



12 December 2025

OFFICIAL NOTICE

AMENDMENT TO HARNESS RACING NEW ZEALAND REGULATIONS NOTIFICATION OF DRIVERS REGULATIONS

On 9 December 2025, the HRNZ Board considered and approved amendments to the Notification of Drivers Regulation, and consequent amendments to the Conduct of Meetings, Programming, Handicapping and Ratings Regulation, effective 15 December 2025, following review and recommendation by the HRNZ Head of Racing & Wagering. Background and details follow.

These amendments seek to improve clarity and consistency. Current driver notification requirements are spread across multiple regulations and include outdated timeframes. Referencing the updated Notification of Drivers Regulation directly provides a single, consistent standard and removes ambiguity. The amendment also seeks to update terminology to reflect current practice, as references to “acceptances” no longer reflect operational processes, which are now centred on withdrawals. Updating Clause 19.3(b) corrects this and ensures the rulebook aligns with contemporary scheduling workflows.

Accordingly, the Notification of Drivers Regulation will now read as follows:

NOTIFICATION OF DRIVERS REGULATION

1. Name and Commencement

- 1.1 *This regulation is the Notification of Drivers Regulation 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 *This regulation comes into force on 15 December 2025.*

2. Driver Notification

- 2.1 *The trainer of a horse entered in a race must notify HRNZ of the driver engaged to drive the horse no later than the date and time specified in the programme. If no date and time are specified, notification must be made no later than 24 hours after the withdrawal closing date and time for the race the horse is entered in, or at such other time and date as notified by HRNZ.*
- 2.2 *Before the notification time for drivers ends under clause 2.1, a trainer may change the driver. Any change of driver must be notified to HRNZ as soon as practicable.*
- 2.3 *If a horse is balloted out with the right of re-entry and the horse re-enters the field, the trainer must notify the driver as soon as practicable.*
- 2.4 *No change of driver shall be permitted after the notification time for drivers ends under clause 2.1, or once a driver is notified under clause 2.3, unless authorised by a Stipendiary Steward.*
- 2.5 *The driver or change of driver notification must be made using the trainer's My HRNZ login.*

As a consequence of amending the Notification of Drivers Regulation, consequential changes are required to the Conduct of Meetings, Programming, Handicapping and Ratings Regulation summarised as follows:

- Clause 3.12 updated to reference the Notification of Drivers Regulation directly.
- Clause 19.3(b) amended to refer to withdrawals rather than acceptances.
- Clause 19.6 simplified, with driver-notification timing now fully governed by the updated Notification of Drivers Regulation.

The full amendments to the Conduct of Meetings, Programming, Handicapping and Ratings Regulation are as follows:

Clause 3.12 as it currently stands:

3.12 A trainer shall notify HRNZ of the driver engaged to drive the horse by the date and time stated in the programme and if no date and time is notified within 24 hours of the fields being published.

will be amended to read:

3.12 A trainer shall notify HRNZ of the driver engaged to drive the horse as required by the Notification of Drivers Regulation.

Clause 19.3(b) as it currently stands:

19.3 (b) Acceptances will close at 2pm, unless extended by the Handicapper.

will be amended to read:

19.3 (b) Withdrawals will close at 2pm, unless extended by the Handicapper.

Clause 19.6 as it currently stands:

19.6 Preferably trainers will nominate a driver at the time of nomination. A confirmed driver must be confirmed to the Bureau no later than 24 hours after acceptances close.

will be amended to read:

19.6 Preferably, trainers will notify a driver at the time of nomination.

These amendments will take effect from 15 December 2025.



Brad Steele
Chief Executive