



1 September 2015

## **CIRCULAR NO 1504**

**TO: THE SECRETARY, ALL TOTALISATOR CLUBS AND KINDRED BODIES**

**FROM: ANDREW MORRIS, HANDICAPPER**

**SUBJECT: 2015/16 HANDICAPPING REGULATION CHANGES &  
NZ JUNIOR DRIVER CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING CHANGE**

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### **2015/16 HANDICAPPING REGULATION CHANGES**

At the latest meeting of the HRNZ Handicapping Sub-Committee three proposed changes to the Handicapping Regulations were recommended. These were latterly approved by the HRNZ Board. In summary, the three Handicapping changes are as follows:

**1. Change to 2YO Lifetime Assessment Penalties**

Instead of 2YO horses getting all races under \$15,000 Penalty Free when they are re-assessed upon turning 3YO, they will now incur an Assessment Penalty for every second win, as well as any win in a race over \$15,000.

Any wins of \$2,000 (or less) Official Non-Tote races will not be counted however - they will be Assessment Penalty Free in the rollover. When a horse takes an Assessment Penalty for a win of a race worth \$15,000 or more, the following win will not incur an Assessment Penalty, on the 3YO rollover, provided it is under \$15,000.

This change is designed to mitigate the level of 2YOs that have multiple wins and come back as C0 horses when turning 3YOs. A 2YO that wins one race under \$15,000 will commence its 3YO season as a C0.

***Effective Date: 1 August 2016***

**2. Change to Concession Junior Driver Level**

The number of wins that constitutes a Concession Junior Diver has been lifted from 30 to 50 wins.

Several different proposals were considered when looking to make the Concession Junior Driver area more effective and the above, which was approved by the HRNZ Board, was the most easy-to-understand for industry participants and achieved the core objectives that the North Island Trainers & Drivers sought in its initial proposal.

***Effective Date: 1 September 2015***

### **3. Change to Qualifying Test Regulations**

Previously, only one Qualifying horse was able to be included in a C0 (only) Barrier Trial. The approved change has loosened up this Regulation to allow up to three Qualifying horses to be included in a C0 (only) Barrier Trial.

The intention of this change is to allow trial club secretaries greater flexibility, as well as giving horses trying to qualify and C0 horses more meaningful trials.

***Effective Date: Upon completion of computer programming work by HRNZ IT Team.***

### **NZ JUNIOR DRIVER CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING CHANGE**

At its most recent meeting the HRNZ Board also approved a new method of points scoring for NZ Junior Driver Championship Qualification.

To create a more equitable and fair qualifying process for Junior Drivers across New Zealand, the traditional qualifying method of scoring 7, 5, 3, 2, or 1 point in Junior Driver only races is to be replaced with a more robust system.

Junior Drivers only races will now carry the following points breakdown: 1<sup>st</sup> equals 12 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> 7, 3<sup>rd</sup> 5, 4<sup>th</sup> 3, 5<sup>th</sup> 2. Junior Drivers can now also earn points in 'Regional Junior Driver Races' or those races run in greater Southland and in the Central Districts that offer a Penalty Free win if the winner is driven by a Junior Driver: 1<sup>st</sup> equals 5 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> 2. In 'all other races' - if a junior driver finishes top three in a race they receive the following points: 1<sup>st</sup> equals 3 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> 2 or 3<sup>rd</sup> 1.

This new qualifying system will commence at conclusion of the 2016 Australasian Young Drivers Championship Qualifying. That date is yet to be confirmed by Harness Racing Australia but has traditionally been around January/February.

Regards

**Andrew Morris**  
**HANDICAPPER**