

MONTÉ RACING

At the 2014 Annual Conference, Rules were approved to provide for the introduction of Monté racing pursuant to Regulations as approved by HRNZ. Monté racing is essentially trotting saddle races that are popular in Europe and were recently introduced in Australia.

Following are Regulations that the HRNZ Board approved at its meeting on 10 November 2014. These are based on the rules adopted by Harness Racing Australia which mirror those applied in Europe.

Linked to the Regulations, there will be a requirement that any horse wishing to compete in a Monté race must complete a Monté Gear Notification (MGN) form. A copy of the MGN is detailed below and is also available on HRNZ's website.

Trainers wishing to have a horse compete in a Monté race are requested to submit these forms to HRNZ. This will allow HRNZ to assess the number of horses interested and available on a regional basis and work with clubs to programme trials and eventually totalisator races. In the meantime, there is nothing stopping clubs running Monté races as exhibitions or non-tote races prior to then.

At this stage, HRNZ will not be amending its computer system to provide for this as a separate classification of racing. In the short term, Monté racing will be handled from an administration perspective outside of HRNZ's Infohorse system. The only official link will be that Monté races will be deemed official races and will be considered penalty free trotting races within the existing database. This can be amended in time if there is ongoing demand for this form of racing.

Any queries in relation to this should be directed at HRNZ to either Darrin Williams (Racing Manager) or Natalie Gameson (Education & Training Manager).

MONTÉ RACING REGULATIONS

These Regulations are made by the Board pursuant to Rule 884 of the NZ Rules of Harness Racing and shall come into force on 1 December 2014

Definitions

1. For the purpose of these Regulations:
 - (1) "*Rider*" means a person who rides a horse in a race approved by HRNZ as a Monté race and for the purposes of this Regulation including the imposition of penalties for breaches of the Rules and this Regulation, rider shall where applicable include "*driver*" as defined in the Rules.
 - (2) "*Monté Race*" means a trotting race in which the competing horses are ridden by a licensed rider.
 - (3) "*Horse*" means a standardbred horse that has:-
 - (a) attained the age of 3 years;
 - (b) qualified as a trotter in the trotting gait;
 - (c) started in no less than three trotting races and a Monté trial.

Gear

2. Gear used in connection with Monté racing shall be approved by HRNZ.
3.
 - (1) Applications concerning gear shall be made on the Monté Gear Notification (MGN) form.
 - (2) The MGN form must be completed and lodged with HRNZ at a time prior to or at driver declaration time for the meeting at which it is next to race.
 - (3) In the event of a change to any of the particulars entered on the MGN form, a fresh gear form containing current particulars shall immediately be lodged with HRNZ.
4. In the case of a horse to compete in a race, application to change any gear must be made to HRNZ by the connections at a time consistent with other requirements for notifiable gear.
5. An application to change any gear shall be made to HRNZ.

Whips

6.
 - (1) A rider shall only use a non-modified whip of a design and specification approved by HRNZ.
 - (2) A rider shall only use a whip forward of the saddle.
 - (3) A rider shall at all times when using a whip keep hold of the reins.

Reins

7.
 - (1) A rider shall only use reins of a design and specification approved by HRNZ.
 - (2) Approved reins cannot be attached with a carabineer or snap-hook.

- (3) A rider shall when mounted on a horse hold the reins in both hands.

Helmets

8. A rider shall when mounted on a horse wear a properly affixed helmet approved in line with the Safety Gear Regulations.

Vests

9. A rider shall when mounted on a horse wear a properly fastened safety vest approved in line with the Safety Gear Regulations.

Footwear

10. (1) A rider shall when mounted on a horse wear riding boots approved by HRNZ.
(2) Riding boots shall have a heel and not have spurs attached.

Saddle

11. (1) A rider shall when mounted on a horse use a saddle which has been approved by HRNZ.
(2) An extra girth strap or surcingles shall be used to tighten the girth if there is only one strap fitted to each side of the saddle.
(3) If a head-check is used on a horse then:
 - (a) The head-check must be attached to the saddle.
 - (b) The saddle must be used in conjunction with a crupper.

Stirrups

12. A rider shall when mounted on a horse use stirrups approved by HRNZ.

Breast Plate

13. A breast plate shall be fitted to a horse competing in a race.

Weight

14. (1) The minimum weight to be carried by a horse including the rider and all gear except the bridle and reins shall be 65 kg.
(2) The maximum weight to be carried by a horse including the rider and all gear except the bridle and reins shall be 105 kg.
(3) Subject to sub-clause (4), when a race has been run every rider shall immediately after pulling up ride his horse to the place of weighing and when told by the Stewards so to do and not before, there dismount and the riders of the placed horses and such other riders as directed by the Stewards shall be weighed to the satisfaction of the Stewards.
(4) If a rider be prevented by accident, illness or other cause deemed sufficient by the Stewards from riding to the place of weighing he may walk or be carried to the scales. If, in the opinion of the Stewards, it is impracticable to weigh in a rider, his horse shall not be disqualified if the Stewards are of the opinion that he carried his correct weight.

Weighing In

15. If a horse carries less than 65 kg it shall be disqualified from the race and the rider and/or any other person may be penalised.

Horses

16. A horse that in the opinion of the Stewards gallops in breach of the Breaking Horses Regulation shall be disqualified from the race.

Riders

17. (1) A rider shall at all times during the course of a race ensure that all other horses have a clear passage.
(2) A rider who fails to comply with sub-clause (1) is guilty of an offence.

Mobile Starts

18. Unless otherwise approved by HRNZ, in a race conducted with a mobile start:
 - (a) A horse shall wear a head-check.
 - (b) There shall not be more than one row of horses.

Licences

19. (1) A person who holds a driver's licence or trainer's licence pursuant to the Rules shall complete at least one Monté trial to the satisfaction of the Stewards.
(2) An unlicensed person or a person who holds a stable hand licence pursuant to the Rules must complete at least three (3) Monté trials to the satisfaction of the Stewards.
(3) A person who is licensed as a jockey by NZ Thoroughbred Racing shall complete at least one Monté trial to the satisfaction of the Stewards.

MONTÉ RACING

NOTIFIABLE GEAR FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTÉ HORSE

FAX: 03 964 1205

Note: Monté Gear Notification is not available online (myHRNZ) at this time

EXPLANATION

This form should be completed in all cases where a horse is competing in a Monté racing event. The completion of this form does not replace gear that is nominated for when the horse is racing in trotting races with a sulky. This form is only used to nominate gear being used in Monté racing that is different to any gear previously notified.

In all instances, a crupper, saddle and breast plate must be used. Reins are to be held in two hands and cannot be attached using a carbineer or snap hook.

HORSE: _____

DATE: _____

TRAINER: _____

SIGNED: _____

GEAR: THIS HORSE WILL BE WEARING THE FOLLOWING [tick appropriate boxes]

- FIXED DEAFENERS**
- BLINDS**
- PACIFIER**
- HALF HOPPLES**
- NO WHIP**
- NO HEADCHECK (Standing Starts Only)**

This form and subsequent changes of notifiable gear must be lodged with Harness Racing New Zealand only, **fax (03) 964 1205** at any time prior to or at driver notification time for the meeting at which it is to next race. Any change after this time will only be permitted with the permission of the Stipendiary Stewards. Please refer to Rule 865 and the Approved Gear Regulation. In the case of two day meetings all gear changes for the second day must be lodged with the Stipendiary Stewards at the meeting. Gear changes will be accepted when notified on an Official Form only.

OFFICE USE ONLY:

_____ DATE _____