



31 July 2025

OFFICIAL NOTICE

AMENDMENTS TO HARNESS RACING NEW ZEALAND REGULATIONS SAFETY NUMBER FOR APPROVED TRACKS – ADDINGTON RACEWAY

On 26 May 2025, the HRNZ Special Committee considered and approved the following change to the Safety Number for Approved Tracks Regulation effective from 1 June 2025.

Trial Reducing Addington Raceway 2600m Standing Start Point from 10 Horses to Nine

After careful consideration of multiple submissions, including feedback from horsemen gathered at the Starters meeting held at Addington Raceway on 14 April 2025, HRNZ, in collaboration with the New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club (NZMTC), proposed a trial adjustment to the front line limits for 2600-metre standing start races.

Effective from 1 June 2025, the front line limit at the 2600m start was reduced from 10 horses to 9, resulting in a maximum field size reduction from 16 to 15 horses (from one handicap mark). The overall field limit of 16 horses (starting from multiple handicap marks) remains unchanged.

EXTENSION OF TRIAL

Originally scheduled to conclude on 31 July 2025, the trial was subsequently extended by the Special Committee on 26 July 2025 to remain in place until 11.59pm on Sunday, 17 August 2025.

This decision allows for a short but practical extension that supports consistency in race-day operations and avoids the disruption of reverting to the previous front line limit, only to potentially reinstate the trial settings shortly after. It also enables HRNZ and NZMTC to gather and consider further feedback from key stakeholders before determining whether to adopt the changes on a permanent basis.

This initiative continues to aim at addressing concerns regarding crowding at the 2600m starting point, which can impact the fairness and efficiency of race starts.

The above amendments are effective immediately.

The full amended Safety Number for Approved Tracks Regulation is attached.

Brad Steele
Chief Executive