



29 January 2025

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

### AMENDMENTS TO HARNESS RACING NEW ZEALAND REGULATIONS

#### SAFETY NUMBER FOR APPROVED TRACKS

On 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025, the HRNZ Special Committee considered and approved the following changes to the Safety Number for Approved Tracks Regulation:

##### **Gore (Grass) Racecourse – Additional Distance**

Following the Gore HRC's grass track meeting last year, a RIB Stipendiary Steward reviewed the appropriateness of the current standing start point at the top of the straight – 1900m. This start point was on the end of the bend at the top home straight entrance and despite the best intentions of the Starter to move horses wider on the track, where there was plenty of room, this did not create a safe and effective starting point. After viewing races from the start point, various relevant parties were canvassed with regards moving this start point for future meetings. All were unanimous in their agreement that this start point be changed to 1800 metres and the safety limit to remain at 8 for the front line, max 6 second line. This enables the horses to be in a straight line with still nearly 300 metres to the first bend.

##### **Phar Lap Racecourse (Grass Track, Timaru)**

A track inspection of Phar Lap Racecourse (Timaru Grass Track) was undertaken on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 with various relevant parties. The purpose of the inspection was to undertake a grass track inspection should the Timaru HRC have a race meeting on Wednesday 2 April, the primary focus being the safety of both horse and driver to ensure the track is suitable and safe for racing. John Denton carried out the inspection and recommended that the grass track has the credentials to conduct a future harness meeting.

##### ***Grass Track Circumference:***

*The track circumference is 1830m and varies from 22m to 15m in width at its narrowest point.*

##### ***Starting Points:***

*The following start points have been identified:*

- 2100m start for mobiles
- 2100m standing start
- 2850m standing start

##### ***Safety Limits Recommendations:***

- 2850m standing start:
  - Front line – 9
  - Second row – 6
  - Overall – 16
- 2100m standing start:
  - Front line – 9
  - Second row – 6
  - Overall – 15

- *2100m mobile start:*
  - *Front line – 9*
  - *Second row – 5*
  - *Overall – 14*

The above amendments are effective immediately.

The full amended Safety Number for Approved Tracks Regulation is available on our website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Steele', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Brad Steele**  
**Chief Executive**