

# THE 2026 HARNESS 5000 SERIES

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Effective Date: **1 January 2026**

### THE HARNESS 5000 SERIES – All Races \$60,000 plus dress rug and trophy

1. 3YO Pacing Fillies (Listed)
2. 4YO Pacing Mares (Listed)
3. 5YO & Older Pacing Mares (Listed)
4. 3YO Trotting Fillies (Listed)
5. 4YO Trotting Mares (Listed)
6. 5YO & Older Trotting Mares (Listed)
7. 3YO Pacing Colts and Geldings (Listed)
8. 4YO Pacing Entire and Geldings (Listed)
9. 5YO & Older Pacing Entire and Geldings (Listed)
10. 3YO Trotting Colts and Geldings (Listed)
11. 4YO Trotting Entire and Geldings (Listed)
12. 5YO & Older Trotting Entire and Geldings (Listed)

#### General Terms

1. These terms and conditions are for The Harness 5000 Series.
2. All races are to be held at Ashburton Raceway on Sunday, 6 December 2026 – Ashburton Trotting Club Inc.

#### ELIGIBILITY

3. This is not a pre-payment series. There are no fees payable to be eligible.
4. Open to all 3YO, 4YO and 5YO+ Pacers and Trotters that are qualified as per the HRNZ qualifying regulations and if a 3YO has started in at least 10 races and if 4YO or 5YO+ has started in at least 12 races in the Qualifying Period.
5. To be eligible for The Harness 5000 Series a horse must be the result of a breeding where:
  - a. The mare was served in New Zealand; and
  - b. The horse was first registered in New Zealand; and

- c. The published retail service fee excluding GST for the semen of the sire at the time of service cannot exceed NZD\$5001 if the sire was resident or for frozen semen the agent was in New Zealand or AUD\$5001 if the sire was resident or for frozen semen the agent was resident in Australia.

**Note 1:** The “retail service fee is the stallion’s service fee, without any discounts, for the purchase of semen published by the stud standing the stallion. The NZ Register of Standardbred Stallions and the Australasian Standardbred Stallion Guide for the horse’s year of conception will be accepted as prima facie be evidence of the “retail service fee.”

**Note 2:** If a registered foal does not result from a service and the mare is re-served under a free return arrangement or similar, eligibility is determined at the date of the use of the free return service that results in a live foal.

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### DISTANCE

6. All races to be from mobile start over a distance of 1,700m. The maximum number of starters on the front line shall be nine.

### NUMBER OF STARTERS

7. A maximum of 14 starters will contest these HRNZ races. One emergency will be selected. Starting Regulation 4.5 applies if there is a scratching, i.e. no movement from 2nd row to the front.

### BARRIER DRAW

8. If the field includes a non-win horse or horses, they will be drawn randomly inside the rated horses, then the rated horses will be drawn sequentially in ascending order up to 15.

### STAKES DISTRIBUTION

9. The \$60,000 stakes for The Harness 5000 Series races will be:

1st = \$30,000 (50%)

2nd = \$9,000 (15%)

3rd = \$6,000 (10%)

4th = \$3,000 (5%)

5th = \$2,550 (4.25%)

6th to 14th = \$1050 (1.75%)

10. In the event of less than 14 starters, any residual stakes shall be distributed on a pro rata basis amongst all starters, with any remainder from that distribution paid to the winner.

### LATE ENTRY

11. There is no late entry clause.

### FIELD SELECTION

12. Qualifying for the Harness 5000 Series will be by way of accumulated stake earnings earned in the Qualifying Period:

- a. 2026 Qualifying Period – 1 January 2026 up to 23:59 hours 22 November 2026.

- b. All earnings (including handicapping exempt earnings) for the during the Qualifying Period in New Zealand only for placings 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th only.

- c. All stakes earned in the Qualifying Period from placing 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th where the published stakes for that placing was \$50,000 or more are excluded.

- d. All bonuses (e.g. incentive bonuses) are excluded.

- e. All horses that won a race with a published stake of \$100,000 or more in the current season or in the 2025 season are excluded from The 2026 Harness 5000 Series.

13. In the event of two or more horses having equal earnings, the following criteria shall apply in descending order for starts in New Zealand in the Qualifying Period:

- a. Firstly, the greatest number of wins; then  
 b. Most number of 2nd placings; then  
 c. Most number of 3rd placings; then  
 d. Most number of 4th placings.

14. If two or more horses are still on equal selection criteria, the Harness Racing New Zealand Handicapper shall select one by ballot under the supervision of the RIB Head Steward (Harness). An owner representative will be invited to attend for each horse.

15. Australian trained horses that meet the Eligibility criteria (Clauses 3 - 5) and Field Selection criteria (Clauses 12 - 14) are eligible to qualify.

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### 16. DECLARATION OF ORDER OF ENTRY

17. On Monday 23 November 2026 the field of 14 and one emergency based on the field selection criteria stated above will be declared.
18. A further eight (next highest earners based on the field selection criteria stated above) will be declared right of re- entries.
19. The connections of these horses (15 plus 8) will be contacted and required to confirm in writing their acceptance of their place in the field by Friday, 27 November 2026 at 12 noon.
20. Any horse that is withdrawn from The Harness 5000 Series at any stage over the season cannot re-enter the field.
21. Should more than the above 23 horses be required because of withdrawals or non- acceptance, the next entrants will be determined as per the selection criteria stated above.
22. All horses will have been deemed to be nominated on confirmation of their acceptance to start.

### SERIES COMMITMENT

23. Subject to annual budget, HRNZ commits to this series for five seasons up to and including 2029.

### MATTERS ARISING

24. Should any matter arise not covered by the race conditions or any dispute arise regarding the interpretation of the race conditions, the Chief Executive Officer of Harness Racing New Zealand Inc shall act as sole judge.
25. The Chief Executive Officer of HRNZ may alter the conditions of The Harness 5000 Series at his absolute discretion. HRNZ will promptly notify any material changes to participants and trainers.

### TIMELINE

- **Monday 23 November 2026:**  
Declaration of Order of Entry.
- **Noon, Friday, 27 November 2026:**  
Confirmation of connections' acceptance to start, deemed to be a nomination.
- **Noon, Monday, 30 November 2026:**  
Declaration of nominations.
- **2pm, Monday 30 November 2026:**  
Declaration of acceptances
- **Sunday 6 December 2026:**  
The Harness 5000 Series Race Day.

### ENQUIRIES

HRNZ has used its best endeavours to create an accurate database of the applicable retail stallion fees. If an owner has an enquiry about eligibility or any other matter or dispute, please email Cameron Kirkwood at [cameron@hrnz.co.nz](mailto:cameron@hrnz.co.nz)

### Brad Steele

Chief Executive Officer  
Harness Racing New Zealand