

2026 Canterbury Plains Challenge Series Conditions

This Series is designed for 5YO & Older Pacers rated R35 at the time of Nomination for each respective heat. The series is scheduled to comprise of 10 heats, a Final and a Consolation (should entries allow).

1. All heats will be Mobile Starts programmed for 5YO & Older Pacers rated R35.
2. Eligibility for heats will be determined at nomination, acceptance and race start time via the R35 5YO & Older Pacing Conditions.
3. To be eligible to contest the Final (\$40,000) or Consolation a horse must have had at least one start in a heat of this series, and a minimum of two race starts within the qualification period of 8 April to 10 May.
4. All heat winners will automatically qualify for the Final on 15 May at the NZ Metropolitan TC's meeting, provided they have had a minimum of two totalisator race starts within the qualification period (8 April to 10 May). Additional race starts do not need to be in heats of this series.
5. The remainder of the field for the Final and Consolation will be determined by the following points system in the heats: Second Place – 7 points, Third - 5 points, Fourth - 3 points, Fifth – 2 points, all other starters 1 point. In the event there is a tie for any position, a countback will be conducted, based on the highest placing achieved in the heats. If still tied the countback will revert to the next best placing. If still tied horses will be split based on lifetime stake earnings, with the highest earnings winning the countback.
6. All heats will be run as Sequential Preferential Barrier Draw based on Stake Earnings (first to fifth) in the last four Starts. The Final and Consolation will be run as Random Barrier Draws.
7. Heats will be selected on Earnings in last four starts (highest to lowest). The field size for the heats, Final and Consolation will be per clubs' safety limit (14 horses). An Emergency may be selected for the Final.
8. If a horse wins two heats of this series, it will be ineligible to contest any further heats.
9. Horses remain eligible for the Final, even if their rating ascends above R35.
10. Those horses nominated for and selected to start in the Final must contest the Final. A horse cannot nominate for the Consolation, only.
11. Nominations for the Final act as the nominations for the Consolation, also. To be eligible for the Consolation a horse must be nominated for the Final.
12. In the event a horse is balloted in the Final and subsequently gains a start in the Final it will become an automatic scratching from the Consolation.
13. Other than heats being selected on Stake Earnings (first to fifth) in last four starts (highest to lowest), the Special Conditions of each Programme will be applicable in Field Selection. i.e. Selection Preference for heats will be given to horses that are not already accepted at another meeting. Late Nominations will be selected behind horses nominated at the original closing time.
14. In the event there are fewer than 10 acceptors for a Heat or Consolation, the HRNZ Bureau reserves the right to abandon that race.

Schedule of Races

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Stake</u>
8-Apr	Wednesday	NZ Metro	Heat 1	1980m	\$10,000
12-Apr	Sunday	Methven	Heat 2	2300m	\$10,000
15-Apr	Wednesday	NZ Metro	Heat 3	1980m	\$10,000
19-Apr	Sunday	Cheviot	Heat 4	1980m	\$10,000
22-Apr	Wednesday	Banks Pen	Heat 5	2000m	\$10,000
26-Apr	Sunday	Rangiora	Heat 6	2000m	\$10,000
29-Apr	Wednesday	NZ Metro	Heat 7	2600m	\$10,000
3-May	Sunday	Rangiora	Heat 8	2000m	\$10,000
6-May	Wednesday	NZ Metro	Heat 9	1980m	\$10,000
10-May	Sunday	Ashburton	Heat 10	1700m	\$10,000
15-May	Friday	NZ Metro	Final	2600m	\$40,000
17-May	Sunday	Rangiora	Consolation	2600m	\$12,500