

PADDOCK TO PODIUM

Paddock to Podium

What change are we expecting and how?

The Paddock to Podium Breeding Credit Scheme is underpinned by a clear logic. HRNZ is demonstrating confidence in current and recent breeders by linking racetrack success of horses they have bred to reinvestment in breeding. This approach sustains engagement from existing breeders, rather than seeking to attract new entrants, and strengthens the foundation of the New Zealand standardbred industry.

This is one part of strategy to stabilise and increase the number of mares bred that includes:

- Demonstrating strong and innovative leadership of the sport.
- Creating a positive investment environment by building racing and stakes opportunities.
- Boosting racing opportunities for specific group of horses such as fillies and mares and the trotting gait to increase the utilisation of both sets, e.g. the Silk Road Series and increased premier stakes for trotters.
- Supporting the initial transition of fillies and mares to the breeding barn – earned breeding credits to start their breeding career.
- Providing unique racing opportunities for horses produced from stallions who stood for \$5,000 or less.
- Encouraging and boosting stakes for two-year-olds to get them racing, supporting greater lifetime starts.
- Working in partnership with the NZ Standardbred Breeders to promote, encourage and sustain the breeding of standardbred.

To ensure credits are correctly allocated co-owners of a mare are strongly encouraged to use HRNZ's online service to register a Breeding Lease if in any season it is intended that the breeding / ownership arrangements for the resultant foal differ from the underlying mare ownership percentages

Harness Racing New Zealand

25 September 2025

Paddock to Podium Breeding Credit Scheme – Terms and Conditions

Effective Date: 1 January 2026

Executive Summary

1. The Paddock to Podium Breeding Credit Scheme rewards breeders for racetrack success by providing non-cash credits that can be reinvested in stallion fees for breeding. The scheme aims to lower the cost of breeding and strengthen the New Zealand standardbred industry.
2. 5% credit of stakes for the breeder of a horse for placings 1st–4th in all races except Group and Listed races.
3. \$1,000 credit for the breeder of a horse per Group and Listed race, split as below.
4. Credits are non-cash, available only for service fees and semen transport costs.
5. Credits are allocated to the breeder(s) listed in InfoHorse at the time of foaling, in proportion to their share.
6. Credits can be aggregated across multiple horses and must be used within two full breeding seasons of being earned.
7. Eligible horses are the 2YO to 6YO in each racing season, foaled in New Zealand.
8. Scheme commences on 1 January 2026.
9. The holder of the credits may claim reimbursement of stallion fees in proportion to their ownership of the mare, if they contracted the service, can provide proof of payment and proof of pregnancy after 42 days.
10. HRNZ is committed to this scheme for five years, subject to budget.
11. Estimated maximum scheme liability \$1.4 million.
12. HRNZ may review, amend, or cancel the scheme at its discretion.

A Note on the application of credits to breeder co-owners

It is common practice for groups of co-owner breeders may make different informal ownership arrangements year to year for the breeding of a mare. For example, within the group the co-owners may take turn about to breed the mare. Or one owner may drop out leaving the breeding that year to other co-owners.

The proportion of ownership in these informal breeding arrangements do not reflect the underlying ownership percentages for the mare. It is rare for a lease to be registered with HRNZ to captured them. Therefore, the Paddock To Podium credits will be paid according to the underlying ownership percentages, not the informal arrangements.

Breeders will need to change the ownership percentages at the time of breeding the mare and latest at the time of registering the foal updated if the credits are going to go to the rightful person. You can only claim credits for your share if you're listed as an official breeder and at the HRNZ record percentage of ownership.

Definitions

Stake: The stake monies paid for a race placing, excluding bonuses, trophies, or non-cash prizes.

Breeder: For accumulating credits, the breeder means the owner of the dam of the horse at the time it is foaled or, in the case of the foal begotten by embryo transfer the owner of the dam of the foal at the time of service.

[*Note: This is the definition in the HRNZ Rules.*].

Eligible Horse: A horse resulting from a service in New Zealand, aged two to six years (inclusive) in each racing season. A horse conceived overseas but born in New Zealand is an eligible horse.

Eligible breeding expenses: for the breeding of a horse in New Zealand: the cost an owner / breeder actually paid for the purchase of semen and the transportation of that semen from a stud, a stallion agent or semen holding base.

General Terms

1. A 5% credit of stakes earned for placings 1st - 4th in all races from 1 January 2026, except Group and Listed races, will accrue to the credit of a breeder of a horse in proportion to their ownership of the horse when foaled.
2. A \$1,000 credit will be shared among the breeders of a horse placing 1st to 5th in a Group or Listed race from 1 January 2026 in these percentages, 1st = 50%, 2nd = 20%, 3rd to 5th 10% each.
3. Credits are not transferable and not redeemable for cash.
4. Credits attach to the breeder as recorded in Infohorse and are allocated in proportion to recorded ownership shares at the time of foaling.
5. Credits may be aggregated across multiple horses by the same breeder.
6. Credits may be used for eligible breeding expenses.
7. Credits are not available for other breeding costs such as veterinary fees.
8. Credits expire if unused by 31 July of the second full breeding season following the racing year of accrual. For example, credits earned in racing season 2026 will expire on 31 July 2029, there being two breeding seasons after 31 December 2026, i.e. 2027/28 and 2028/29.

Reimbursement of Eligible Breeding Expenses

9. A person may claim for eligible breeding expenses for breeding a mare in New Zealand to be reimbursed from a Paddock To Podium credit by lodging a claim online with HRNZ if:
 - a. they hold Paddock To Podium credits; and
 - b. they or their co-owners contracted the breeding contract for which the claim is being made; and
 - c. their claim does not exceed their share of the eligible breeding expenses; being a sum equivalent to their percentage ownership of the pregnant mare; and
 - d. the pregnancy was confirmed at 42 days; and
 - e. the claim was lodged before the 30 June in the season the service fee was paid.
10. Acceptable documentation to support a claim under Clause 9 includes:
 - a. An invoice addressed to the breeder with stud name, mare and sire identified.
 - b. Written proof of payment of that invoice from the stud, e.g. a statement
 - c. Confirmation of the pregnancy as at 42 days or later.

11. Special circumstances:
- a. **Packaged Services** - If an invoice from the stud is for a stallion service fee included in a package of other breeding related services the stallion service fee component must be separately identifiable.
 - b. **“Early Bird” Payments** - For the avoidance of doubt, if a breeder pays a stud farm under an “Early Bird” payment incentive scheme or uses frozen semen a breeder cannot make a claim unless all three components of Clause 9 can be met.
 - c. **Sale of an in-foal mare** - If a breeder sells an in-foal mare, and the conditions of Clause 9 are met, the breeder can apply to use their Paddock To Podium credits to reimburse their eligible breeding expenses for that mare. The buyer of the in-foal mare cannot claim Paddock To Podium credits for that mare’s pregnancy – Clause 9 applies. For the avoidance of doubt, if a mare is sold, a claim may be lodged after the mare’s sale date by a breeder meeting the Clause 9 criteria.
 - d. **Loss of Pregnancy** – If a pregnancy is lost, and a Paddock To Podium credit has been paid no further claim can be made for that mare if she is bred again. If the mare is not bred, HRNZ reserves the right to reclaim the paid credit from the recipient.
12. If a mare or resultant foal for which credits were claim is exported before the foal reaches six months of age, HRNZ reserves the right to reclaim any reimbursed credits.
13. Claims must be lodged by the individual named breeders, and in the case of breeding entities the syndicate manager, appointed company racing manager, or executor/trustee of a trust or estate.

Administration

14. Credits available to each breeder will be displayed via MyHRNZ.
15. Breeders must ensure their bank account details and GST status, if applicable, are current with HRNZ.
16. Payments will be made by HRNZ to the breeder once the claim is verified.
17. The Paddock To Podium reimbursement is paid by HRNZ in return for agreeing to provide information and undertaking the actions to meet the eligibility criteria (“the supply”) to HRNZ as noted in these terms.
18. The Paddock To Podium credit is in New Zealand dollars plus GST if any.
19. Owners are responsible for returning GST as applicable in respect of this scheme.
20. HRNZ will pay the Paddock To Podium reimbursement on the 20th of the month following application, provided that all requested information has been provided and all the eligibility criteria have been met as outlined in these terms.
21. You accept that you may be randomly audited to ensure that the Paddock To Podium terms and conditions have been adhered to. Failure to fully comply with such an audit will mean removal from Paddock To Podium eligibility.
22. You are required to provide HRNZ with confirmation of whether you are GST registered and if so your GST registration number. You must advise HRNZ if this information changes at any time.
23. If you are GST registered, HRNZ will issue a buyer created tax invoice or a buyer created taxable supply information to you within 28 days of any Paddock To Podium reimbursement being paid. This will show the GST payable by you in respect of the scheme.
24. If you are not GST registered, HRNZ will issue remittance advice to you within 28 days of any Paddock To Podium reimbursement.
25. HRNZ will issue a credit note / supply correction information if for any reason the Paddock To Podium reimbursement is repaid.

26. You agree that you will not issue tax invoices or taxable supply information to HRNZ.
27. You confirm that you will retain a copy of the documentation issued by HRNZ in respect of Paddock To Podium when it is provided by HRNZ.
28. Participation in this scheme does not preclude you from participation in any other scheme.

Liability and Review

29. The estimated maximum liability under the scheme is \$1.4 million.
30. HRNZ commits funding for a minimum of five years, subject to budget.
31. The scheme will be monitored for effectiveness and reviewed periodically.
32. HRNZ may amend, suspend, or cancel the scheme at its discretion, with at least 90 days' notice of significant changes.
33. HRNZ reserves the right to recover from any claimant credits paid out because of fraud, misrepresentations or error by the claimant or error on HRNZ's part.
34. If HRNZ seeks the repayment of any credit paid under this scheme, for any reason, it may also claim interest from the date of the original payment until the credit is repaid with interest payable on the overdue amount at the rate of 10 percent per annum, calculated daily on the outstanding balance.
35. Should any matter arise not covered by these terms and conditions or any dispute arise regarding the interpretation of these terms and conditions, the Chief Executive Officer of Harness Racing New Zealand Inc shall act as sole judge.
36. The Rules of Racing apply.