

# 2025 Southern Surge Series Conditions

To provide a stimulus to harness racing in Southland when racing is traditionally more quiet, the Southern Surge is designed to launch the 2025 spring racing by creating early targets for southern based horses.

Across eight races on August 3 and 10 southern based harness horses will compete in \$15,000 heats to qualify for eight \$25,000 finals on 24 August at Gore.

The below Series Summary and General Conditions govern the running of this series.

## **Southern Surge Pacers**

\$15,000 Heats and \$25,000 Finals will be run for the following divisions on these race days.

- |                         |                  |                  |               |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| • First Round of Heats  | Sunday 3 August  | Winton HRC       | 1609m mobiles |
| • Second Round of Heats | Sunday 10 August | Invercargill HRC | 2200m mobiles |
| • Finals Day            | Sunday 24 August | Gore HRC         | 2200m mobiles |

### **Divisions:**

1. **Non-Win (Open Draw)**
2. **1-Win (Open Draw)**
3. **R35-R39 with multiple race wins (Open Draw)**
4. **R40-R50 (PBD Rating & Winning Stakes)**
5. **R51-R65 (PBD Rating & Winning Stakes)**

## **Southern Surge Trotters**

\$15,000 Heats and \$25,000 Finals will be run for the following divisions on these racedays.

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|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| • First Round of Heats  | Sunday 3 August  | Winton HRC       | 2200m Special Hcp |
| • Second Round of Heats | Sunday 10 August | Invercargill HRC | 2200m Special Hcp |
| • Finals Day            | Sunday 24 August | Gore HRC         | 2200m Special Hcp |

### **Divisions:**

1. **Non-Win (Open Draw)**
2. **R35-R45 Special Handicap (Hcps: R35-R40 Ft, R41-R45 10m)**
3. **R46-R70 Special Handicap (Hcps: R46-R55 Ft, R56-R62 10m, R63-R70 20m)**

## **2025 Southern Surge General Conditions**

- The Southern Surge is restricted to horses aged 3YO & Older.
- To be eligible to contest this series, horses **must** be registered through HRNZ with a harness racing trainer(s) based south of the Waitaki River, prior to or from 1 July 2025 through Sunday 24 August 2025; or, have an official Horse Movement lodged with HRNZ to a harness racing trainer(s) based south of the Waitaki River, prior to or from 1 July 2025 through Sunday 24 August 2025
- Eligibility for division heats will be determined at the time of acceptance.
- Field selection for division heats will be based on race form, as determined by the HRNZ Bureau, pursuant to the HRNZ Handicapping Regulations.
- Horses' eligibility for heats will be determined by their actual Rating at the time of acceptance. No junior driver concessions will be applicable for this series.

- To be eligible to contest a division Final on 24 August 2025 a horse(s) must have competed in at least one heat of its respective Southern Surge division. Horses that have been eliminated or are forced scratchings, as emergencies, will not be eligible to contest a final unless they have competed in another heat.
- Horses that are balloted out or eliminated from the first round of heats on 3 August 2025 will be given selection preference for the second round of heats on 10 August 2025, if nominated.
- Horses officially placing in the first four (including dead heats) in a heat qualify for automatic selection for the respective division they have raced in.
- The balance of the fields for Finals will be selected by the HRNZ Bureau based on performances in heats in the respective divisions.
- Heat winning horses remain eligible for their respective finals, even if their rating ascends above the designated rating range for that category. Any trotter ascending to a rating above the designated range will be handicapped a further 10 metres behind the prescribed back mark for that division. This will not apply to the Non-Win division.
- Where races are run as Preferential Barrier Draws no emergencies will be permitted. In Open Draw pacing mobile races up to one emergency may be chosen. In all trotters' races up to two emergencies may be chosen.
- A horse must be nominated in the normal manner, with the Bureau for a Final. This includes horses that are automatic qualifiers, via their heat placing(s).
- HRNZ and Southern Harness reserve the right to alter or amend these conditions, as they see fit. Any alteration in conditions will be communicated by the HRNZ Bureau.
- The CEO of HRNZ will make the final determination on any aspects not covered by the above conditions or disputes.