



3YO Colts & Geldings Rising Stars Series 2026

HRNZ is launching a new series for 3YO male pacers building into the 2026 spring classic season. The Rising Stars is a Heats and Final concept to encourage those up-and-coming 3YO as connections plot pathways towards spring features.

The series' name is a nod to the former Group race for three-year-olds that was run in spring from 1983 until the 2000s. The previous incarnation of the Rising Stars was won by such greats as Race Ruler, Dillon Dean, Chokin, Christian Cullen, Courage Under Fire and Changeover.

Two heats will be run for Up to 2-Win 3YO male pacers - one on Friday 31 July and one Friday 14 August. The Final of the series will be run on Friday 21 August. The final is two weeks prior to the start of the 3YO classics, with the Ian Dobson Memorial-Johnny Globe Classic kicking spring off on Friday 4 September.

Heats will be raced over 1980m mobiles for \$15,000. The Final, also over 1980m, runs for a stake of \$30,000. Sequential Preferential Barrier Draws in the heats and final will allow for emergencies.

General Conditions

- To be eligible to compete in the Final horses must have competed in heat, been balloted out or eliminated from a heat that was run or been an acceptor for a heat that was not run.
- The first four horses in each heat are guaranteed selection for the Final. The balance of the field will be selected by the HRNZ Bureau based on performances in the Heats and overall form.
- The winner of Heat 1 will be ineligible to compete in Heat 2.
- Horses that graduate to 3 wins or more after competing in a heat remain eligible for the Final.
- Selection for the heats will be based on number of wins, then Handicapping stake money won in last four starts (highest to lowest). If required, non-winners will be separated by preference and overall form.

Series Summary

31 July	NZ Metro	3YO C & G, up to 2 Wins	1980m PBD Winning Stakes	\$15,000
14 Aug	NZ Metro	3YO C & G, up to 2 Wins	1980m PBD Wins	\$15,000
21 Aug	NZ Metro	3YO C & G	1980m PBD Winning Stakes	\$30,000

Note: HRNZ and New Zealand Metropolitan TC reserves the right to alter the conditions of these series, as they see fit or owing to circumstances beyond their control.