

## **NORTH ISLAND AMATEUR DRIVERS HARNESS RACING RULES**

These rules are subject to the New Zealand Rules of Harness Racing and all regulations and rulings issued under those rules, including the NZADA Regulations. In any case where there is conflict between these rules and the above-mentioned rules and regulations, the meaning of the above-mentioned rules and regulations shall prevail.

### **PART I - GENERAL**

**1.1 Title and application.** These rules may be cited as the Auckland Amateur Drivers Harness Racing Rules and shall:

- a. Apply to all amateur drivers' races conducted under the auspices of the Auckland Branch of the NZADA ;
- b. Be binding on the committee and drivers; and
- c. Apply to all horses with respect to their participation in an amateur drivers' race.

**1.2 Commencement.** These rules shall come into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2011, and apply in respect of all amateur races run on or after that day.

**1.3 Definitions.** For the purposes of these rules, the term:

*"Amateur drivers' race"* means a race for amateur drivers duly authorized by the committee, but does not include a race in which novice amateur drivers are eligible to compete or a race exclusively for advanced amateur drivers.

*"Committee"* means the regional committee, established for the purposes of organising amateur driving in the Auckland region.

*"Driver"* means an amateur driver duly licensed as a full amateur driver or advanced amateur driver under the New Zealand Rules of Harness Racing.

*"Notification"* in respect of any announcement, decision or other communication by the committee or race co-ordinator, means the posting of that decision, announcement or other communication on the official NZADA website and the words "notify" and "notified" shall have corresponding meanings.

*"Race series"* means the North Island Amateur Drivers Summer Race Series.

**1.4 Race co-ordinator.** There shall be a race co-ordinator, from time to time appointed by the Committee, to be responsible for:

- a. Notification of amateur drivers' races;
- b. Receiving nominations for any amateur racing event;
- c. Selecting race fields for amateur drivers' races;
- d. Recording and notifying all results of amateur drivers' races;
- e. Maintaining an up-to-date register of horse handicap scores.
- f. Maintaining drivers' scores for any race series drivers' competition;
- g. Maintaining trainers' points scores for any trainers' competition;
- h. Periodically notifying results of drivers' and trainers' competitions.

The race co-ordinator may co-opt any other person to provide assistance to fulfil any of these responsibilities.

## PART II – ELIGIBILITY AND RACE CONDITIONS

**2.1 Eligibility criteria.** To be eligible to compete in an amateur drivers' race, a horse must:

- a. Be qualified to race under the rules of harness racing;
- b. Be adjudged to be "suitable and safe" to run in an amateur drivers' race by the horse's trainer;
- c. Not be barred, suspended, or stood down by the amateur stipendiary steward or HRNZ stipendiary steward, unless
  - i. the horse is stood down solely as a penalty for having been scratched from a totalisator race; or
  - ii. the HRNZ stipendiary steward has given specific approval for the horse to participate in that amateur drivers' race;
- d. Have a handicapping score, as determined under Part III, not exceeding 90 points following its last win in an amateur drivers' race;
- e. Have winning stakes (if any), including winning stakes that are excluded for handicapping purposes under the HRNZ rules, but not including winning stakes in respect of any amateur drivers' race, of an amount not exceeding \$17,500; and
- f. Be duly nominated for that amateur drivers' race in accordance with Part IV.

**2.2 Eligibility discretion.** Notwithstanding rule 2.1 (d) and (e), the Committee may declare any horse whose handicapping score exceeds 90 points or whose winning stakes exceed \$17,500, to be eligible to compete in an amateur race if:

- a. A period of at least 12 months has passed since the date on which that horse last won an amateur race and attained a handicapping score exceeding 90 points and a period of at least 24 months has passed since that horse last earned winning stakes; and
- b. The Committee is satisfied that by reason of the horse's age, health, soundness, recent racing performances, or any other reason, the horse is no longer capable of performing to its full potential and will not be unfairly competitive in amateur drivers' races; and
- c. The horse's eligibility to compete has been duly notified.

**2.2A Eligibility conditions for claimers.** Notwithstanding rule 2.1 (e), any horse with winning stakes exceeding \$17,500, but which is registered as a claimer under the claiming regulations issued under the New Zealand Rules of Harness Racing shall be eligible to participate in an amateur drivers' race, provided that horse:

- a. Is duly registered pursuant to the regulations with a claiming price not exceeding \$3,500; and
- b. The horse has raced as a claimer in an official race at least twice; and
- c. On the last two occasions that the horse raced as a claimer in an official race, the horse's claiming price did not exceed \$3,500.

**2.3 Safety risk.** The stipendiary steward may bar, suspend, or stand down any horse from participating in amateur drivers' races if, in the stipendiary steward's sole discretion, the participation of that horse would, or is likely to, present a safety risk to other horses and drivers participating in those races.

**2.4 Stakes races.** Amateur drivers' races may be run for stakes comprising vouchers and non-monetary prizes. Voucher prizes shall, unless otherwise specified in the conditions of the race, be distributed by value as follows:

- a. 60 percent to the winner
- b. 25 percent to the second placed horse
- c. 15 percent to the third placed horse; and
- d. 5 percent to the fourth placed horse.

## PART III - HANDICAPPING

**3.1 Purpose.** For the purposes of handicapping and establishing eligibility to race in an amateur drivers' race under rule 2.1, each horse that is nominated for an amateur drivers' race, shall be allocated a handicapping score, in accordance with these rules.

**3.2 Handicapping score.** The handicapping score shall be:

- a. For a horse that has not previously run in any amateur drivers' race, 50 points plus the number of points allocated in respect of all winning stakes, including winning stakes that are excluded for handicapping purposes under the HRNZ rules, earned by that horse (if any) determined in accordance with Schedule A.
- b. For a horse that is eligible to compete in amateur drivers' races under rule 2.2 or 2.2A, in respect of the first amateur drivers' race in which that horse competes following it becoming so eligible, 87 points.
- c. For every other horse, the handicapping score for that horse at the time of its last amateur drivers' race, adjusted on the basis of its finishing position in that race, in accordance with the following table:

Finishing Position	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Handicapping Score Adjustment	+4	+3	+2	+1	-1	-2	-3	-4

- d. No horse shall be allocated a handicapping score that is less than 50 points.
- e. No C0 assessed horse shall be allocated a handicapping score that is greater than 65 points and no C1 assessed horse shall be allocated a handicapping score that is greater than 75 points.
- f. In any case where a horse participates in a penalty free amateur drivers' race, the handicapping score for that horse shall not be adjusted in respect of that race.
- g. For the purposes of this rule, a penalty free amateur drivers' race includes every amateur drivers' race where, under the conditions for that race, drivers are drawn by ballot to determine which horse in the race they shall drive.

**3.3 Stake earnings since last race.** In the event that a horse, since last participating in an amateur drivers' race, has gained additional winning stakes, the handicapping score for that horse shall be further adjusted to reflect those additional winning stakes, in accordance with Schedule A.

**3.4 Failure to finish.** In any case where, for any reason, a horse fails to finish in an amateur drivers' race, the handicapping score for that horse shall not be adjusted in respect of that race.

**3.5 Trotters.** Where a horse entered in an amateur drivers' race is a trotter, the handicapping score for that horse will be reduced by the number of points that is equal to 50 percent of the points (if any) determined in accordance with Schedule A.

**3.6 Discretion.** Notwithstanding anything else in this Part, the handicapper may, for the purposes of maintaining the competitiveness of any horse, reduce the handicapping score of that horse to any score not less than the score that horse would be allocated if it were a horse to which rule 3.2(a) applied.

## PART IV – NOMINATIONS AND FIELD SELECTION

- 4.1 Race programmes and organization.** The race co-coordinator shall be responsible for organizing amateur drivers' races, in accordance with these rules.
- 4.2 Race notification.** The running of every amateur drivers' race shall be notified, either individually or as part of a race series programme, not less than 4 days before the running of that race and that notification shall, wherever applicable, specify the following:
- a. The date on which that race is to be run;
  - b. The venue where that race is to be run;
  - c. The distance over which the race is to be run;
  - d. Whether the race is a stakes race, a series race, a challenge race or other race;
  - e. Any conditions of entry for horses that are to be applied in addition to those imposed under rule 2.1.
- 4.3 Time for nominations.** Unless otherwise notified, nominations for a race must be made to the race co-coordinator by 4:00pm on the day three days before the day on which the race is to be run.
- 4.4 Nomination details.** Nominations must include the name of the horse, the name of the trainer of that horse and the name of the driver who is to drive the horse.
- 4.5 Declaration of "points drive".** Where a race is part of the race series, a driver may, in anticipation of that race being run in more than one heat, nominate more than one horse to drive in that race, provided that the driver, at the time of nomination, declares which one of the drives is to be the "points drive" for the purposes of Part IV. In the event that only one of the horses nominated by a driver is included in the race field, that horse shall be deemed to be the "points drive" for that driver.
- 4.6 Change of driver.** In any case where, subsequent to the closing of nominations, a driver who is engaged to drive a horse withdraws from that engagement, the stipendiary steward may approve the substitution of another driver provided the stipendiary steward is satisfied that the reason for the withdrawal is genuine.
- 4.7 Minimum field size.** No amateur drivers' race or heat shall proceed unless there are at least 7 nominations for that race or heat. In the event that insufficient nominations are received, the race co-ordinator may, notwithstanding rule 4.3, extend the time for nominations by giving notice accordingly or by seeking further nominations by directly approaching any person or persons to secure sufficient nominations to allow a race or heat to proceed. If sufficient nominations cannot be secured, the heat or race shall be abandoned.
- 4.8 Excess nominations.** In the event that nominations for any amateur drivers' race exceed the maximum number of starters allowed for that race, the race co-coordinator may:
- a. Subject to rule 4.7, programme the race to be run in more than one heat; and
  - b. Eliminate nominated horses from the race either by listing them as emergency runners, with a right of re-entry into the race in the event of one or more withdrawals from the race, or by excluding nominated horses and drivers from participation in that race.
- 4.9 Eliminations.** For the purposes of rule 4.8 (b), the race co-coordinator shall eliminate:

- a. First any horse where the nominated driver of that horse has been included, whether with the same horse or another horse, in another heat of the same race; and then
- b. Any horse based on the horse's handicapping score as follows:
  - i. Where, in respect of the immediately preceding amateur race, horses were eliminated on the basis of lowest handicapping scores, then in order of highest handicapping score; and
  - ii. Where, in respect of the immediately preceding amateur race, horses were eliminated on the basis of highest handicapping scores, then in order of lowest handicapping score.

Provided that no horse shall be eliminated if the driver of that horse has, by reason of the driver's nominated horse being eliminated under rule 4.8(b), been prevented from competing in a preceding amateur race, unless every other driver in the race has also been so prevented from competing at least once since the time that driver was so prevented from competing.

**4.10 Rankings.** In the event that any amateur drivers' race comprises more than one heat, horses shall be ranked according to their handicapping score and included in a heat on the basis of that ranking.

**4.11 Barrier draws.** Unless otherwise notified as part of the conditions of the race, all races shall be subject to preferential barrier draws based on handicapping scores, with horses with lower scores being placed inside horses with higher scores,

**4.12 Withdrawals.** In the event of a horse's withdrawal from an amateur drivers' race:

- a. The nominated driver must notify the driver of the next balloted horse and the race co-coordinator of that withdrawal, not later than 9:00am of the morning of the race.
- b. Failure to make notification in accordance with this rule will result in the driver's mandatory stand down for the next succeeding race.
- c. The Committee may, in its sole discretion, waive the mandatory stand down imposed under paragraph (b), if the driver can establish, to the complete satisfaction of the Committee, that the driver had taken all reasonable steps that could have prevented the failure to make notification under paragraph (a) and that the failure was for reasons that were entirely beyond the driver's control.

## PART V – DRIVERS' COMPETITION

**5.1 Drivers' competition.** As part of the race series there shall be a drivers' competition, which shall be conducted in accordance with these rules.

**5.2 Competition points.** Drivers shall score competition points on the basis of their finishing position in each race as follows:

Finishing Position	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
Competition Points	11	9	7	5	4	3	2	1

**5.3 Points drive.** Where a driver participates in more than one heat of the same race, points shall be awarded to that driver only in respect of the drive that, in accordance with rule 4.5, is declared to be the "points drive".

**5.4 Withdrawals.** If a driver has declared a drive to be a “points drive” in accordance with rule 4.5 and the horse and/or driver, at any time after the field for that race has been notified, withdraws from that race, no other drive shall, in respect of that driver and that race, become the points drive, unless prior approval has been granted by the stipendiary steward.

**5.5 Best drives.** Best drives, in respect of a driver, means the races, (not exceeding 50 percent of the number of races that, prior to the commencement of the race series, were notified as comprising the race series, irrespective of any subsequent alteration to the race series programme), in which that driver competed and scored the most competition points.

**5.6 Rankings.** At the completion of all scheduled series races, all drivers shall be ranked in descending order of their aggregate competition points scored in respect of their best drives and the highest ranked driver shall be declared the winner of the race series. In the event that any two or more drivers have equal aggregate competition points, their final rankings, vis-a-vis each other, shall be determined as follows:

- a. Firstly, by reference to the highest placing in each of the series races, so that the driver with the most wins shall be the higher ranked driver. In the event that both drivers have the same wins, than the driver with the most next highest placing shall be ranked highest.
- b. In the event that two drivers cannot be separated under the above rules, their rankings relative to each other shall be determined by the toss of a coin.

## **PART VII – NORTH ISLAND FINALS SERIES**

**6.1 Finals series** For the purposes of determining the North Island amateur drivers champion and the qualifiers for the national amateur drivers’ championship finals, there shall be a finals series.

**6.2 Four races.** The finals series shall comprise four (4) races.

**6.3 Drivers.** There shall be a maximum of eight (8) drivers to qualify to drive in the finals series, which shall be the eight drivers who, in accordance with rule 5.6, are the highest ranked drivers, at the completion of the race series. In the event that one or more of the qualified drivers, for any reason, cannot participate in the finals series, the next highest ranked driver shall qualify

**6.4 Nominations.** In respect of each race in the finals series, each driver must nominate a horse in accordance with Part IV.

**6.5 Field selection.** In an effort to ensure the most even race fields as possible, the race co-coordinator may, in respect of each race of the finals series, eliminate any one or more of the horses nominated in accordance with rule 7.4 and substitute any other horse that meets the eligibility requirements set out in rule 2.1.

**6.6 Drivers’ draws.** For each race of the finals series, the horse that each driver shall drive in the race shall be determined by ballot (hereinafter referred to as “the ballot”) and shall be performed under Stipendary control.

**6.7 Withdrawals.** In the event that, for any reason, one or more horses are withdrawn from the race resulting in fewer horses than drivers in the ballot, and:

- a. One or more of the drivers failed to nominate a horse for the race in accordance with rule 7.4, one of those drivers shall be randomly chosen to be eliminated from the ballot and that chosen driver shall receive 3.5 (three and one half) competition points in respect of that race.
- b. All drivers nominated a horse in accordance with rule 7.4, (including any horse that may subsequently have been eliminated from the race by the race co-ordinator under rule 7.5), and:
  - i. The withdrawn horse is a horse nominated by a driver in accordance with rule 7.4, the driver who nominated the withdrawn horse shall be eliminated from the ballot and receive 3.5 (three and one half) competition points in respect of that race;
  - ii. The withdrawn horse is a horse substituted by the race co-ordinator under rule 7.5, one of the drivers shall be randomly chosen to be eliminated from the ballot and that chosen driver shall be awarded 5 (five) competition points for that race.

**6.8 Withdrawals after ballot.** Where, at any time after the ballot for a race has taken place, a horse is withdrawn from the race or, for any reason, cannot take part in the race, the driver of that horse shall be awarded 5 (five) competition points for that race.

**6.9 Competition points.** In respect of each race in the finals series, drivers shall score competition points on the basis of their finishing position in each race, as if it were a series race to which rules 5.2 applied.

**6.10 Rankings.** At the completion of all races in the finals series, all drivers shall be ranked in descending order of their aggregate competition points gained in those races and the highest ranked driver shall be declared the winner and the North Island Amateur Driving Champion. In the event that any two or more drivers have equal aggregate competition points, their final rankings, vis-a-vis each other, shall be determined as follows:

- a. Firstly, by reference to their placing relative to each other in each of the four races in the finals series, so that in the event that one driver finished ahead of the other driver in three of the four races in the finals series, that first-mentioned driver shall be the higher ranked driver.
- b. Secondly, by reference to the absolute placing in each of the four series races, so that the driver with the most wins shall be the higher ranked driver. In the event that both drivers have the same wins, then the driver with the most next highest placing shall be ranked highest.
- a. In the event that two drivers cannot be separated under the above rules, their rankings relative to each other shall be determined by the toss of a coin.

**6.11 National finals qualification.** The North Island Amateur Driving Champion and the three next highest ranked drivers in the finals series shall qualify to compete in the national finals series. In the event that one or more of the qualified drivers, for any reason, cannot participate in the finals series, the next ranked driver/s shall qualify.

## **PART VII – TRAINERS’ COMPETITION**

**7.1 Trainers’ competition.** As part of the race series and finals series there shall be a trainers’ competition.

**7.2 Competition points.** A trainer shall score competition points for each horse, in respect of which that trainer is officially listed as the trainer, which starts in an amateur drivers' race as follows:

- a. One competition point; and
- b. One additional competition point if the horse finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place;
- c. Two additional competition points if the horse finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place; and
- d. Three additional competition points if the horse finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place.

**7.3 Rankings.** At the completion of the finals series, all trainers shall be ranked in descending order of their aggregate competition points and the highest ranked trainer shall be declared the winner.

## **PART VIII – RACE CONTROL, OFFENCES AND PENALTIES**

**8.1 Race control.** All heats and races will be under the jurisdiction of a stipendiary steward or, if not available, then a senior horseman (hereinafter referred to as “the amateur stipendiary steward”) appointed by the committee to act, who shall, subject to these rules, in relation to any matter arising at or in connection with an amateur driver's race, have the same powers as a stipendiary steward, including the power provided under rule 1119 of the New Zealand Rules of Harness Racing to exercise any power, function or duty of a judicial committee

**8.2 Decisions final.** Any decision made by an amateur stipendiary steward following the exercise of any power or duty pursuant to rule 8.1 shall be final.

**8.3 Minor offences.** The following shall be considered minor offences:

- i. not being on the track on time
- ii. presenting their horse with an incorrect number
- iii. not assembling at the start in a timely manner
- iv. failing to report any interference and/or gear malfunction
- v. failing to attend a stipendiary stewards post-race briefing (if called)

**8.4 Major offences.** The following shall be considered major offences:

- i. leaving the gate without control
- ii. speed duelling
- iii. setting the pace in a reckless or irresponsible manner
- iv. crossing in front without sufficient clearance
- v. pushing down, out or through
- vi. striking a wheel
- vii. driving in a manner which causes interference to your own or any other horses
- viii. miscounting the rounds
- ix. not having sufficient control in the home straight
- x. over vigorous use of the reins
- xi. misusing the passing lane
- xii. half carting

**8.5 Severe offences.** The following shall be considered severe offences:

- i. failing to allow your horse to run on its merits and/or collusion to affect the outcome of an event
- ii. abusing officials or drivers
- iii. deliberately misleading an amateur stipendiary steward by knowingly providing false evidence on any matter relating to these regulations.

**8.6 Penalties.** Penalties imposed by an amateur stipendiary steward for offences committed during or in connection with an amateur drivers' race may be one or any combination of the following:

- i. Disqualification for a stand down period
- ii. Deduction of competition points (where applicable) which shall, at the completion of the race series, be deducted from the driver's aggregate score used to determine that driver's ranking in accordance with rule 5.6.
- iii. Relegation or disqualification of a horse

**8.7 Application.** In respect of any offence, penalties imposed by the amateur stipendiary steward shall be at the amateur stipendiary steward's sole discretion after considering the circumstances of the offence, its consequential effects, the prior offending (if any) of the driver or drivers concerned and the following guidelines:

- a. For offences deemed to be minor offences as set out in rule 8.3
  - i. In respect of a 1<sup>st</sup> offence; a warning.
  - ii. In respect of a 2<sup>nd</sup> or subsequent offence: deduction of 2 competition points.
- b. For offences deemed to be major offences as set out in paragraph 8.4, a disqualification for a stand down period of not less than 1 race day and/or deduction of not less than 5 competition points.
- c. For offences deemed to be severe offences as set out in paragraph 8.5, a disqualification for a stand down period of not less than 2 race days and/or deduction of not less than 10 competition points.

## **PART IX - MISCELLANEOUS**

**9.1 Fees.** All fees payable by a driver in respect of a race must be paid by that driver prior to the start of that race.

**9.2 Race control.** No amateur drivers' race shall be run without the availability of stipendiary control.

**Schedule A**  
*(Part III – Handicapping)*

<b>Winning Stakes Earned</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Winning Stakes Earned</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Winning Stakes Earned</b>	<b>Points</b>
\$1800 to \$2140	4	\$7290 to \$7710	17	\$12860 to \$13280	30
\$2150 to \$2570	5	\$7720 to \$8140	18	\$13290 to \$13710	31
\$2580 to \$2990	6	\$8150 to \$8570	19	\$13720 to \$14140	32
\$3000 to \$3420	7	\$8580 to \$8990	20	\$14150 to \$14570	33
\$3430 to \$3850	8	\$9000 to \$9420	21	\$14580 to \$15000	34
\$3860 to \$4280	9	\$9430 to \$9850	22	\$15010 to \$15430	35
\$4290 to \$4710	10	\$9860 to \$10280	23	\$15440 to \$15860	36
\$4720 to \$5140	11	\$10290 to \$10710	24	\$15870 to \$16290	37
\$5150 to \$5570	12	\$10720 to \$11140	25	\$16300 to \$16720	38
\$5580 to \$5990	13	\$11150 to \$11570	26	\$16730 to \$17140	39
\$6000 to \$6420	14	\$11580 to \$11990	27	\$17150 to \$17500	40
\$6430 to \$6850	15	\$12000 to \$12420	28		
\$6860 to \$7280	16	\$12430 to \$12850	29		