

WINTER REWARDS 2024

The 2024 'Winter Rewards Series' will again be run on a regional basis, with pacers and trotters at three venues – Winton (29 June), Addington (25 July), and Alexandra Park (26 July).

Restricted to horses four-year-old and older and rated R57 or below on 30 April 2024, the three series will consist of an intended three pacing and two trotting races. To be eligible, horses must have a minimum of two starts within the respective qualifying periods and regions.

The more horses race and perform well by winning and placing, the higher their Winter Rewards score will be, thus pushing their claims for starts in the \$25,000 features.

Once the top nominated qualifying pacers and trotters have been found, the qualifiers will be split via their current ratings to create fair, competitive races.

General Qualifying Conditions and Eligibility:

- For horses aged four-year-old and older rated R57 & below on 30 April 2024. Horses remain eligible even if their rating ascends above R57 within the qualifying period.
- Horses will accrue points in relation to the starts they have over the qualification period, relative to the region(s) they are racing in, linked to their performance (Official Placings).
- Each start a horse has within the qualification period is multiplied by the number of wins (x 1), the number of seconds (x 0.5), the number of thirds (x 0.33) and the number of fourths (x 0.25). The four figures are then aggregated to give a Winter Rewards score, which will place the horse in the series rankings.
- To be eligible to contest a Winter Rewards race, a horse must have had a minimum of **two** starts within a specific region during the qualification period. The respective qualifying periods are: North Island: 1 May-21 July, North of the Waitaki: 1 May-21 July, South of the Waitaki: 1 May-25 June
- **North Island Qualifying** - the top 39 ranked pacers nominated will be selected, the top 28 ranked trotters nominated will be selected then split into fields, based on ratings. In Pacing Winter Rewards races there will be a maximum of three fields of 13 acceptors. In Trotting Winter Rewards there will be a maximum of two fields with 14 acceptors, and up to two rating-specific emergencies per race.
- **North of the Waitaki Qualifying** - the top 42 ranked pacers nominated will be selected, the top 32 ranked trotters nominated will be selected then split into fields, based on ratings. In Pacing Winter Rewards races there will be a maximum of three fields of 14 acceptors. In Trotting Winter Rewards there will be a maximum of two fields with 16 acceptors, and up to two rating-specific emergencies per race.
- **South of the Waitaki Qualifying** - the top 42 ranked pacers nominated will be selected, the top 28 ranked trotters nominated will be selected then split into fields, based on ratings. In Pacing Winter Rewards races there will be a maximum of three fields of 14 acceptors. In Trotting Winter Rewards there will be a maximum of two fields with 14 acceptors, and up to two rating-specific emergencies per race.
- All eligible 'R' rated horses (winners) shall be ranked ahead of eligible non-winners (MR rated, including Non-Tote 2YO winners).

- In the event of a tie for any qualifying position horses will be separated by counting back to the horse with highest rating, if a tie still exists then the horse with the most lifetime wins will be ranked ahead of the horse with fewer lifetime wins.
- There is no distinction between a dead-heat and a standard placing in reference to points allocation.
- Nominations for the respective races shall be made with the host club, in the normal manner, per the advertised programme.
- No horse will be permitted to compete in more than one Winter Rewards 2024 race.

WINTER REWARDS - RACE CONDITIONS:

North Island Division – Auckland TC 26 July 2024

Pacers - three \$25,000 races, with a maximum of 13 starters per race

Race Conditions: 2200m mobile, Preferential Barrier Draws based on Ratings and Winning Stakes.

Stakes: \$25,000 (\$13,750, \$3,875, \$2,375, \$1,500, others \$437.50).

- The top 39 ranked nominated horses are determined, then split in fields up to a maximum of three 13-horse races.
- As these races are Preferential Barrier Draws no Emergencies will be permitted.
- Should any Non-Winners make a final field their rating number (e.g. 47) places them within the qualified horses.

Trotters - two \$25,000 races, with a maximum of 14 starters per race.

Race Conditions: 2700m Special Handicap, Front: R35-R39, 10m: R40-R50, 20m: R51-R57, 30m:

R58-65, 40m R66 & Faster. Stakes: \$25,000 (\$13,750, \$3,875, \$2,375, \$1,500, others \$437.50).

- The top 28 ranked nominated horses are determined, then split in fields up to a maximum of two 14-horse races.
- Up to two Emergencies may be selected. The Emergencies will be the next eligible qualified horses, relative to the respective rating bands of the races that are declared.
- Should any Non-Winners make a final field they will be placed alongside the rating R35 race-winners for splitting purposes.

North of the Waitaki Division - NZ Metropolitan 25 July 2024

Pacers – three \$25,000 races, with a maximum of 14 starters per race

Race Conditions: 2600m mobile, Preferential Barrier Draws based on Ratings and Winning Stakes.

Stakes: \$25,000 (\$13,750, \$3,875, \$2,375, \$1,500, others \$437.50).

- The top 42 ranked nominated horses are determined, then split in fields up to a maximum of three 14-horse races.
- As these races are Preferential Barrier Draws no Emergencies will be permitted.
- Should any Non-Winners make a final field their rating number (e.g. 47) places them within the qualified horses.

Trotters – two \$25,000 races, with a maximum of 16 starters per race

Race Conditions: 2600m Special Handicap, Front: R35-R39, 10m: R40-R50, 20m: R51-R57, 30m:

R58-65, 40m R66 & Faster. Stakes: \$25,000 (\$13,750, \$3,875, \$2,375, \$1,500, others \$437.50).

- The top 32 ranked nominated horses are determined, then split in fields up to a maximum of two 16-horse races.
- Up to two Emergencies may be selected. The Emergencies will be the next eligible qualified horses, relative to the respective rating bands of the races that are declared.

- Should any Non-Winners make a final field they will be placed alongside the rating R35 race-winners for splitting purposes.

South of the Waitaki Division – Winton HRC – 29 June 2024

Pacers - three \$25,000 races, with a maximum of 14 starters per race

Race Conditions: 2400m mobile, Preferential Barrier Draws based on Ratings and Winning Stakes.

Stakes: \$25,000 (\$13,750, \$3,875, \$2,375, \$1,500, others \$437.50).

- The top 42 ranked nominated horses are determined, then split in fields up to a maximum of three 14-horse races.
- As these races are Preferential Barrier Draws no Emergencies will be permitted.
- Should any Non-Winners make a final field their rating number (e.g. 47) places them within the qualified horses.

Trotters – two \$25,000 races, with a maximum of 14 starters per race

Race Conditions: 2400m Special Handicap, Front: R35-R39, 10m: R40-R50, 20m: R51-R57, 30m:

R58-65, 40m R66 & Faster. Stakes: \$25,000 (\$13,750, \$3,875, \$2,375, \$1,500, others \$437.50)

The top 28 ranked nominated horses are determined, then split in fields up to a maximum of two 14-horse races

- Up to two Emergencies may be selected. The Emergencies will be the next eligible qualified horses, relative to the respective rating bands of the races that are declared.
- Should any Non-Winners make a final field they will be placed alongside the rating R35 race-winners for splitting purposes.

Splitting the Winter Rewards Races:

- Once the fields are selected the splits will be made based on Ratings. Where there are horses on the same rating that require separation, they will be separated based on Winning Stakes. If a tie still exists, the horses will be separated based on highest career rating achieved. If a tie remains the horses will be separated by lot.

Other Conditions/Contingencies:

- In the event there are fewer than the allowable maximum number of acceptors for any Winter Rewards races, the splits of the respective races will be determined by the host club in consultation with HRNZ.
- If the number of acceptors result in there being fewer than 12 acceptors per or for any given the Winter Rewards race, the host club, in consultation with HRNZ reserves the right to reduce the number of Winter Rewards races for that division (pacing or trotting).
- In the event there are an extraordinary number of acceptors for any given Winter Rewards race, the host club, in consultation with HRNZ reserves the right to add an additional race(s) where required.
- There are no nomination or acceptance fees payable for these races.