



22 April 2025

OFFICIAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NEW ZEALAND RULES OF HARNESS RACING

Under rule 103A of the New Zealand Rules of Harness Racing (the rules), the Board of Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated gives notice that it is proposed to amend rules as follows:

1. **Rule 431(2) Syndicates**

Remit: Amend rule 431(2) to state –

- (2) For the purposes of these rules:
 - (a) Any combination of two or more persons may form a syndicate.
 - (b) Any combination of 21 or more and not more than 100 persons owning or leasing a horse shall be deemed to be a syndicate.
 - (c) The Chief Executive may at their discretion grant an exemption to the maximum number of syndicate members.
 - (d) Where a syndicate (Syndicate A) is a member of another syndicate (Syndicate B) each person who is a member of Syndicate A shall be counted as a person in Syndicate B.
 - (e) No disqualified person shall be a member of a syndicate.

Reason

The current rule 431(2) deems all co-ownerships of more than 10 people to be a syndicate. HRNZ is proposing that where a horse is owned by between 2 and 20 persons the horse can be registered in the owners' names or as a syndicate. When registered in the owners' individual names, their names (and not the syndicate's name) will be published in the race book. Where there are 21 or more owners, ownership is deemed to be a syndicate. Where ownership is by a syndicate the syndicate name will be published in the race book.

The proposed amendment changes the limit of the maximum number of persons in a syndicate from 50 to 100 and permits the Chief Executive rather than the Board to permit syndicate members to exceed 100.

2. Rules 805 and 881 Payment of Stakes

Remit: Amend rules 805 by inserting a new rule 805(3A) and insert after rule 881 a new rule 881A that state:

(3A) Sub-rule (3) does not apply if the published stake for the race in the official programme is \$35,000 or less (or such other amount as set by the Board and published in the official notifications) unless the Chief Executive directs otherwise.

881A Rule 881(1) does not apply if the published stake for the race in the official programme is \$35,000 or less (or such other amount as set by the Board and published in the official notifications) unless the Chief Executive directs otherwise.

Reason

The HRNZ Board has endorsed changing the rules to permit the payment of stakes for races programmed for \$35,000 or less without waiting for the swab return from the racing laboratory and RIB.

Proposed Rule Changes to be Considered by the Board

Pursuant to the rules, notice is given to every Club and Kindred Body that the proposed amendments will be considered by the HRNZ Board on **6th June 2025 or such later date as decided by the Board.**

Industry Consultation

Clubs and Kindred Bodies may make written submissions to the Board as regards the proposed amendments and shall advise the Board if they wish to appear before the Board to make oral submissions on the proposed amendments **by 10.00 am Wednesday 28th May 2025.**

Submissions should be addressed to:

Chief Executive
Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated
PO Box 459
CHRISTCHURCH 8140
Email: leanne@hrnz.co.nz

Pursuant to the Rules and the provisions of the Racing Industry Act 2020, notice has also been given of these proposed amendments to TAB New Zealand and the Racing Integrity Board. New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing has been notified also.

These amendments if approved by the Board shall come into force **on a date to be notified once the administrative elements have been tested.**

Dated at Christchurch this 22nd day of April 2025.



Brad Steele
Chief Executive