

1. Title  
These regulations may be cited as the New Zealand Amateur Drivers Association (NZ Championship Series) Regulations.
2. Jurisdiction  
These regulations are subject to the rules and regulations of Harness Racing NZ. In any case where there is conflict between these regulations and the rules and regulations of Harness Racing NZ the rules and regulations of Harness Racing NZ prevail.
3. Championship  
For the purposes of determining the NZ amateur drivers' champion for the season, there shall be a national championship series.
4. Championship Series Control  
There shall be a race series committee in each region of 3 non-competing drivers appointed by the regional committee.

The race series committee(s) shall administer all driver and horse ballots and adjudicate on any issues arising during the series including final rankings, whose decision(s) shall be final.

5. Race Control  
All races in the championship shall be under the control of HRNZ stipendiary stewards wherever possible or the local area amateur stipendiary steward whose decision(s) on race placings and/or penalties shall be final in accordance with rule 1119 of rules of Harness Racing NZ.
6. The NZ championship will consist of 4 races – 2 in North Island and 2 in South Island at venues and on dates determined by NZADA annually.
7. Drivers' eligible to race in the final series will be decided by the criteria established by each regional association. There will be four representatives from the North Island and four from the South Island.
8. Each regional association is to ensure that once selected their representatives are available to attend all four races of the National Championship series. Should any selected representative declare themselves ineligible prior to the commencement of the series for whatever reason then it is the responsibility of the regional association to appoint a replacement.
9. In the event any selected driver once selected incurs a suspension prior to the series starting that driver may only drive in any remaining races in the national championship series once their penalty has been served or may withdraw from the series in which case 8 above shall apply.
10. These championship races are not exempt penalty and should a driver incur a suspension during the championship series, such suspension incurred will be served on any remaining championship races.
11. The competing drivers will pay all their own travel and accommodation expenses.
12. Each driver will pay the driving fee per race set down from time to time by NZADA.
13. It will be the responsibility of each hosting association to decide on race distances, formats, field selection, payment method for horses, trophies, sponsorship and horse barrier draw method for the races conducted in their region.
14. If at all possible emergency runner(s) to be provided for each race. This emergency runner(s) to be listed in the field in barrier draw order.
15. The ballot for the two races each day/night shall be conducted at times as determined by the race series committee at each venue.
16. In the event any driver(s) is unable to drive on the race day/night pre-ballot for horses because of injury, sickness or any other reason, the race series committee shall decide at their sole discretion to eliminate a horse from the field and the remaining drivers shall ballot for horses in accordance with 17 below.
17. The drivers are to be allocated to horses by a random ballot. This ballot is to be conducted by an independent party, either HRNZ stipendiary steward, honorary stipendiary steward, employee of HRNZ or the race series committee, a minimum of one hour prior to each race. Drivers are not allowed to swap horses or substitute drivers post ballot.
18. Where there is a full field of 8 horses the random driver draw for horses will be in accordance with 17 above.

19. Withdrawal before ballot. In the event that, for any reason, one or more horses are withdrawn from a race resulting in fewer horses than drivers in the ballot, drivers shall be excluded from the ballot as follows:
  - a. If the race is one of the first three races of the championship, by the drawing of lots between those drivers nominated by the race series committee that is responsible for organizing that race. Any driver so excluded shall receive the points equivalent to 4<sup>th</sup> place in that race.
  - b. If the race is the final race of the championship, by excluding the driver who has gained the least number of competition points from the first three races in the championship, provided that driver does not retain a mathematical chance of winning the championship. If that driver does retain a mathematical chance to win the championship a driver shall be excluded by the drawing of lots between all drivers.
  - c. Where, for the purposes of paragraph b, two or more drivers have equal least points, and neither driver retains a mathematical chance of winning the championship, a driver nominated by the race series committee responsible for organizing that final race shall be excluded ahead of a driver nominated by the other race series committee. Where two or more drivers on least competition points are nominated by the race series committee responsible for organizing that final race, by the drawing of lots between them.
20. Any local area driver(s) balloted out in the first race on any day/night shall be excluded from any ballot out in the second race on that day/night.
21. Any driver balloted out of a race shall receive the points equivalent to 4<sup>th</sup> place in that race.
22. In any race where there are 5 horses or less in the race pre-ballot the race shall be abandoned and deleted from the National Championships series and no points shall be earned by any driver.

The race may be run for the benefit of the owners and trainers who entered horses at the discretion of the race series committee and a ballot for horses conducted in accordance with 16 above.

23. In the event, for any reason, one or more horses are withdrawn post the driver ballot, there shall be no redraw and no drivers may swap horses or substitute drivers and the driver(s) of the horse(s) withdrawn shall receive the points equivalent to 4<sup>th</sup> place in that race.
24. In the event post ballot for horses any driver(s) is unable to drive the horse drawn in any race because of suspension, injury, sickness or any other reason that driver(s) horse(s) shall be withdrawn from the race and that driver(s) shall receive no points for that race.
25. Points will be allocated to drivers based on their finishing position using the scoring chart below. The highest points earner being crowned New Zealand Amateur Champion for the season.

Starters	8	7	6
1 <sup>st</sup>	11	10	9
2 <sup>nd</sup>	9	8	7
3 <sup>rd</sup>	7	6	5
4 <sup>th</sup>	5	4	3
5 <sup>th</sup>	4	3	2
6 <sup>th</sup>	3	2	1
7 <sup>th</sup>	2	1	
8 <sup>th</sup>	1		

26. At the conclusion of the championships, should there be a tie for any position, then a count-back based on the number of wins will decide the winner. If still a tie, then a count-back based on 2nds, then 3rds until a winner is determined will apply. In the event of there still being a tie the championship position will be drawn.
27. An appropriate trophy is to be provided by NZADA. This trophy will be presented to the winner of the National Championship series and is to be held for twelve months.