



21 July 2025

OFFICIAL NOTICE

AMENDMENT TO HARNESS RACING NEW ZEALAND REGULATIONS CONDUCT OF MEETINGS, PROGRAMMING, HANDICAPPING AND RATING REGULATION

On 17 July 2025, the HRNZ Board considered and approved the following amendments to the Conduct of Meetings, Programming, Handicapping and Ratings Regulation.

A. Rating Points deductions starts at non-stakes bearing placing

Changing the cross over for the loss of one rating point to fifth place not sixth for non-Group and Listed races. For Group and Listed races the current regulation is correct as stakes are paid to 5th place.

B. Clarity of Penalty Free benefits

The new regulation needs to be updated to include a set of clauses clarifying when and how the penalty free benefits are applied. Sections 3 and 4 of the notice are the previous regulation which were omitted. The power to designate applicable penalty free races is changed to the Handicapper from the Board.

These amendments correct an error in the application of the losing points within the new Handicapping System, and ensure the Regulations surrounding the rating penalty free races flow through from the previous Handicapping Regulations.

These changes will be deemed to have commencement with effect from Monday 30 June 2025.

1. Replace current clause 15.2 with this clause

- 15.2 *This is a flexible system designed to penalise winners with a rating re-handicap of five points, acknowledge placegetters in:*
- (a) *2nd, 3rd and 4th place in non-Group and Listed races; and*
 - (b) *2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th place in Group and Listed races,*
- as being competitive at their present rating levels with no rating adjustment and give a rating relief all other runners so that each horse can return to where it was competitive.*

2. Replace current clauses 16.5 and 16.6 with these clauses

- 16.5 *Horses placed second to fourth in a non-Group or Listed race or second to fifth in a Group or Listed race will have no rating point change.*
- 16.6 *Horses placed fifth to last in a non-Group or Listed race or sixth to last in a Group or Listed race, will lose one rating point.*

3. Insert new clauses 10.5 to 10.8

- 10.5 *The winners of heats, finals and consolations incur the normal handicapping penalties, except where a horse is three-year-old or older and wins both a heat and final/or consolation in which case it will incur only one Rating Penalty for the two wins.*
- 10.6 *Notwithstanding clause 10.5, if the final is a Group race, a race administered by the NZ Sires Stakes Board, e.g. Sires Stakes Series, Yearling Sales race, or a race worth \$40,000 or more, all wins are Rating Penalty Bearing.*
- 10.7 *The normal handicapping penalties shall apply in the final and consolation(s) for any win(s) in races other than the heats, unless otherwise stated in the published conditions.*
- 10.8 *Notwithstanding the above provisions, a horse may only win one driver-based (Junior Driver or Invited Driver) Rating Penalty Free win per season, and one Heats and Finals or Extraordinary Rating Penalty Free based win per season (1 January – 31 December).*

4. Insert new clauses 16.13 and 16.14

Rating Penalty Free Races

- 16.13 *Races designated as Rating Penalty Free will be restricted to four-year-old and older Junior Driver only races, four-year-old and older Invited Driver races approved by the Handicapper, any Extraordinary Rating Penalty Free race for race-winning horses aged three-year-old and older horses approved by the Handicapper, or a Rating Penalty Free win pursuant to the Heats & Finals Regulations above in clause 10 of these Regulations.*
- 16.14 *A horse may only win one driver-based (Junior Driver or Invited Driver) Rating Penalty Free win per season, and one heats and finals or Extraordinary Rating Penalty Free win per season (1 January – 31 December).*

5. Inserting the following heading into the contents

PART D: NATIONAL RACING BUREAU & RACE ENTRIES



Brad Steele
Chief Executive