule 105(1) by amending the definition of Prohibited Substance to state:

PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE means:

- (a) any substance set out in the Prohibited Substance and Practices Regulations;
- (b) the metabolites, artefacts and isomers of a prohibited substances; and
- (c) for any substance not set out in the Prohibited Substance and Practices Regulations any substance capable of affecting the speed, stamina, courage or conduct of a horse.

Amend the rules by deleting rules 1004, 1004AA, 1004A, 1004AB, 1004B, 1004C, 1004E, 1001(1)(q), and 1001(1)(qa) and inserting the following new rules 1004 to 1004M

Definitions

1004 (1) For the purpose of rules 1004A to 1004O:

to administer includes:

- (a) to cause to be administered to, or ingested by, a horse;
- (b) to permit to be administered to, or ingested by, a horse;
- (c) to attempt to administer to, or be ingested by, a horse; and
- (d) to attempt to cause or permit to be administered to, or ingested by, a horse.

(2) The Prohibited Substance and Practices Regulations made by the Board may include:

- (a) a list of substances or categories of substances as prohibited substances;
- (b) in the list, levels for substances below which the substance is exempted as a prohibited substance;
- (c) prohibited substances as out of competition substances;
- (d) a list of substances and practices to which rule 1004C shall not apply;
- (e) a list of approved laboratories; and
- (f) a list of prohibited practices.

Prohibited substance rule

1004A (1) For the purpose of this rule, a horse is presented for a race during the period commencing at 8.00 a.m. on the day of the race for which the horse is nominated and ending at the time it leaves the racecourse after the running of that race.

(2) A horse shall be presented for a race free of prohibited substances.

(3) A horse shall be presented for a race with a total carbon dioxide (TCO₂) level at or below the level of 36.0 millimoles per litre in plasma.

(4) When a horse is presented to race in contravention of sub-rule (2) or (3) the trainer of the horse commits a breach of these Rules.

(5) When a person is left in charge of a horse and the horse is presented to race in contravention of sub-rule (2) or (3) the trainer of the horse and the person left in charge both commit a breach of these Rules.

(6) A breach of sub-rule (2), (3), (4), or (5) is committed regardless of the circumstances in which the TCO₂ level or prohibited substance came to be present in or on the horse.

Prohibited items rule

1004B (1) No person shall have in their possession either at a race meeting or in any motor vehicle, trailer, or float being used for the purpose of travelling to a race meeting, unless they have first obtained the permission of a Stipendiary Steward or Racecourse Inspector:

- (a) a prohibited substance;
- (b) gastric tube or nasal gastric tube;
- (c) hypodermic needle, or oral syringe;
- (d) ventilator, nebulizer, atomiser, or face mask.

One clear day rule

- 1004C (1) No person shall administer to a horse entered in a race in the period one clear day before racing (except under the direction or supervision of a club veterinarian, Racecourse Inspector, or Stipendiary Steward) any substance by:
- (a) gastric tube or nasal gastric tube;
 - (b) injection, hypodermic needle, or oral syringe;
 - (c) aerosol, ventilator, nebulizer, atomiser, or face mask;
 - (d) topical treatment to the skin or tissues that contains or claims to contain medication, or has or claims to have a therapeutic effect, including analgesia or anti-inflammatory actions; or
 - (e) by any similar method.
- (2) A breach of sub-rule (1) is committed regardless of the nature of the substance administered.
- (3) A person shall not provide to a horse on the day of racing before it has left the racecourse after racing, or one clear day prior to racing, any feed that had added to it a substance containing bicarbonate or other alkalisng agent, cobalt, or a prohibited substance in addition to that included in an commercial feed or produce by a feed merchant.
- (4) When an administration under sub-rule (2) occurs or a substance is added to a horses feed, both the person who administers or adds the substance the substance and the trainer of the horse commit a breach of the rules

Sanctions

- 1004D (1) A person who commits a breach of a rule in rules 1004A, 1004B, or 1004C shall be liable to:
- (a) a fine not exceeding \$20,000.00; and
 - (b) be disqualified or suspended from holding or obtaining a licence for any specific period not exceeding five years.
- (2) Any horse connected with a breach of the rule must be disqualified from the race and may in addition be disqualified for a period not exceeding five years.

Disqualification from race

- 1004E (1) Any horse taken to a racecourse for the purpose of engaging in a race which is found to have administered to it or ingested by it a prohibited substance or an out of competition prohibited substance must be disqualified from that race.
- (2) The mandatory disqualification under sub-rule (1) applies regardless of the circumstances in which the substance came to be present in or on the horse.
- (3) When the owner and trainer of the horse has been advised of the analysis which indicates that a prohibited substance may have been administered to, or ingested by, the horse and the owner, trainer, or their authorised representative does not request, under the Swabbing Instructions, that the reserve sample be analysed at an approved laboratory by 4:00 pm on the third working day after being so advised, a Judicial Committee must disqualify the horse, amend the placings and the stakes shall be paid in accordance with that decision.

- (4) Where the owner, trainer, or their authorised representative does request the reserve sample be analysed at an approved laboratory by 4:00pm on the third working day after being advised of the analysis and the analysis of the reserve sample indicates that a prohibited substance may have been administered to, or ingested by, the horse, a Judicial Committee must disqualify the horse, amend the placings and the stakes shall be paid in accordance with that decision.
- (5) The owner or trainer of the horse subject to a positive result may notify in writing the General Manager of the Racing Integrity Unit that they intend to challenge the analysis and the basis for that challenge. The notification must be within 10 working days of being advised of the results of the analysis, or the result of the reserve sample (if applicable). The Judicial Committee shall then determine whether the horse is to be disqualified after hearing from the parties.
- (6) Disqualification and changes of placings under this rule, will take effect from the immediate Monday following the judicial decision or such other time as the Judicial Committee determines.
- (7) A disqualification under sub-rules (3) and (4) may not occur until after the 10 working day period in sub-rule (5).

Anabolic androgenic steroids

- 1004F (1) Where an investigation, or the inspection, examination, observation, testing, or sample taken from a horse, indicates that a prohibited substance referred to in clause 6.5 of the Prohibited Substance Regulations (anabolic androgenic steroids) or its metabolites, artefacts, isomers or analogues may have been administered to, or ingested by, the horse, that horse:
- (a) shall be ineligible to be entered for, or start in, a race for a period of 12 months, from the date of inspection, examination, observation, testing, or on which the sample was taken; and
 - (b) must be disqualified from any race in which it starts during the 12 month period referred to in paragraph (a).
- (2) Rule 1005E shall apply with any necessary modification to any disqualification under sub-rule (1)(b).

Injection to joints

- 1004G (1) A horse must not have any substance directly or indirectly injected to a joint in the period eight clear days prior to racing.
- (2) A trainer and the person in charge of the horse at the time of the injection commits a breach of the rules when a horse races and has had a substance directly or indirectly injected to a joint in the period eight clear days prior to racing.
 - (3) A person who commits a breach of this rule shall be liable to the sanctions in rule 1004D.
 - (4) A horse that races having had any substance directly or indirectly injected to a joint in the period eight clear days prior to racing must be disqualified from the race and rule 1005E shall apply with any necessary modification.

Bisphosphonates

- 1004H (1) A horse must not have been administered:
- (a) any bisphosphonate under the age of four years; or
 - (b) any bisphosphonate in the period 30 clear days prior to racing.
- (2) A trainer and the person in charge of the horse at the time of the administration prohibited by sub-rule 1 commits a breach of the rules.
- (3) A person who commits a breach of this rule shall be liable to the sanctions in rule 1004D
- (4) A horse that races having had administered to it bisphosphonate in contravention of this rule must be disqualified from the race and rule 1005E shall apply with any necessary modification.

Administration Prohibited Substances

- 1004I (1) A person commits a breach of the rules who administers a prohibited substance to a horse which is taken, or is to be taken, to a racecourse for the purpose of engaging in a race.
- (2) A breach of sub-rule (1) is declared to be a serious racing offence.

Out of competition prohibited substances

- 1004J (1) When any sample taken has detected in it, or any test or examination establishes the horse has had administered to it, any prohibited substance specified in Prohibited Substance and Practices Regulations as an "Out of Competition Prohibited Substance", the trainer and any other person in apparent control of the horse commits a breach of the Rules.
- (2) A breach of sub-rule (1) is committed regardless of the of the circumstances in which the substance came to be present in or on the horse.
- (3) A breach of sub-rule (1) is declared to be a serious racing offence.

Manipulation of Blood and Blood Components

- 1004K (1) A horse must not have administered or reintroduced to its blood system or cardiovascular system any quantity of autologous, allogenic (homologous) or heterologous blood, or red blood cell products of any origin.
- (2) Sub-rule (1) is not contravened when the act is prescribed and undertaken by a veterinarian for therapeutic purposes.
- (3) If sub-rule (1) is contravened both the trainer and person in charge of the horse commit a breach of the rules.
- (4) A breach of sub-rules (1) and (3) are declared to be a serious racing offence.
- (5) Where sub-rule (1) is contravened the horse is:
- (a) ineligible to be entered or start in a race for a period of 30 days from the date of the act or such longer period as a Judicial Committee may decide; and

(b) must be disqualified from any race in which it starts during the 30 day period or longer period referred to in paragraph (a).

(6) Rule 1005E shall apply with any necessary modification to any disqualification under sub-rule (5)(b).

General

1004L (1) In a proceeding for a breach of the rules relating to prohibited substances or out of competition prohibited substance it shall be presumed until the contrary is established the contents of any bottle or container contain at least those ingredients specified on the manufacturers label on the container.

1004M (1) A Stipendiary Steward or Racecourse Inspector at any time may:

(a) Direct a person take and maintain possession of any horse at any and under such conditions as he or she specifies;

(b) Have a horse examined or tested;

(c) Have a sample taken or collected from the horse, including a sample of its blood or urine.

(2) A Stipendiary Steward or Racecourse Inspector may use the services of a Veterinarian or other appropriately qualified person for the purpose of examining, testing, or taking samples from a horse.

(3) A sample taken from a horse shall be the property of HRNZ.

(4) A sample shall be taken, as far as practicable, in accordance with the Swabbing Instructions or other direction, if any, from the Board.

(5) A sample taken shall be sent to a laboratory for analysis and the analysis shall include any further or subsequent analysis as agreed or directed by the Chief Executive.

(6) The Chief Executive may delegate his power under sub-rule (5) to the General Manager of the Racing Integrity Unit.

(7) Failure to comply with these rules, the Swabbing Instructions, or other direction shall not invalidate the analysis of any sample, or any related proceeding.

1004N (1) An owner, trainer, and person in apparent control of the horse must comply with any direction given by a Stipendiary Steward or Racecourse Inspector relating to any examination, test, or taking of samples.

(2) A person must not interfere with, or prevent, or endeavour to interfere with or prevent the carrying out of any test or examination.

(3) A breach of sub-rule (1) and (2) is declared to be a serious racing offence.

1004O (1) A laboratory may issue a certificate which may include:

(a) the sample, substance, preparation, mixture, or article to which the certificate relates;

(b) the date on which the sample, substance, preparation, mixture, or article was received by the laboratory from a Stipendiary Steward or Racecourse Inspector;

- (c) upon analysis that sample, substance, preparation, mixture, or article was found to be or contain a prohibited substance or an out of competition substance.
- (2) A certificate shall, until the contrary is proved, be sufficient evidence of the:
- (a) qualifications and authority of the person by whom the analysis was carried out;
 - (b) authority of the person who signed the certificate to sign that certificate; and
 - (c) facts stated in the certificate.
- (3) A certificate shall be admissible in evidence if:
- (a) at least 10 working days before the hearing at which the certificate is tendered, a copy of that certificate is served, upon the defendant in those proceedings; and
 - (b) the defendant does not at least 5 clear days before the hearing give notice in writing to the Racing Integrity Unit requiring the person who made the analysis to be called as a witness at the hearing.

Reason

This remit brings the rules relating to prohibited substances and out of competition substances together in one part of the rules and seeks to provide clarity around those rules.

These rules now prohibit

- a. Any substance being injected to joints eight clear days prior to racing injection.
- b. The injection of blood or blood components into a horses blood or cardio vascular system except when it is prescribed and undertaken by a veterinarian for therapeutic purposes such as a blood transfusion.
- c. Prohibits administration of bisphosphonate to a horse under the age of four years or the period 30 clear days prior to racing.
- d. Addition to feed of bicarbonate, alkalisng agents, or prohibited substances on clear day prior to racing.

2019 CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS

1. **HRNZ's Approach to Rule Changes (by the HRNZ Board)**

It is proposed that moving forward, HRNZ utilises the mechanism under section 103A to make amendments to the Rules. The section 103A process allows the HRNZ Board to make amendments to the NZ Rules of Harness Racing subject to a specified industry consultation process. With the introduction of the Racing Industry Transitional Agency (RITA) and the anticipated changes to legislation, this will enable HRNZ to make any necessary amendments to its Rules in a timely fashion and following a specified industry consultation process.

2. **Rule 827(1) Online Nominations (by Southern Harness Racing Inc)**

We would like to add to a correspondence item for the upcoming Annual Conference in Christchurch regarding Rule 827(1) Entries or withdrawals for any race shall be made:-

- (a) in writing in such format as approved by the Board; or
- (b) by facsimile; or
- (c) by telephone.

and in each case the name of the person entering must be recorded on the entry or by the Club.

With the ever increasing use of technology it seems a suitable time to introduce the requirement for nominations for race meetings to be done online.

While we appreciate online nominations are not always possible, ie qualified the day before nominations close, change of stable or don't own a computer or a phone with the compatibility to access the internet or download the HRNZ app, the majority of trainers will have access to online capability via their MY HRNZ LOGIN.

The online process will provide a safeguard to trainers with a notification receipt that confirmation has been received by the Club.

The purpose of making Online Nominations compulsory is:-

1. Transparency with all nominations received by the notified deadline.
2. Pressure taken off clubs to make sure all nominations are correct or not lost.
3. Continuous phone calls received into club offices and messages left on answer phones.
4. Trainers to be more accountable.

The online process will give trainers the opportunity to get into a regular pattern to nominate on a Sunday night/Monday morning for one or multiple meetings at once and be assured they have been received before getting on with their normal working day.

With circuit racing this may not also work with trainers away for days/weeks but 95% of racing in New Zealand should be suitable for trainers to look to the future with online nominations only.

Stats available show online nominations in the North Island at 45.2%, Canterbury Region 47%, Otago/North Otago/Southland 68.9% and Southland alone 72.9%. These are over the whole 2018/19 season. Southern Harness moved to online nominations from December 2018 so the % is even higher now. An example of this is the first two meetings of the 2019/20 season in the south with online nominations at 92% and 82% respectively.

Southern Harness Racing Inc

3. Voting System for the HRNZ Board (by the Central Otago Trotting Club)

The Central Otago Trotting Club would like the decision reviewed on the voting system approved as part of the remit on changes to HRNZ's governance model, at the Special General Meeting 26/6/19.

Background

The HRNZ proposed method for voting was 1 vote per club, with the Auckland Trotting Club (ATC) and the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club (NZMTC) being ineligible to vote in return for having automatic seats on the Board.

This was challenged at the SGM and amended to see votes reflect the number of Raceday licenses a club hold.

Reason for Review

Given the ATC, and the NZMTC are ineligible to vote due to their size due to potential to influence election results, we believe a double standard has now been created.

Size excluded these 2 clubs, so why do we now have board elections where all remaining clubs size can still be a significant factor in determining the election results?

This contradicts the very reason the ATC and the NZMTC can't vote in board elections.

We also believe any candidates who may stand for the board from smaller clubs are at a numerical disadvantage from the very start, compared to candidates from the larger clubs. This also risks candidates focusing any campaigns more on the clubs who hold the greatest votes.

Surely, to get the "best representatives", they must appeal to the most clubs, rather than just the clubs with the most votes!

We disagree with the notion that the larger clubs should have more votes, simply because they have more race days. Many of our biggest race days held all season are staged at some of our smallest clubs. A clubs size shouldn't matter and shouldn't be the only measure of a club's worth to our industry.

We also believe clause 2.2 cannot be applied to voting for the board as clause 2.2 does not contain any reference to the exclusion of our 2 biggest clubs from voting.

Recommendations

With respect, the COTC feel there were too many items to vote on in the 1 remit at the Special General Meeting 26/6/19.

We believe the original HRNZ recommendation for 1 vote per club is actually the fairer voting system, and doesn't contradict with why our 2 biggest clubs are excluded from voting.

Given more clubs will attend Conference than the SGM, and the short notice of amendment prior to the SGM (5 days), then we believe Conference is a better place to discuss the merits of which system - or any other - is most appropriate. Alternatively, this matter could be referred back to HRNZ to review.

Central Otago Trotting Club