

HRNZ Rules and Regulations, NZADA Regulations and Penalties

The New Zealand Rules of Harness Racing and Harness Racing New Zealand Regulations apply equally to licensed amateur drivers as for all licensed drivers and copies are available from Harness Racing New Zealand. Or by visiting the Official Documents menu on the website.

It is recommended that all amateur drivers are familiar with:

HRNZ Rules: 313, 314, 315, 318, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 452, 457, 459, 460, 503, 504, 506, 507, 507A, 707, 708, 710, 711, 712, 714, 847, 848, 849, 852, 853, 857, 858, 859, 860, 864, 865, 867, 868, 869, 870, 872, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1119, 1201, 1304, 1311.

HRNZ Regulations: advertising and logos on driving apparel, breaking horses, horseman's licenses, last lap – warning device, mudguards, passing lanes, false rails and home straight, race starting procedures, safety gear, swabbing, track markers, warming up horses.

NZADA Regulations: workout heats are open to novice amateur license and full amateur license holders. Race series races are open to full amateur license holders only.

- a) All horses must be nominated through the regional secretary.
- b) The fields and barrier draw will be decided using the handicapping system currently approved by NZADA and as modified and approved by regional committees for heats and races in their region.
- c) All heats and races will be under the jurisdiction of an HRNZ stipendiary steward or, if not available, then a senior horseman appointed by NZADA, or by each regional committee to act, who shall have the same powers as a stipendiary steward. No decision of a stipendiary steward or a senior horseman appointed under c) can be appealed.
- d) All amateur heats and races are to be conducted in a manner that meets the goals, ethos and standards of amateur driving, to ensure the public and industry image of amateur driving is enhanced and promoted.
- e) Stipendiary stewards will pay particular attention to:
 1. Being on the track on time.
 2. Assembling at the start in a timely manner.
 3. Leaving the gate without control
 4. Crossing over without sufficient clearance.
 5. Driving in a manner which causes interference to your own or any other horses.
 6. Pushing out, down or through.
 7. Striking a wheel.
 8. Half carting.
 9. Setting the pace in a reckless or irresponsible manner.
 10. Speed duelling.
 11. Miscounting the rounds.
 12. Not having sufficient control in the home straight and/or over vigorous use of the reins.

13. Failing to allow your horse to run on its merits and/or collusion to affect the outcome of an event. (Full amateur race day events only).
14. Misusing the passing lane.
15. Failing to report any interference/or gear malfunction or loss.
16. Abusing officials or drivers.

NZADA Penalties: Applicable penalties will be at the discretion of the stipendiary steward after considering the circumstances of the breach and the consequential effects as a result, and may involve viewing a video of the race and taking statements from drivers.

When appearing before a stipendiary steward or panel of stipendiary stewards at workouts or on race days drivers will:

1. Attend at the stipulated time and place.
2. Remove hat.
3. Stand or sit as appropriate.
4. Refrain from eating, drinking or chewing gum.
5. Address all parties by their surname.
6. Answer all questions truthfully and admit to any wrongdoing when asked and refrain from interruption.

As a matter of record penalties may be disqualification for a stand down period, a return to novice ranks for a specified number of drives, or extra novice drives before application for a full amateur license will be approved.

For the purposes of guidance only, and without specifying any penalty or additional penalty for repeat offending when assessing penalties, it is considered the following are:

Minor offences:

- Not being on the track on time.
- Not assembling at the start in a timely manner.
- Failing to report any interference and/or gear malfunction.

Major offences:

- Leaving the gate without control.
- Speed duelling.
- Setting the pace in a reckless or irresponsible manner.
- Crossing in front without sufficient clearance.
- Pushing down, out or through.
- Striking a wheel
- Driving in a manner which causes interference to your own or any other horses.
- Miscounting the rounds.
- Not having sufficient control in the home straight and/or over vigorous use of the reins.
- Misusing the passing lane.
- Half carting.

Severe offences:

- Failing to allow your horse to run on it's merits and/or collusion to affect the outcome of an event (full amateur races only).
- Abusing officials or drivers.