



Tasmanian
Government



Harness Handicapping Schedule & Procedures

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania | **Office of Racing Integrity**

Version 16 | Effective 1 October 2023
Amendments up to and including 1 October 2023

Harness Handicapping Schedule & Procedures

Version 16 | Effective 1 October 2023
Amendments up to and including 1 October 2023

Department of Natural Resources and Environment
Tasmania | **Office of Racing Integrity**
operations@racingintegrity.tas.gov.au

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Definitions | 3 |
| 1. Effect of Schedule and Procedures | 4 |
| 2. Controlling Body Discretion | 4 |
| 3. Tasracing Rules and Policies | 4 |
| 4. Nominations/Acceptances | 5 |
| 5. Preferences | 5 |
| 6. Extended Races | 5 |
| 7. Horse Qualification and Eligibility | 6 |
| 8. Field Selection Points | 7 |
| 9. Ballotted Horses | 7 |
| 10. Race Field Selection | 8 |
| 11. Field sizes | 10 |
| 12. Unfulfilled Engagements | 10 |
| 13. Concessions | 10 |
| 14. Claiming races | 12 |
| 15. General Conditions for Races Conducted as Heats and Final/Consolation | 13 |
| 16. General Conditions for Preludes | 14 |
| Procedures | 15 |
| Revision history | 17 |
| Appendix 1 | 18 |

Definitions

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Acceptances | Where a horse is nominated and accepted to race by a specified acceptance deadline. |
| Ballot | Where a horse that is nominated for a race at a particular meeting does not gain a start in that race. |
| Ballot Points | Points allocated to a horse considered to be a ballot (as above) as outlined in Clause 7. Allocation of points to a balloted horse is triggered by the acceptance of race results. |
| Claiming Race | A race in which horses participating are for sale at a stipulated price. |
| Clear Day | As per the Australian Harness Rules of Racing definition of 'One Clear Day': "the twenty-four (24) hour period from 12.01am to midnight." |
| Clearance – Imported Horses | A horse which is appropriately registered to race in Australia after being imported from another country. |
| Concession Driver | Refer to current Australian Handicapping Rules and Tasracing Driver Concession Policy. |
| Controlling Body | As per the Australian Harness Rules of Racing: "an organisation which by convention, recognition, or law is or is deemed to be in control of harness racing in a State or Territory of Australia" – which in Tasmania is taken to be the Director of Racing. |
| Dead Heat | Refer to current Australian Handicapping Rule 3.4. |
| Director of Racing | The person holding the authority as the Director of Racing granted under section 5 of the <i>Racing Regulation Act 2004</i> . |
| Discretionary Handicap | A race, which is selected, and handicaps assigned by the Handicapping Panel. |
| Field Selection Points | Points allocated to a horse with respect to its current form as detailed in Clause 6. |
| Guarding | The process to make every effort to separate harness horses trained, owned, or driven by the same person (in that order), where there is more than 1 division of an event. |
| Handicapper | A person or persons appointed by the Office of Racing Integrity to determine field selection and handicapping in harness races. |
| Handicapping Panel | A panel of ORI employees including the person responsible for selection of fields, Principal Stipendiary Steward, Stewards representative and Director of Racing. |
| Fillies/Mares Concession | Refer to current Australian Handicapping Rule 11. |
| Maiden Race | Refer to current Australian Handicapping Rules Definitions. |
| Manual Field Selection | A race where the best credentialed horses are selected by the Handicapping Panel. |
| OD | Outside Draw. ODS or RODS for standing start races. ODM or RODM for mobile start races. |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| ORI | The Office of Racing Integrity. |
| Racing In Advance of Rating | Refer to current Australian Handicapping Rule 8.2. |
| Scratching | Removal of a horse from a race field in which it has been accepted. |
| Unfulfilled Engagement | Where a horse has been selected in a race yet to be conducted including as an emergency. |
| Working Day | An ordinary weekday, not including a public holiday. |

1. Effect of Schedule and Procedures

- 1.1** This document, titled Harness Handicapping Schedule and Procedures (as amended) details the administration of functions assigned to the Director of Racing under section 6(2)(a) of the *Racing Regulation Act 2004*.

2. Controlling Body Discretion

- 2.1** The Director of Racing, as Controlling Body, has discretion to make decisions or take actions that ensure a fair and reasonable outcome that does not compromise the integrity of a race or races.
- 2.2** Circumstances that may require the exercise of discretion include (but are not limited to):
- 2.2.1 Where this schedule is silent on any matter arising in relation to handicapping and field selection; or
 - 2.2.2 Where there exists a conflict between the circumstances of the day and the provisions of this schedule; or
 - 2.2.3 Where the strict application of the schedule would unnecessarily create a perverse or unintended outcome.
- 2.3** In exercising such discretion, the Director of Racing may:
- 2.3.1 Take into consideration any system or human error when determining final selection for race fields; and
 - 2.3.2 Consult any relevant person or body in exercising that discretion.
- 2.4** The discretion described in this section cannot be delegated.

3. Tasracing Rules and Policies

- 3.1** The Director of Racing, as Controlling Body, will apply all Tasracing rules and/or policies relating to handicapping.¹

¹ Tasracing rules and/or policies can be located at <https://tasracingcorporate.com.au/news-events/industry-news/harness/rules-policy/>

4. Nominations/Acceptances

- 4.1 A horse must be nominated for a race by the advertised closing time via HarnessWeb.
- 4.2 All acceptances should be checked through HarnessWeb by using the 'my noms' icon and either printed out or saved to a folder on your computer.
- 4.3 Any horse that is owned or trained by a person/s listed on the 'unpaid forfeits list' at the time acceptances close will be made ineligible.
- 4.4 A trainer will not be permitted to accept a horse for a race, or any driver declared for any engagement, which is scheduled to be held in a following (new) racing season, unless the relevant person has been granted their renewed respective licence at the time of nomination or declaration. This can be confirmed on Harvey.
- 4.5 Trainers should always refer to the online race calendar. Updated programs are also available at www.harness.org.au and on HarnessWeb.
- 4.6 If a veterinary certificate is required for a horse prior to racing, it must be received prior to the relevant advertised acceptance time or the horse will be declared ineligible.
- 4.7 A nomination may be refused by ORI if incomplete and/or incorrect information is provided, or it is received after the advertised nomination closing time.
- 4.8 A nomination may be refused by ORI pursuant to Tasracing's Maximum Number of Starts policy if acceptance would be considered detrimental to the welfare of an affected horse.
- 4.9 **Supplementary Races**
 - 4.9.1 Where supplementary races are scheduled, nominations/acceptances will close at the standard closing time for the meeting where they are programmed.

5. Preferences

- 5.1 Trainers may accept for more than one race at a meeting. Preferences must be **clearly** advised on HarnessWeb by a brief (max 25 characters) message in "Nomination Comments".
- 5.2 While preferences will be considered, the Handicapper may place a horse at their discretion to maximise race numbers or field sizes.
- 5.3 If preferences are not advised by the closing time for acceptances, then the Handicapper will place the horse at their discretion.
- 5.4 A horse with a second preference may be moved to that race rather than left as the emergency in its first preference.
- 5.5 Preferences between different race meetings will not be considered.

6. Extended Races

- 6.1 When acceptances are extended for a particular race, the following order of selection will apply:
 - 6.1.1 Horses nominated by the original close of acceptances.
 - 6.1.2 Horses balloted from another race at the same meeting at the original close of acceptances then nominated for the extended race, including horses racing in advance of ratings in the extended race.
 - 6.1.3 Horses nominated in the extended period only.
- 6.2 Points used for field selection will be those as they exist at the original acceptance deadline for a meeting.

7. Horse Qualification and Eligibility

7.1 An un-raced horse must satisfy the stewards of its manners and competitiveness in one satisfactory qualifying trial to race at a registered meeting and to gain field selection points.

7.2 Ineligibility – BEFORE close of acceptances

7.2.1 The trainer of a horse that becomes ineligible as per race conditions before acceptance time (by winning or incurring penalties, or for any other reason) must clearly advise the Handicapper by close of acceptances and prior to the release of fields.

7.2.1.1 If notification is received before close of acceptances, the trainer may:

- Scratch the horse without penalty from the engagement for which it has become ineligible; or
- Move the horse to another race; or
- Apply to alter the nomination to retain its eligibility (such as applying to make use of a concession, where provided by the race conditions).

7.2.1.2 If no clear advice is communicated by the trainer, the horse will be placed, as an original acceptor, at the discretion of the Handicapper.

7.3 Ineligibility – AFTER close of acceptances

7.3.1 The trainer of a horse that becomes ineligible as per race conditions after acceptance time (for example by accruing prize money, wins, or rating points in another race; or for any other reason) must notify ORI prior to the scratching deadline of the engagement for which it has become ineligible.

7.3.1.1 If notification is received before the scratching deadline, the trainer may:

- scratch the horse without penalty from the engagement for which it has become ineligible; or
- apply to alter the nomination to retain its eligibility (such as applying to use a concession driver)

7.3.1.2 If no notification is received, or if it is received after the scratching deadline, then penalties may apply if so determined by the Stewards.

7.4 Where handicaps require adjustment, this determination will be made by the Chief Steward with respect to discretionary handicaps or in accordance with race conditions.

7.5 Pursuant to Tasracing's Maximum Number of Starts policy, a horse shall not be permitted to start in a race on more than five (5) occasions during any thirty (30) day period. The Controlling Body will have the final decision on any exceptions to this rule.

7.6 A two-year old shall not be permitted to start in two races that are fewer than two (2) clear days apart. The Controlling Body will have the final decision on any exceptions to this rule.

7.7 Horses that are ineligible for any reason at the close of acceptances will not be considered for selection.

7.8 Import Clearances

7.8.1 A horse requiring a clearance must be fully cleared to Tasmania by the close of business on the final working day prior to the day on which acceptances close for any race or trial for which they may wish to accept.

8. Field Selection Points

- 8.1** A horse's field selection points are calculated by considering the horse's last five performances and discarding the fewest points earning effort so that the total of the remaining four performances become the points score used.
- 8.2** When a horse qualifies to race it will be initially allocated a point score of 24 points (4 "gifted" starts x 6 points).
- 8.3** The point score of a newly qualified horse will then be calculated in the same manner as for a horse with a racing history; that is by considering the horses last five performances and discarding the least points earning effort so that the total of the remaining four performances become the points score used in the automatic field selection system.
- 8.4 Field Selection Points**

8.4.1 Horses that are "qualified to race" will be allocated field selection points in accordance with the following table:

| Placing in Race | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Races with Prizemoney of \$4,999 or less | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Races with Prizemoney of \$5,000 - \$14,999 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Races with Prizemoney of \$15,000 or more (Bonus 4 points) | 14 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 |

- 8.4.2 Horses will be eligible for interference compensation if, in the opinion of the Steward-In-Charge, significant interference has occurred. Points will be allocated accordingly.
- 8.4.3 Points used for field selection will be those as they exist at the original acceptance deadline for a meeting including any ballot points accrued.

9. Ballotted Horses

- 9.1** A horse will be awarded 6 field selection points if it is ballotted from a race.
- 9.2** These points earned if ballotted are treated as a point scoring performance and will replace such horse's current lowest scoring performance of their last five starts as per below example.

Example: Horse XYZ qualified and earns 24 points.

The table below shows the horse's points alter after each performance.

| Start | Placing | Points | Calculation | Score |
|-------------|---------|--------|-----------------------------|-------|
| Qual | | 24 | 6, 6, 6, 6 | 24 |
| 1 | 9th | 1 | 6, 6, 6, 6, 1 (1 discarded) | 24 |
| 2 | 4th | 6 | 6, 6, 6, 1, 6 (1 discarded) | 24 |
| 3 | 10th | 0 | 6, 6, 1, 6, 0 (0 discarded) | 19 |
| 4 | 8th | 2 | 6, 1, 6, 0, 2 (0 discarded) | 15 |
| 5 | Ballot | 6 | 1, 6, 0, 2, 6 (0 discarded) | 15 |
| 6 | Ballot | 6 | 6, 0, 2, 6, 6 (0 discarded) | 20 |

- 9.3** Balloted horses will not earn the points awardable under clause 9.1 under the following scenarios:
- 9.3.1 A manual field selection race including if named as an emergency but did not gain a start;
 - 9.3.2 When a horse has an unfulfilled engagement in the period three (3) days prior to or three (3) days after the race meeting being conducted;
 - 9.3.3 A race selected in ascending points score order;
 - 9.3.4 When a horse is a late nomination (ie - during “Extended Nomination” time);
 - 9.3.5 When a horse is deemed ineligible at acceptance time;
 - 9.3.6 When a horse is balloted from a race having already been balloted from another race on the same day;
 - 9.3.7 If a horse is declared an emergency but is scratched prior to final official scratching time for the meeting; or
- 9.4** If the race is declared void (no race) or is abandoned. Where applicable, the points awarded to a balloted horse will be credited to a horse’s field selection points total after the running of the race meeting from which the horse has been balloted and following the processing and acceptance of results by ORI.
- 9.5** Horses named as emergencies, which do not gain a start, are allocated 6 field selection points following the processing and acceptance of results by ORI.

10. Race Field Selection

- 10.1** The Handicapper will make the final decision regarding the makeup of fields.
- 10.2** If a race is extended, then industry notification will be by SMS message and on Harnessweb.
- 10.3** If a race condition is altered, then trainers of acceptors may withdraw without penalty
- 10.3.1 Clause 10.3 does not apply if a new race is to be created from balloted acceptors with stakes of \$4,999 or less.
 - 10.3.2 Eligible balloted horses, if agreed by the trainer, will be transferred to the new race identified in clause 10.3.1.
- 10.4 Selection of Starters for Regular Races**
- 10.4.1 After acceptances close, the horses for each race are sorted by field selection points.
 - 10.4.2 Should acceptances exceed the permissible number of starters, horses will be selected in points score order until a full field, including one emergency, is established.
 - 10.4.3 Should there be two or more horses on the same number of points, with only one to go into the race, a random ballot will be conducted.
 - 10.4.4 If advertised in race conditions, some field selections may vary from the above process.
- 10.5 Selection of Starters for Races \$15,000 or more**
- 10.5.1 Horses selected as an emergency in a race with stakes of \$15,000 or more may be selected as a starter in another race, if eligible, at the same meeting.
- 10.6 Manual Field Selection**
- 10.6.1 Races advertised as “manual field selection” will be selected by the Handicapping Panel.
 - 10.6.2 The Handicapping Panel will deem which horses are best credentialled by relying on criteria including:
 - form over last 10 starts;
 - beaten margins;

- mile rates;
 - class of opposition;
 - class of races;
 - positions in running;
 - barrier draws; and
 - interference received.
- 10.6.3 Manual field selection applies to all races with prize money of \$15,000 or more, and to heats of races where the final is \$15,000 or more, unless otherwise specified in the race conditions.
- 10.6.4 A horse that has not previously had a race start has no exposed form. Where selected under the Manual Field Selection Policy, horses that have had a race start will be included first.
- 10.6.5 Trial form will not be considered.
- 10.6.6 If balloting is required with multiple unraced horses, then a random ballot will be conducted to determine which of the unraced horses gain a start.

10.7 Discretionary Handicaps

- 10.7.1 All discretionary handicaps are selected using field selection points (unless otherwise stated in race conditions).
- 10.7.2 Handicaps for the event will be determined at the discretion of the ORI Handicapping Panel based on the manual field selection policy and previous standing start form in addition to the standard criteria.
- 10.7.3 A horse may be re-handicapped by the ORI Handicapping Panel after a subsequent winning performance if deemed necessary.

10.8 Last In Selection

A horse nominated into a race that is only eligible due to an “also eligible” race condition, has an unfulfilled engagement or is nominated in advance of rating, will be considered “last in”. The order of selection given to last in horses will be as follows:

- 10.8.1 Horses that fulfil an also eligible race condition.
- 10.8.2 Horses nominated in advance of rating.
- 10.8.3 Horses with an unfulfilled engagement as an emergency.
- 10.8.4 Horses with an unfulfilled engagement.
- 10.8.5 Horses with an unfulfilled engagement as an emergency and fulfil an “also eligible” race condition.
- 10.8.6 Horses with an unfulfilled engagement and fulfil an “also eligible” race condition.
- 10.8.7 Horses that are in advance of rating and also have an unfulfilled engagement.

Should two or more horses fulfil the same order of selection, selection will go to the horse with the highest points. If the points are the same, a random ballot will be conducted.

10.9 Racing in Advance of Rating

Where a horse is engaged to run in advance of its rating, then, for the purpose of the barrier draw, it will be deemed to have the assessment of the lowest rating for the front of the race – e.g. a 50 rated horse accepting for a 55 or better race will be drawn with the 55 rated horses.

10.10 Division of Races

Where Tasracing determines it appropriate to divide races, the following will apply:

- 10.10.1 If a race is divided and the same stakes apply to both races (which includes heats) the race will be randomly divided with guarding on trainer, then owner, and then driver where possible.

10.10.2 If a race is divided and there are lower stakes for the second division, then the division will be completed by points only with the horses with the highest field selection points allocated to the race with the highest stakes and the remaining horses selected on field selection points for the second division. The selected emergency in the race with the highest stakes will be first selected into the race with the lower stakes.

10.10.3 It should be noted that Guarding will occur when it is reasonable to do so. A failure to guard will not result in a redraw or any approval to withdraw horses.

10.11 In any race advertised as an open discretionary or open free for all, with prize money of less than \$15,000, horses will be selected on field selection points unless stated otherwise in the race conditions.

10.12 Redraws

If at any time after publication of a selected race field, it is found that a horse has been omitted in error from the field, the Controlling Body (ORI) will be solely responsible for determining if it is practicable to conduct a redraw to allow that horse to be included in the field.

11. Field sizes

| | | |
|---|----------------|---------------------------|
| Burnie Harness Racing Club | Mobile Start | 9 Starters & 1 Emergency |
| | Standing Start | 10 Starters & 1 Emergency |
| Carrick Park Pacing Club | Mobile Start | 10 Starters & 1 Emergency |
| | Standing Start | 12 Starters & 1 Emergency |
| King Island Pacing Club | Mobile Start | 9 Starters & 1 Emergency |
| | Standing Start | 10 Starters & 1 Emergency |
| Launceston Pacing Club | Mobile Start | 12 Starters & 1 Emergency |
| | Standing Start | 14 Starters & 1 Emergency |
| North Eastern Pacing Club (Scottsdale) | Mobile Start | N/A |
| | Standing Start | 10 Starters & 1 Emergency |
| St Mary's Pacing Club | Mobile Start | N/A |
| | Standing Start | 9 Starters & 1 Emergency |
| Tasmanian Trotting Club (Hobart) | Mobile Start | 12 Starters & 1 Emergency |
| | Standing Start | 14 Starters & 1 Emergency |

12 Unfulfilled Engagements

12.1 Any horse engaged in a race yet to be run shall not gain a start in a race at another meeting if, in doing so, it would deprive a start to a horse that does not have a pending engagement, except in heats, of a series with a final having stakemoney of \$15,000 or more, or if waived in the race conditions.

13. Concessions

Dual Concessions

A combination of filly/mare and driver's concession (dual concession) may be utilised to reduce a horse's National Rating (NR) by a maximum of 10 points. When utilising this dual concession, a horse's NR cannot be reduced below a NR of 50 points.

13.1 Fillies/mares

13.1.1 Unless the conditions of the race stipulate otherwise, a filly/mare is entitled to a concession of up to five (5) points to be deducted from its rating points in a race except for the following:

- 2YO and 3YO races;
- Maiden races;
- Races based on LTE of \$3000 or less;
- Discretionary handicaps;
- Free-for-All;
- Classics;
- Listed feature races with stakes of \$15,000 or more;
- Fillies/mares only race.

13.1.2 In a mobile race combining 15 or more rating points, unless the conditions of the race stipulate otherwise, a filly/mare is entitled to a concession of up to five (5) points to be deducted from its rating points for the purpose of a barrier draw only.

For example, a concession claim may be used on a 75-rating horse to draw with the 70's in a 70 – 84 rating race but an 85 rating horse could not use a concession to become eligible for the race.

13.1.3 A filly/mare shall be entitled to a barrier draw concession of \$1000 in claiming races.

For example, a \$5000 claimer will draw with \$4000 claimers but maintain a \$5000 claiming price. (May not be used with any other concession or for eligibility purposes.)

13.1.4 A filly/mare concession may be used in conjunction with a driver concession for rating races with a front of 50 or better, where programmed. The minimum rating utilising a dual claim cannot be less than NR50.

13.1.5 Where a dual concession is unable to be utilised and a filly/mare concession is available, it will be used prior to the utilisation of a driver concession.

13.1.6 A filly/mare will be granted a discount of points in its rating to a rating no lower than the front rating of the race.

13.2 Drivers

13.2.1 Concession drivers will receive discount points on a horses' rating as per the below table:

| Discount points | Minimum wins | Maximum wins |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 5 | 0 | 50 |
| 3 | 51 | 100 |

13.2.2 Unless the conditions of the race stipulate otherwise, a concession driver is entitled to a discount of rating points in a race as detailed in Clause 13.2.1 except for the following races:

- 2YO and 3YO races;
- Maiden races;
- Races based on LTE of \$3000 or less;
- Discretionary handicaps;
- Free-for-All;
- Classics;

- Listed feature races with stakes of \$15,000 or more; and
 - Concession driver only races
- 13.2.3 Unless the conditions of the race stipulate otherwise, then in a mobile race combining 15 or more rating points, a concession driver is entitled to a discount of rating points as detailed in Clause 13.2.1 for the purpose of a barrier draw only.
- 13.2.4 A concession driver will be granted:
- 13.2.4.1 A discount of points, as per Clause 13.2.1, in the rating of a horse to a rating no lower than the front rating of the race.
- 13.2.4.2 A barrier draw concession of \$1,000 in claiming races. *For example, a \$5,000 claimer will draw with \$4,000 claimers but maintain a \$5,000 claiming price. (May not be used with any other concession or for eligibility purposes.)*
- 13.2.4.3 A reduction of \$2,000 in the lifetime earnings of a horse in a race handicapped on Life-Time Earnings provided that at no time will the earnings of the horse be reduced to \$3,001 or less.
- 13.2.5 A driver concession may be used in conjunction with a filly/mare concession for rating races with a front of 50 or better, where programmed. The minimum rating utilising a dual claim cannot be less than NR50.
- 13.2.6 A driver concession will only be applied where the 'concession claim' box has been ticked and the 'concession claim level' has been indicated in HarnessWeb.
- 13.2.7 'Concession claim' can be ticked either with an eligible concession driver nominated or with no driver nominated.
- 13.2.8 Should 'concession claim' be ticked and a driver nominated who is ineligible to claim a concession, such driver will be removed prior to fields being released with the driver concession claim still applied. It is the trainer's responsibility to ensure an eligible driver is listed prior to the relevant deadline.
- 13.2.9 Should an eligible concession driver be nominated without 'concession claim' being ticked, a driver concession claim will not be applied.

13.3 3YO Concession

- 13.3.1 If stipulated in a race, a 3YO is entitled to a concession of up to eight (8) points to be deducted from its rating points no lower than the front rating of the race.
- 13.3.2 A 3YO concession cannot be used in conjunction with either a driver or mare concession.

13.4 2YO Concession

- 13.4.1 If stipulated in a race, a 2YO is entitled to a concession of up to ten (10) points to be deducted from its rating points no lower than the front rating of the race.
- 13.4.2 A 2YO concession cannot be used in conjunction with either a driver or mare concession.

14. Claiming races

- 14.1 To be eligible to enter a horse in a claiming race, trainers must ensure that a correctly completed 'Authority to Nominate and Transfer Horses in Claiming Races' form has been lodged with and accepted by ORI prior to the close of acceptances for the relevant race.
- 14.2 Once accepted, the claiming amount may be varied upwards in multiples of \$1,000 (including GST) from the minimum amount shown on the most current Authority to Nominate form lodged with ORI without the need to submit a new form.
- 14.3 If a claiming amount is not notified when ORI accepts the 'Authority to Nominate' form, the minimum amount stated on the current Authority to Nominate form will be used.
- 14.4 If a claiming price is not specified at close of acceptances, the nomination will be deemed ineligible, and the horse not considered for selection.

14.5 Claimer eligibility will be determined by aligning the claiming price with the following ratings points:

| Claiming Price | Rating Points Transition |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| \$1,000 | 50 |
| \$2,000 | 55 |
| \$3,000 | 60 |
| \$4,000 | 65 |
| \$5,000 | 70 |
| \$6,000 | 75 |
| \$7,000 | 80 |
| \$8,000 | 85 |
| \$9,000+ | 90 |

15. General Conditions for Races Conducted as Heats and a Final/Consolation

- 15.1 A race may be conducted as heats and a final and may have a non-compulsory consolation/s.
- 15.2 Heats and finals will be programmed to finish within 21 days of the first heat unless otherwise approved by ORI.
- 15.3 Heats for a final must be completed prior to the acceptance deadline for the meeting at which the final is to be conducted.
- 15.4 A horse that has qualified for a final will not be eligible to compete in heats of another series that conclude with a final at the same meeting as the final for which the horse has already qualified.
- 15.5 Driver and fillies/mare concessions apply in heats and a final/consolation, unless otherwise stated in the race conditions or it is a race in which concessions are not normally permitted. If a driver concession is used in a heat, it must be used in a final/consolation.
- 15.6 Horses competing in the heats are deemed to be acceptors in the final, should they qualify as a starter or emergency, and will be liable for any penalties if scratched.
- 15.7 If any qualified horse is scratched from a final prior to the close of acceptances, the next qualified horse from the heats in which the horse qualified will be the replacement and so on. It is the responsibility of the trainer to ascertain whether such a horse has qualified for the final.
- 15.8 A horse must be declared a starter in a heat to be eligible for the final. Where the race is abandoned or declared void (no race), then, to be eligible to accept for the final, the horse must have been entitled to contest the race at the time the race was abandoned or declared a no race.
- 15.9 The number of horses, selected in finishing order, to qualify from each Heat will depend upon the field limit for the final and how many heats are run.
- 15.9.1 If two or more horses have placed in the same finishing order and only one horse is to be selected as either a runner or an emergency, then the horse that placed in the fastest finishing heat (mile rate) will get selection preference.
- 15.10 Qualifiers for finals will retain their handicap in any other heat and/or the final/consolation and, unless the race conditions state otherwise, will not be penalised in any other heat or the final/consolation for wins outside a series between acceptance time for the heats and the running of the final/consolation.

- 15.11** A horse which is OD in a heat or prelude may be placed back in the draw for subsequent heats and/or the final if so, determined by the stewards.
- 15.12** Horses may contest more than one round of heats unless the race conditions otherwise provide. Order of preference in field selection in subsequent heats will be as follows:
- 15.12.1 Horses that have not contested a heat.
 - 15.12.2 Horses that have not qualified for the final.
 - 15.12.3 Horses that have qualified for the final.
- 15.13** If a horse that has already qualified for the final contests another heat, and again finishes in a qualifying position, then the next placed horse from the same heat will be declared the qualifier and so on.
- 15.14** Horses that qualify for a final will not be permitted to start in any other race on the day the final is scheduled, unless approved by ORI.
- 15.15** Should a horse qualify as an emergency for a final and be nominated for another race on the program, it may be drawn as a runner in the other field as per field selection for that race. If the horse gains a start in the final, then it must take the run and be scratched from the other race.
- 15.16** Fields for consolation races will be selected on finishing order in the heats.
- 15.17** The type of barrier draw applied in the heats will also apply to the final, unless otherwise approved by ORI.
- 15.18** Where a horse contests a heat and qualifies for the final, the driver for the final may be changed from the driver in the heat.
- 15.19** In the event of any heat being abandoned or declared void (no race), the horse/s to qualify from that heat will be selected by points with ties being separated by random draw.
- 15.20** In the event of any heat being deleted, the horse/s to qualify will be taken from the heats already run in equal numbers from each heat.
- 15.20.1 Where an odd number of horses are to be selected for the final, selection will be as per clause 15.9.
- 15.21** In the event of there only being sufficient acceptors to conduct one race when heats have been programmed, a prelude may be conducted.

16. General Conditions for Preludes

- 16.1** A prelude may be conducted in the following circumstances:
- 16.1.1 If heats have been programmed, but there are only sufficient acceptors for one race.
 - 16.1.2 As a lead in race to an open feature event, with stake money for the final of \$15,000 or more.
 - 16.1.3 A Tasbred series race as defined in and according to published conditions in the Tasracing Breeders Support Policy.
- 16.2** Where a prelude is conducted all horses must nominate for the final or feature event whether competing in the prelude or not. A horse which is OD in a heat or prelude may be placed back in the draw for subsequent heats and/or the final if so determined by the stewards.
- 16.3** The barrier draw for a prelude will be preferential, based on life-time wins, unless otherwise noted in the race conditions.
- 16.4** A horse taking part in a prelude will retain its handicap for the final except in open ratings races with a final stake of \$15,000 or more, where the open ratings races may be subject to a re-handicap.
- 16.5** Horses participating in a prelude shall have preference in field selection for the final.

Procedures

1. Driver Notification

- 1.1 If a driver is not engaged at the time of acceptances, a driver must be notified to ORI by the driver change closing time that is advertised in the online race calendar.
- 1.2 If nominated on more than one horse in a race a driver will be left on all horses in that race. Trainers must confirm the engagement with a driver and then advise ORI before the driver change closing time.
- 1.3 Once a driver concession has been requested, the engagement of an eligible concession driver for your horse is required. Please refer to clause 13 for further information regarding driver concessions.
- 1.4 A trainer is allowed to drive another horse in a race if a horse from his or her own stable is using a novice driver claim to become eligible for the race.

2. Colours Notification

- 2.1 If a trainer has multiple starters in one race, colour preferences for each horse must be advised by the driver change deadline or ORI will allocate colours from those available.

3. Gear Amendments

- 3.1 Where a horse is engaged to race and trainers intend to make gear amendments, they must advise ORI by 9.00 am on the final working day prior to the meeting.

4. Scratchings

- 4.1 Final scratchings close at 8.00am on the day of the race meeting, unless otherwise advertised. They will be available on HarnessWeb by 8.30am on that day.
- 4.2 All scratchings must be made by calling ORI on 6777 1900 either during business hours, or by calling the after-hours scratching line and trainers must clearly provide the following:
 - Club name;
 - Meeting date;
 - Race number;
 - Horse name & number;
 - Reason for scratching;
 - Licence number; and
 - Contact phone number.
- 4.3 A 10-day ban will be applied to a horse which is withdrawn after acceptances if AR31 is applicable.
- 4.4 A 28-day ban will be applied to a horse which is withdrawn after acceptances or after scratching time on race day unless a veterinary certificate is lodged (Rule 31), or other documentation which satisfies the stewards that the reason for the scratching is valid.
- 4.5 Horses scratched due to a transfer/sale will be stood down for 28 days. That period may be reduced to 10 days following lodgement of a Notification of Transfer of Ownership form.

5. Stable Returns

- 5.1 A stable return, with all sections including colours and gear correctly completed, must be lodged with ORI either in paper form or via HarnessWeb immediately when a horse comes under the control of a trainer with the intention of preparing the horse to participate in racing.
 - 5.2 Notice of any alteration to stable return details made after accepting for a race must be lodged with
-

ORI no later than close of business on the last working day prior to the race meeting.

- 5.3** Trainers wishing to race or trial a horse must have a stable return processed by close of business on the last working day prior to the close of acceptances for the race or trial.

6. Horses Leaving a Trainer's Care

Trainers are required to advise ORI immediately upon a horse leaving their care when engaged to race.

7. Trial Nominations: How to Nominate For Trials

- 7.1** Nominations must be lodged using HarnessWeb.
- 7.2** Telephone nominations will only be accepted if the horse is stood down from the weekend's meeting immediately prior to the trial date.
- 7.3** It is preferable that a driver be named on the nomination, but it is not essential.
- 7.4** A horse's Registration Assessment Certificate (not a copy) must be presented to stewards to qualify or undergo any required inspection.

To determine which trial-code you need, follow the step-by-step instructions below

| Step by step instructions to compile a trial-code | Example |
|--|------------------------------|
| Write down the three-letter club code | EHQ, CKQ, DVQ, BEQ, NNQ..... |
| Add the six-figure date of trial meeting (ddmmyy) | EHQddmmyy |
| Add the two-digit code from the list below | EHQddmmyy 01 |
| The result is a complete trial-code for the trial of your choice. (Note that this is an example only – please ensure that the code contains the date of trial meeting) | EHQddmmyy01 |

| Purpose | Mobile Start | Standing Start |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| To Trial | EHQddmmyy 01 Mob trial Hob | EHQddmmyy 03 SS trial Hob |
| To Qualify (including ODM/ODS and stewards trials) | EHQddmmyy 02 Mob Q trial Hob | EHQddmmyy 04 SS Q trial Hob |

Trial Nomination deadlines

- Saturday and Monday: trial nominations close on the previous Friday at 12:00 noon
- Wednesday: trial nominations close on the Monday prior at 12:00 noon
- These deadlines will be changed to the previous working day if a public holiday falls on the usual nomination day.
- Please note that late nominations will not be accepted, except where section 7.2 applies.

Revision history

| Date | Version | Changes |
|-------------------|---------|---|
| 4 January 2019 | 1 | Updated document – Formatting and other general information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deleted – Selection of Starters – Restricted Races Clause |
| 31 January 2019 | 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New definitions – Ballot and Discretionary Handicap New Clause 11.5 – Selection of Starters for Metropolitan Races – Renumber subsequent clauses |
| 17 April 2019 | 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New definitions – Ballot Points; Field Selection Points; Mares Concession and Out of Class Amend Clause 10.1 – Ballot Points Add new Clause 10.2 and renumber subsequent clauses Amend Clause 14.1 – Mares Concession to include Fillies & Mares Only races to the exception list. Amend Clause 16.3 – Out of Class racing Add new Clause 19.8 – Heats and Finals. Renumber subsequent clauses. Add new Clause 19.15 and renumber subsequent clauses. |
| 30 April 2019 | 4 | Add new Clause 11.9 – Division of Races |
| 1 July 2019 | 5 | Multiple changes to format, naming and all clauses with respect to the introduction of Ratings Based Handicapping (Appendix 1) |
| 15 July 2019 | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition – Unfulfilled Engagement Supplementary Race Nominations Horse Eligibility – Add new Clause 5.3; Renumber following including amend 5.4 Clause 8.7 - Last in Selection – Include detail re Unfulfilled engagement as an emergency |
| 7 August 2019 | 7 | Amend Clause – 11.5 – Driver Concession to be applied |
| 4 September 2019 | 8 | Add to Clause 8.9.2 – Selection of emergency in lower division race |
| 1 January 2020 | 9 | Add new Clause 11.2.2 – Concession Driver claims and renumber and update following clauses |
| 1 March 2020 | 10 | Amend Definitions – Ballot Points to Ballotted Horses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add Definitions – Handicapping Panel and Manual Field Selection Add new Clause 2.7 – Refusal of nomination – Maximum number of starts Add new Clause 5.4.3 – Ineligibility Matters – Maximum Number of Starts policy Amend Clause 7 title to Ballotted Horses and amend clauses 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 Amend Clause 7 – Ballotted Horses – Points increase from 4 to 6 Add Manual Field Selection process to Clause 8.6 Add new clause 8.7 – Discretionary Handicaps and renumber subsequent clauses. |
| 12 June 2020 | 11 | Add Clause 11.9 – Trotters in Pacing Races concessions |
| 24 September 2020 | 12 | Add Clause 13.9.1 – Selection preference – Heat to Final |
| 1 January 2021 | 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment to Clause 11.2 – Concession Drivers in line with change to conditions introduced by Tasracing. Following clause numbers amended. |
| 1 October 2021 | 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendments to Clauses 11.1.4 and 11.2.5 Introduction of Dual Concessions (Mares & Drivers) |
| 1 May 2023 | 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove Clause 11.3 Trotters in Pacing Races and replace with 3YO Concession |
| 1 October 2023 | 16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added Clause 1 – Effect of Schedule and Procedures Added Clause 2 – Controlling Body Discretion The above results in all Clauses being pushed down 2 i.e. clause 5 becomes clause 7 Added Clause 7.3 requiring a trainer to notify ORI if a horse becomes ineligible after acceptance Reduced minimum national rating to access fillies/mares and driver concessions from NR55 to 50 in clause 13.1.1.4 & 13.2.5 Added Clause 13.4 – 2YO Concession |

Appendix 1

Harness Handicapping Schedule – Ratings Based Handicapping

Please note that there have been changes made to the following areas in the ORI Harness Handicapping Schedule with respect to the introduction of Ratings Based Handicapping on 1 July 2019.

1. Definitions
5. Horse Eligibility
6. Field Selection Points
7. Ballot Points
8. Race Field Selection
 - Racing in Advance of Rating
 - Division of Races
10. Unfulfilled Engagements
11. Concessions
 - Fillies/Mares
 - Drivers
 - Out of Class Racing – Clauses moved to Field Selection and Ballot clauses and renamed “Racing in Advance of Rating”
 - Non-winners Races – Removed as defined in the Australian Handicapping Rules (Maiden Races)
12. Claiming Races
13. General Conditions Heats and Final/Consolation
 - 13.5 – Removal of the ability to use a driver concession in a Final even it wasn’t used in a Heat.
 - 13.8 – Eligibility from heat to final clause changed.
 - 13.15 – New clause
14. General Conditions for Preludes
 - 14.5 – Exception removed.

Information regarding the following matters has been moved to a Procedures Section:

- Colours Notification
- Driver Notification
- Gear Amendments
- Horses Leave a Trainers Care
- Scratchings
- Stable Returns
- Trial Nominations