

2026 Next Gen Bonus Scheme

Terms and Conditions

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Next Gen Bonus Scheme ("the Scheme") is an initiative launched by Harness Racing New Zealand (HRNZ) in collaboration with TAB NZ and NZB Standardbred.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Scheme is to incentivise and promote new ownership, support emerging trainers, and encourage investment in promising sires within New Zealand's harness racing industry.
- 1.3 The Scheme provides financial bonuses and rewards to eligible participants who meet specific criteria, ensuring a sustainable and competitive racing ecosystem.
- 1.4 These Terms and Conditions govern participation in the Scheme and outline eligibility requirements, bonus structures, administrative processes, and legal obligations. By participating in the Scheme, participants agree to comply with these Terms.

2. Eligibility Criteria

- 2.1 To be eligible for the Scheme, horses must meet the following criteria:
 - a. **Purchase Requirement:** The horse must be purchased from the catalogued horses presented at the **2026 NZB National Standardbred Yearling Sales or the 2025 NZB National Standardbred Weanling Sale** conducted at Karaka and Christchurch. A buy-back or failure to reach the reserve shall be deemed to be a purchase by the vendor and the horse can be made Next Gen eligible under Clause 2.1 (b).
 - b. **Additional Qualification:** The horse must also satisfy at least one of the criteria listed in Clause 2.2 to be eligible for the scheme:
- 2.2 A horse must meet one of these three Additional Qualification criteria to qualify for the Scheme:
 - a. **Next Gen Sire** – The horse is sired by a stallion with his first, second or third New Zealand or Australian crop, whichever is the later. Eligible sires:
 - Bettor's Wish
 - Bird Parker
 - Bold Eagle
 - Bulldog Hanover
 - Capt Midnight
 - Dancinginthedark M
 - E L Titan
 - Ecurie D
 - Elite Stride
 - Face Time Bourbon
 - Habibi Inta

- Huntsville
 - King Of Swing
 - King Of The North
 - On A Streak
 - Pebble Beach
 - Perfect Sting
 - Propulsion
 - Tall Dark Stranger
 - Timoko
 - Ultimate Sniper
 - Village Mystic
 - Walner
 - Zenith Stride
- b. **Next Gen Trainer** – The horse is trained by a trainer or training partnership where no member has won a New Zealand or Australian Group 1 race as of January 1, 2026.
- c. **Next Gen Owners** – The ownership group must consist of at least four individuals, with a minimum of 30% of the owners being individuals who were born after 1985 or who have never previously been registered as HRNZ owners.
If the ownership of the horse is changed, or if a horse is leased out, this criteria must be maintained for the horse to remain Next Gen eligible.

[Note for Information only]

- *Example 1: A horse trained by a Next Gen trainer automatically qualifies, regardless of ownership group or the sire.*
 - *Example 2: A horse sired by a qualifying stallion does not need to meet ownership or trainer criteria.*
 - *Example 3: A syndicate with 10 members, four of whom are new owners or under 40 years of age, qualifies for the ownership criterion.*
- 2.3 To be eligible for the Harness Million Bonus the horse must be fully paid up for the Harness Million Sales Series as specified in Clause 4 of the NZB Standardbred Sales Condition of Sale.
- 2.4 To be eligible for the Scheme as a Next Gen Trainer HRNZ must, on or before 1 October 2026, be notified of the eligible trainer under Clause 2.2(b). A new Next Gen Trainer may be substituted for the original Next Gen Trainer at any time.
- 2.5 To be eligible for the Scheme as a Next Gen Ownership group the horse must on 1 October 2026 be registered with HRNZ in the name of owners that meet the criteria under Clause 2.2(c). Failure to meet those criteria in the 2027 racing season removes the horse's eligibility as from the date the criteria was not met.

3. Bonuses and Rewards

3.1 Harness Million 2YO Bonus

- a. A \$50,000 bonus will be awarded to the first Next Gen eligible horse across the finish line in each of the three 2YO Harness Million races:
 - Colts and Geldings
 - Fillies
 - Trotters
- b. The distribution of the bonus is as follows:
 - Owner: \$35,000
 - Trainer: \$10,000
 - Breeder: \$5,000 – “breeder” is as recorded by HRNZ as at the date of the race.

3.2 2YO Second Start Bonus

- a. A **\$5,000 bonus** will be awarded to any Next Gen eligible horse that has **two race day starts during their 2YO season**.
- b. The distribution of this bonus is as follows:
 - **Owner:** \$4,000
 - **Trainer:** \$1,000.
- c. This bonus is **capped at 90 horses per year**, with a maximum total payout in 2027 of **\$450,000**.

4. Application and Registration Process

- 4.1 Other than as specified in Clauses 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 pre-registration is not mandatory, but preferred. Participants may contact HRNZ after purchasing a yearling to confirm eligibility.
- 4.2 The horse's ownership and training eligibility must be confirmed to HRNZ for verification before the horse's first 2YO race.
- 4.3 HRNZ reserves the right to request supporting documentation or ownership details before approving eligibility.

5. Administration and Funding

- 5.1 The Scheme is administered by HRNZ in partnership with **TAB NZ and NZB Standardbred**.
- 5.2 Funding has been secured for an initial **three-year period**, ensuring stable financial backing for bonuses and rewards.
- 5.3 All payments will be processed directly by HRNZ through the Centralised Stakes Payment Scheme and credited to eligible owners, trainers, and breeders in accordance with HRNZ's standard payment procedures.

6. Dispute Resolution

- 6.1 Any disputes regarding eligibility, payments, or participation in the Scheme must be submitted in writing to HRNZ within seven days of the event or decision being contested.
- 6.2 The HRNZ Chief Executive Officer will review all disputes and issue a decision within 14 business days of receiving a formal complaint. The decision of the Chief Executive Officer shall be final and binding.
- 6.3 The Scheme is new. It is recognised that situations may arise that are not covered under these Terms and Conditions. The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to make recommendations to HRNZ under Clause 7 to amend these Terms and Conditions to deal fairly and equitably with the situation that has arisen or contemplated may arise.

7. Amendments and Termination

- 7.1 In addition to the Chief Executives powers in Clause 6.3, HRNZ reserves the right to unilaterally modify, suspend, or terminate the Scheme at any time.
- 7.2 Any changes to the Scheme, including eligibility criteria or bonus structures, will be communicated via the official HRNZ website.
- 7.3 If the Scheme is terminated, HRNZ will honour all commitments made to participants who have already qualified under the terms in effect at that time.

8. Legal Disclaimers and Acceptance

8.1 Limitation of Liability

HRNZ, TAB NZ, and NZB Standardbred shall not be liable for any loss, injury, or damages suffered by participants as a result of participation in the Scheme, except where liability cannot be legally excluded.

8.2 No Guarantees

HRNZ does not guarantee any winnings or future benefits from participation in the Scheme. Bonuses are contingent upon meeting all eligibility requirements and funding availability.

8.3 Acceptance of Terms

By participating in the Scheme, owners, trainers, and breeders acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.