



# KIDZ KARTZ

## RULES & CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1.1. Kidz Kartz National Council (KKNC) with the support of HRNZ conducts the Kidz Kartz program.
- 1.2. It is a condition of membership of the Kidz Kartz program that the member will abide by these rules, any policies implemented by KKNC and any reasonable direction of KKNC.
- 1.3. These Rules have been developed to ensure the safe running of the Kidz Kartz program.
- 1.4. Members and their parents, guardians, supporters, friends and family acknowledge that the purpose of the Kidz Kartz program is to encourage participation in harness racing at grass roots level and to provide an opportunity for children to learn about the care and control of ponies.
- 1.5. HRNZ and KKNC *Codes of Behaviour*, it is expected all parties involved in the Kidz Kartz program will comply with these Codes as they apply to our sport.
- 1.6. These Rules may be amended by KKNC from time to time.
- 1.7. Any matter not provided for in these rules will then be enforced by the Rules and Regulations of Harness Racing New Zealand if required. Any other matters shall be determined by KKNC, which will be final and binding on all members.
- 1.8. All clubs must agree, sign, and abide by the MOU before the beginning of each season.

### 2. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 2.1 In these Rules:

- (a) **“Starters and Starters Assistants”** means the official starters appointed by KKNC or a harness racing club at the race meeting.
- (b) **“Steward”** means the person(s) appointed by the KK Club to be in charge of the racing on the day and/or KKNC representative or Chair.
- (c) The terms **“member”** and **“driver”** are interchangeable.
- (d) Any task to be performed by KKNC or Club appointed official may be delegated to another duly qualified person.
- (e) **“Stipendiary Steward”** means the person(s) appointed as the Steward on the day of the races to look into any breach of racing rules.

### 3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Children between the ages of 7 up to and including 1 day prior to their 17th birthday are eligible for membership of Kidz Kartz, or until he or she is granted a trials license and/or works full time in a harness racing stable.
- 3.2 An application must be made in writing on the prescribed forms and must be accompanied by the appropriate fee, as determined by your Kidz Kartz Club.
- 3.3 A club reserves the right to request proof of age identification.
- 3.4 Clubs with the assistance of KKNC if required must determine whether to approve or reject an application for membership.

#### **4. ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE IN KK RACES**

- 4.1 Club Nights and Fun Race Days Only - Any Kidz Kartz person recommended starting age 7 (this is at the club's discretion) up to and including 1 day prior to their 17th birthday, or until he or she is granted a trials license and/or works full time in a harness racing stable.
- 4.2 Official Race Drivers: Any Kidz Kartz person from age 10 up to and including 1 day prior to their 17th birthday, provided they are a current member of a Kidz Kartz Club and have passed their official Kidz Kartz Driver Training Course, or until he or she is granted a trials license and/or works full time in a harness racing stable.
- 4.3 All Kidz Kartz members must complete a Stable Area Awareness Course.

#### **5. PONIES**

- 5.1 All ponies must be registered with Clubs and the KKNC before their first race start.
- 5.2 The pony must be assessed at clubs and have completed and passed a 3-day course or completed the equivalent of 12 club days and passed prior to the pony participating in a fun day or race.
- 5.3 The decision of KKNC to register or refuse to register a pony for participation is final.
- 5.4 Ponies must be 13hh (133cm) or under. Ponies will need to be officially measured if there is a height dispute.
- 5.5 From the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2018 pony colts and stallions are excluded, as are any standardbred, part standardbred or standardbred breeding (if there is a dispute club may request a DNA report at the owner's cost).
- 5.6 Ponies must have reached the age of three (3) to compete in a race or fun day – ponies age will be at 1<sup>st</sup> August.

#### **6. RACES**

- 6.1 All races are handicap races to make all races competitive and fair.
- 6.2 All Kidz Kartz races are trotting events.
- 6.3 Field selection of races is determined by KKNC handicapper, and their decision is final.
- 6.4 If a pony gallops/breaks gait during a race its driver must take immediate action to restrain the pony to its correct gait (trotting) to avoid disqualification.
- 6.5 If a pony gallops/breaks gait during a race for more than 30 meters and the Steward is of the opinion that advantage was gained or interference with another runner occurred, the Steward may disqualify or relegate the pony and driver.
- 6.6 Whips are prohibited at all times.
- 6.7 A pony that is not trotting when its nose reaches the finish line, and which is lapped on by any other pony or ponies in the correct gait shall be placed by the Stewards behind such pony/ponies.
- 6.8 A member who fails to comply with these rules is guilty of an offence and may be penalised.
- 6.9 Races shall be judged by KKNC or club appointed Stewards and/or any other person appointed by KKNC. Where possible the official race day judge will be used.
- 6.10 Stipendiary Steward or head Steward's decision is final.

#### **7. BEHAVIOUR OF MEMBERS**

- 7.1 Any member whose behaviour is deemed to bring KK into disrepute may have his or her membership cancelled and accordingly, nominations refused.
- 7.2 All members must present themselves and their ponies in a professional manner when competing.

- 7.3 Parents/Guardians of KK members must also obey these Rules, or they may be banned from attending future Kidz Kartz events.
- 7.4 Kidz Kartz participants are not permitted to enter the Stabling area for any reason when NOT competing at that race meeting, unless they hold a valid pass.

## **8. DRESS STANDARDS AND EQUIPMENT STANDARDS OF MEMBERS**

- 8.1 All members must ensure their personal appearance, racing attire and ponies are clean, neat and tidy.

## **9. STARTING PROCEDURES AND RACING ETIQUETTE AND DRIVING**

- 9.1. Children are not permitted to ride on the side of a member's sulky at any time. Drivers are not permitted to race with their feet out of the footrests or on the dust sheet. Offending drivers will be automatically disqualified.
- 9.2. Drivers shall at all times obey the instructions of the starter and starters assistants.
- 9.3. A driver must not delay the start of a race or be late onto the track.
- 9.4. Once on the racetrack, drivers must proceed immediately to their handicap mark. If the driver's pony will not stand, a starter's assistant may hold the pony for safety up until start time.
- 9.5. The pony driven by any driver who shouts loudly, makes improper noises or attempts to do anything which interferes with the progress of another runner may have penalties imposed.
- 9.6. The pony driven by a driver who use their reins to whip or excessively hit their ponies may be disqualified.
- 9.7. Drivers shall not before, during, or after a race, drive in a manner which in the opinion of the Stewards is careless, reckless, intimidatory, improper, incompetent, foul or likely to endanger participants or ponies.
- 9.8. The pony driven by a driver who looks behind excessively during a race may have penalties imposed or be disqualified after one warning has been issued.
- 9.9. Drivers must at all times keep a straight racing line after passing another competitor (no weaving in or out) or the pony driven by that driver may have penalties imposed.

## **10. NOMINATIONS**

- 10.1. All nominations are to be directed to the club then passed on to the National Handicapper.
- 10.2. Nominations close 5 days prior to the race meeting unless otherwise stated.
- 10.3. It is the member's duty to check start times and handicaps of races at all venues.

## **11. OFFENCES/DISPUTES**

- 11.1 The Steward and/or a KKNC delegate will determine if an offence has been committed and may determine the appropriate penalty if they consider a penalty should be imposed.
- 11.2 If a pony and or driver is stood down, this must be put in writing to the club that member belongs to, stating the reason and the conditions including the stand down period. This must also state what the pony and or driver needs to do to be allowed to race again. The KKNC is to be copied in this correspondence for National records.
- 11.3 If there is an unresolved dispute, the presentation ceremony will be postponed until a resolution has been reached.
- 11.4 All decisions are final.

## **12. DISPUTES PROCESS**

### ***National Council Disputes Chair – Danny Blakemore***

- 12.1 Kidz Kartz Club to deal with the dispute first.
- 12.2 If the club cannot deal or resolve the dispute, then they can refer the matter to the National Council Disputes Chair.
- 12.3 The Disputes Chair will communicate with the involved parties to get all the information.
- 12.4 Then, with all the information, the National Council will make a decision/resolution.
- 12.5 Only if a Kidz Kartz member has a dispute with the Club representative, they will have the option to go directly to the Disputes Chair.
- 12.6 The Disputes Chair must remain neutral at all times and agree to abide by the National Kidz Kartz Rules and also the Harness Racing New Zealand Rules and Regulations at all times while dealing with the disputes.

## **13. PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE RULE**

- 13.1.** A pony must be presented for a race free of prohibited substances. A prohibited substance is as described in the HRNZ Prohibited Substance Regulations.
- 13.2.** No person shall during that day of racing, in respect of the pony entered in a race, administer any prohibitive substance whatsoever.
- 13.3.** All ponies entered into an event are subject to being swabbed at the discretion of the controlling body.

**Any person who commits a breach these rules will be disqualified immediately from the event and will need to return any prizes received.**

## SCHEDULE 1

### **EQUIPMENT AND ATTIRE**

1. Sulky - to be of the two wheel type, not larger than a regular racing sulky The sulky shall contain:
  - (a) Two sulky wheels; with wheel diameter to be no more than 20 inches (51cm)
  - (b) Undercarriage
  - (c) Two shafts for attachment to the horse
  - (d) A driver's seat
  - (e) Drivers footrests
  - (f) Dust sheet
2. All components of the sulky shall be attached to one another in such a way that they remain attached during normal use and testing.
3. For a sulky to be used in any official Kidz Kartz activity it is to have a current approved registration and Kidz Kartz Sulky Warrant of Fitness as approved by the controlling body.
4. If a sulky has been in an accident or crashed it must be re-warranted before being used again.
5. Harness - must be approved for use in Harness Racing. All driving reins are to have grips of the multiple looped variety (grips must be in the correct place and used at all times).
6. All items are to be of a good and safe standard.
7. No whips are permitted at any Kidz Kartz organised event.
8. All gear will be checked in the marshalling enclosure. Ponies wearing unsafe gear will not be permitted to race until the steward's requirements are met.
9. No pony is to be left unattended once it has been harnessed to its sulky.

### **ATTIRE**

All drivers on race day days MUST wear:

- (a) Suitable black boots
- (b) Drivers competing in harness race meetings in New Zealand when being checked out must be wearing a safety helmet that complies with the requirements of AS/NZS 3838 (2006) and the helmets must be certified by Standards New Zealand, or an equivalent third-party certification body. No helmet shall be used 10 years after its date of manufacture (effective 1 January 2018).
- (c) Approved equine standard safety vests as approved by Kidz Kartz
- (d) White pants
- (e) Racing colours
- (f) Suitable footwear around the pony or stable area at all times. Open toe or high heeled footwear is not allowed.
- (g) All long hair must be tied back at all times and helmets must be securely fastened whilst seated in the sulky.

## **SCHEDULE 2**

### **PONY CARE**

Competitors, officials, and administrators acknowledge and accept that at all times the care of the pony must be paramount in turn they will determine if a pony is competent and fit to compete.

The following code must be read in conjunction with State Control Bodies equine welfare policies and adhered to as a minimum:

#### **General Pony Care**

##### **a) Good Horse Management**

Stabling and feeding must be compatible with the best pony management practices. Clean, good quality hay, feed and water must always be available.

##### **b) Training Methods**

Ponies must only undergo training that matches their physical capabilities and level of maturity. They must not be subjected to methods which are abusive or cause fear.

##### **c) Farriery and Gear**

Foot care and shoeing must be of a high standard. Gear must be designed and fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury.

##### **d) Transport**

During transportation, ponies must be fully protected against injuries and other health risks. Vehicles must be safe, well ventilated, maintained to a high standard, disinfected regularly and driven by competent personnel. Competent handlers must always be available to manage the pony.

##### **e) Transit**

All journeys must be planned carefully, and ponies allowed regular rest periods with access to food and water.

#### **Fitness to Compete**

##### **a) Fitness and competence**

Participation in competition must be restricted to fit ponies and participants of proven competence. Ponies must be allowed suitable rest period between training and competitions; additional rest periods should be allowed following travelling.

##### **b) Health status**

No pony deemed unfit to compete may compete or continue to compete - veterinary advice must be sought whenever there is any doubt.

##### **c) Doping and Medication**

Any action or intent of doping and illicit use of medication constitute a serious welfare issue and will not be tolerated. After any veterinary treatment, sufficient time must be allowed for full recovery before competition.

##### **d) Pregnant/recently foaled mares**

A mare or filly shall not race or perform track work after day 120 of its pregnancy or with foal at foot. Prior to 120 days if the club/event organiser is concerned about the ability of a pregnant mare/filly to compete a vet check can be requested.

### **e) Misuse of Gear or Equipment**

Abuse of a pony, including by the use of approved gear and equipment will not be tolerated.

## **Events Must not Prejudice Pony Care**

### **a) Competition Areas**

Ponies must be trained and compete on suitable and safe surfaces. All competition conditions must be designed with the safety of the pony in mind.

### **b) Ground Surfaces**

All ground surfaces on which ponies walk, train or compete must be designed and maintained to reduce factors that could lead to injury.

### **c) Extreme Weather**

Competitions must not take place in extreme weather conditions that may compromise welfare or safety of the pony. Provision must be made for cooling conditions for ponies after competing.

### **d) Stabling at Events**

Stables or tie up areas must be safe, hygienic, comfortable, well ventilated and of sufficient size for the type of pony. Washing-down areas and water must always be available.

## **Humane Treatment of Horses**

### **a) Veterinary Treatment**

Veterinary expertise must always be available at an event. This can include an on-call local veterinarian. If a pony is injured or exhausted during a competition, the pony must stop competing and a veterinary evaluation performed.

### **b) Competition Injuries**

The incidence and cause of all injuries sustained in competition should be closely monitored, with risk factors examined carefully to identify ways to minimise future injuries.

### **c) Euthanasia**

If injuries are sufficiently severe a pony may need to be euthanised on humane grounds by a veterinarian as soon as possible, with the sole aim of minimising suffering.

### **d) Retirement**

Clubs and KKNZ must be notified of a pony's retirement from Kidz Kartz, including what is happening with the pony (family pet, sold etc....).

Ponies must be treated sympathetically and humanely when retired from competition.

### **e) Sale**

Ponies that are sold must be notified to relevant authorities and details updated in registries.

## **Education**

Kidz Kartz National Council and Harness Racing New Zealand urge all those involved in Kidz Kartz to undertake any and all available education in order to improve themselves and the care and management of their ponies.

### **SCHEDULE 3**

#### **Participants' Code of Behaviour**

1. Know and obey the rules and regulations of Kidz Kartz.
2. Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your parent and/or club official approach the organiser after the event.
3. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials or other participants, deliberately distracting or provoking another participant is not acceptable or permitted.
4. Be a good sport.
5. Treat all participants and officials, as you would like to be treated. Do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of another participant.
6. Cooperate with volunteers, instructors, officials and administrators. Without them there would be no club or race day events.
7. Participate for the fun of it, and not just to please parents and club officials.
8. Cyber Bullying - Bullying and harassment in all forms are unacceptable in our sport. Bullying has the potential to cause great anxiety and distress to the person targeted by hurtful or derogatory comments or statements.
9. Kidz Kartz will not tolerate abusive, discriminatory, intimidating, or offensive statements being made online or any social media platform or directed at any person(s).
10. Abide by the Harness Racing New Zealand Code of Conduct Regulations

#### **Consequences:**

If a participant is found guilty of any of the above behaviour there may be repercussions for their behaviour, they may be stood down from Kidz Kartz or in extreme cases banned from competing in Kidz Kartz events.



## **SCHEDULE 4**

### **Supporters' Code of Behaviour**

1. Remember that children participate for their enjoyment, not yours.
2. Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
3. Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
4. Encourage children to always participate according to the rules and regulations.
5. Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake.
6. Remember that children learn best by example. Applaud good results by all.
7. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse to all involved in the sport.
8. Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
9. Show appreciation to all volunteers, instructors, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
10. Abide by the Harness Racing New Zealand Code of Conduct Regulations

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN UNDERTAKING**

I declare that I approve of my child becoming a member of the Kidz Kartz and participation in Kidz Kartz races and events, warrant that I and my child will follow directions given by duly authorised officers of KKNC and will abide by the rules, regulations, and codes of the Kidz Kartz and HRNZ as issued from time to time.