



12 December 2025

OFFICIAL NOTICE

AMENDMENT TO HARNESS RACING NEW ZEALAND REGULATIONS APPROVED GEAR REGULATIONS

On 9 December 2025, the HRNZ Board considered and approved amendments to the Approved Gear Regulations, effective 1 January 2026. The background and details follow.

Following review over recent months, HRNZ has recommended amendments to the Approved Gear Regulations. These amendments have also been reviewed and approved by the Racing Integrity Board (RIB) and NZ Trainers & Drivers' Association.

The full amended Approved Gear Regulations is **attached** (with changes highlighted for ease of reference) and a summary of changes is included below:

- These updated regulations provide additional clarity on the timeframe to update the notifiable gear - no later than 48 hours after the date and time withdrawals close for the race and approve that changes to the notifiable gear be made using the trainer's My HRNZ login unless HRNZ or a Stipendiary Steward permits otherwise.
- Several changes have been made to reflect the correct terms for gear and to align with NZTR and Australian Harness Racing and to provide more clarity in some cases.
- A Monté Racing clause has been added to this regulation.

These amendments will take effect from 1 January 2026.

Brad Steele
Chief Executive

APPROVED GEAR REGULATIONS

1. Name and Commencement

1.1 These regulations are the approved Board Regulations made by the Board under the New Zealand Rules of Harness Racing and clause 31 of the Constitution of Harness Racing New Zealand Incorporated.

1.2 These regulations come into force on 1 January 2026.

2. Approved Gear

2.1 The Board approves the gear, appliances, and devices listed in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 as the gear, devices, or appliances a horse may race in or with in a betting race.

2.2 The gear, appliances, and devices listed in Schedule 1 are notifiable gear under rule 865(1).

2.3 Notice of any notifiable approved gear a horse is to race in or with in a betting race must be given to HRNZ no later than the date and time notified in the programme and if not notified in the programme no later than 48 hours after the date and time withdrawals close for its first race.

2.4 Any change of notifiable approved gear a horse is to race in or with after its last betting race must be given to HRNZ no later than 48 hours after the date and time withdrawals close for the race.

2.5 Any change to notifiable approved gear after withdrawals close may only be allowed with the permission of a Stipendiary Steward.

2.6 Notice of any notifiable gear and any change to notifiable gear must be made using the trainer's My HRNZ login unless HRNZ or a Stipendiary Steward otherwise permits.

2.7 The non-notifiable gear in schedule 2 does not need to be notified.

3. Monté Racing

3.1 In a Monté race, the approved gear, gear to be notified, and time of notification are set out in the Monté Race Regulations.

Schedule 1
NOTIFIABLE APPROVED GEAR

HEAD GEAR		
1	Fixed Deafeners	Fixed Earplugs, Fixed Hood
2	Removable Deafeners	Removable Earplugs, Removable Hood
3	Blinds	Full Blinds, Full Blinkers, Winkers, Block Blinds, Cup Blinds, Half Blinds, Half Winkers, Half Blinkers, Dolly Vardens, Galloping Hood, Woollen Blinds, Kant-See-Bak's, No Look Backs, Woollen Eye Rolls, Sheepskin Cheeker, Father Xmas, Telescopic Blinds, Peek-A-Boo's, Tunnel Blinds
4	Sliding Blinds	Pull Up or Pull Down
5	Pacifier	Pelling Pacifier (with or without Ear Hood or Blind), Grit Screen
6	Anti-Choking Gear – Burr	Cornell Collar (<i>must be checked by a vet after being applied on race day</i>), Anti-Choking Devices
LEG EQUIPMENT		
7	Half Hopples Three Quarter Hopples	Forelegs only One hind hopple loop connected to half hopple pulley system and not directly to a hopple on a foreleg
8	Free Legged Pacer	
MISCELLANEOUS GEAR		
9	No Whip	Stipendiary Stewards shall be advised when a whip is to be used again.

Schedule 2
NON-NOTIFIABLE APPROVED GEAR

HEAD GEAR		
1	Bridle with Throatlatch	As approved by Stipendiary Stewards.
2	Cheekers	Rubber Bit Guard
3	Bit Lifter	
4	Easy Steer Device	Driving Bits - including extension and slip mouth bits, butterfly etc (as approved from time to time by Stipendiary Stewards). Overcheck Bits – including Raymond, Crit Davis, McKerron, and Hutton Snake Bit - must be covered and used with a tongue tie.
5	Murphy Blind – one only	Hole optional. Includes pull down version.
6	Chin Rest	Not to be exposed wire, must be taped
7	Nasal Strip	
8	Pacifier	Liquid Titanium Mask, Hidez Hood, or similar brand
9	Chin Guard	

10	Nose Flap – must be fitted so it does not protrude past nose	Hawaiian Skirt, Nose Veil
11	Shadow Roll	Including Brush Shadow Roll, Browband
12	Figure Eight Noseband	Drop Noseband, Grackle Noseband
13	Kineton Noseband	
14	Seto Noseband	
15	Martingale	Rings, Ring Martingale, Under Draw, Running Undercheck
16	Overcheck	Head Check
17	Running Overcheck	Four Ring Overcheck
18	Undercheck	Tie Down, Standing Martingale, Split Martingale (not to be used with Shortener Pin)
19	Lugging Bar Bit	
20	Tongue Strap – must be made from leather, rubber, Lycra or neoprene may be used.	W Tongue Control The minimum width for tongue ties made from leather or rubber is 15mm, and those from Lycra or neoprene is 50mm. Tongue ties made from nylon stockings or adhesive bandages (such as Vet wrap) are prohibited
21	Double Purchase Reins	Pulling Reins
LEG EQUIPMENT		
22	Hopples	
23	Spreaders – must be commercially made.	Guiders, Go Straights, Hind Leg
24	Menzel Spreader	From Hoof to Shin/Knee Boot
25	Hopple Shorteners	Includes Elastics and Rubbers
26	Shoes	Includes Terraflex Polyurethane Shoes
27	Toe Weights	
28	Hoof Pads	Concussion Absorbing Materials
29	Bloomers	Worn on Hopple Loops
30	Suspenders	
31	Bandages	
32	Boots	Knee, Shin Tendon, Elbow Boots, Elbow Pads, Trotting, Scalpers, Quarter, Bell, Bumper Boots, Straight Line Pastern Boots
LUGGING EQUIPMENT		
33	Boring Pole	Head Pole, Lugging Pole
34	Pole Halter – must be commercially made.	
35	Rein Pole	
36	False Shaft	
37	Harlee Side Bar	
38	Sliding Boring Pole – must be commercially made.	
39	Burrs – must be dulled so as not to cause injury.	Cheek, Neck, Rein, Bit

	Burrs must be non-metal.	
40	Rein Bar	Bar sewn into rein
41	Gaiting Strap	Side Strap
SULKY EQUIPMENT		
42	Standard Harness	
43	Quick Hitch Harness Safety Straps must be affixed at all times.	Where a horse is fitted with a Quick Hitch Sulky, a neck strap must be worn unless the hooks have been removed from the sulky.
44	Breastplate	Must be worn
45	Approved Registered Sulky	With a current Warrant of Fitness
46	Mud Guards When the use of Mudguards is directed by the Stipendiary Stewards, trainers shall ensure that mudguards are fitted prior to the horse entering the assembly area.	(In the event of inclement conditions) the Stipendiary Stewards shall have the sole power to direct the use of mudguards in any race or races on a day or night programme. Such directive is to be announced on course. Mudguards shall be of a type approved by the Board.
47	Wet Weather Dust Sheet	When Stipendiary Stewards require the use of mudguards, wet weather dust sheets may be affixed to sulky.
48	Dust Sheet	
49	Shaft Spreader or Extensions	
50	Tail Sheet	Extended Dust Sheet
MISCELLANEOUS GEAR		
51	Stallion Race Support	
52	Rearing Strap - Burrs not permitted	Fully taped
53	Kicking Strap	Bucking Strap
54	Charisma Crupper	Built Up Crupper, Tail Tie Crupper
55	Tail Ties – to be neatly tied.	Twine not permitted
56	Windsucking Device	
57	Insulation Tape	
58	Whip - As per Whip and Rein Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black only • The overall shaft length permitted is 1,200 mm • Shaft shall only be fibreglass or equivalent • Leather keeper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximum of 60 mm in length - Maximum of 20 mm in width or a non-rigid tip • No tassel
59	Spider Breeching	