



27 October 2026

OFFICIAL NOTICE

AMENDMENTS TO THE NEW ZEALAND RULES OF HARNESS RACING AND HARNESS RACING NEW ZEALAND CONSTITUTION

Under the Racing Industry Act 2020, the Constitution of Harness Racing New Zealand, and the New Zealand Rules of Harness Racing, the following rules of New Zealand Harness Racing (the Rules) and the Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated Constitution (the Constitution) were amended at the Annual General Meeting of Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated held on 10 October 2026 at Christchurch and come into force as set out below.

The full amended Rules and Constitution will be available on the HRNZ website on 1 November 2026.

1. **Rule 105(1) - Definition of Authorised Person**
This remit comes into force on 1 November 2026

The definition of Authorised Person in rule 105(1) is amended to state:

AUTHORISED PERSON means a person in the Authorised Person Regulations.

2. **Rule 105(1) - Definition of Sample**
This remit comes into force on 1 November 2026

The definition of Sample in rule 105(1) is amended to state:

SAMPLE means a sample or specimen of blood, urine, breath, hair, saliva, perspiration, tissue, or any other bodily fluid taken from a horse or participant.

3. **Rule 213(1A) - Blood Bicarbonate testing**
This remit comes into force on 1 November 2026

Rule 213(1A) is amended to state:

(1A) *Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 213(1)(c) a Stipendiary Steward shall scratch or declare ineligible to start in any race any horse which has on analysis of a pre-race blood sample taken from it a blood total carbon dioxide (TCO₂) level greater than such level as may be set from time to time by the Board.*

4. **Rule 214(1) – Control of Horses for Examination**
This remit comes into force on 1 November 2026

Rule 214(1) is amended to state:

- (1) *After withdrawals close for a race meeting a Stipendiary Steward has the power, before and during the race meeting in relation to any horse that has been entered for a race at the meeting to order:*
 - (a) *that any person take and maintain control of a horse at any place, for such period, and under such conditions as the Stipendiary Steward may direct; and*
 - (b) *that any such horse be examined, have a sample or samples taken from it, or both.*

5. **Rules 301A - Licensing Regulations**
This remit comes into force on 1 November 2026

A new rule 301A is inserted that states:

- 301A *The Board may from time to time make regulations relating to:*
- (a) *The form of, consideration of, granting, or refusing to grant an application for a licence.*
 - (b) *The imposing, amending, or deleting any conditions or restrictions on a licence.*
 - (c) *The cancellation, withdrawal, or suspension of a licence.*
 - (d) *The obligations of a holder of a licence.*

6. **Rules 105(1), 302, 326 - Licensing Committee**
This remit comes into force on 1 November 2026

A new definition of Licensing Committee is inserted in rule 105(1) that states:

LICENSING COMMITTEE *means a committee of three or more persons appointed by the chief executive from the persons nominated by the Board to the licensing panel.*

Rule 302 is amended by inserting before (a) the following:

- (aa) *is not considered fit, proper, and of suitable character;*

A new rule 326 is inserted:

DELEGATION

- (1) *The Board may in writing, either generally or specifically, delegate any of its functions and powers under this Part III of the rules to the licensing committee except the power to set fees.*
- (2) *When a delegation is made to the licensing committee it may perform or exercise the delegated functions or powers in the same manner and with the same effect as if they had been conferred directly, and not by delegation.*
- (3) *Sub-rule (2) is subject to any general or special directions given or conditions imposed by the Board.*

- (4) *A licencing committee purporting to act under a delegation is presumed, in the absence of proof to the contrary, to be acting in accordance with the terms of the delegation.*
- (5) *A delegation:*
- (a) *may not include a power to further delegate any function or power;*
 - (b) *is revocable at will in writing;*
 - (c) *continues in force according to its terms until it is revoked, despite any change in the membership of the Board or of any committee; and*
 - (d) *does not prevent the performance or exercise of any function or power by the Board.*

In Part XIII of the rules the words “*exemptions committee*” are replaced with “*licensing committee*” wherever they appear.

7. **Rule 858(1)(o) – Signalling the Starter**
This remit comes into force on 1 November 2026

Rule 858(1) is amended by adding a new paragraph (o) as follows:

- (1) *A driver must not:*
- (o) *Signal to the Starter unless there was interference prior to or at the start or the horse has broken equipment or an emergency has occurred.*

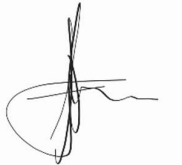
8. **Third Schedule of Rules and Second Schedule of Constitution - Voting**
This remit comes into force on 1 November 2026

The definition of betting licence is amended in the Second Schedule of the Constitution to state:

betting licence means a betting licence issued to a club under s 68 of the Racing Industry Act 2020 as at 1 August in the relevant racing year and includes a betting licence issued for a dual code meeting.

The Third Schedule of the rules is amended to be identical to the Second Schedule of the Constitution.

Dated this 27 day of October 2026.



Anna Flynn
Interim Commercial Director