



# HARNESS HANDICAPPING SCHEDULE & PROCEDURES

Effective: 1 July 2019  
Amendments up to and including 1 October 2021

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Office of Racing Integrity  
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## 1 DEFINITIONS

<b>Acceptances</b>	Where a horse is nominated and accepted to race by a specified acceptance deadline.
<b>Ballot</b>	Where a horse is nominated for a race at a particular meeting that does not gain a start in that race.
<b>Ballot Points</b>	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.
<b>Claiming Race</b>	A race in which horses participating are for sale at a stipulated price.
<b>Clearance – Imported Horses</b>	A horse which is appropriately registered to race in Australia after being imported from another country.
<b>Concession Driver</b>	Refer to current Australian Handicapping Rules and Tasracing Driver Concession Policy
<b>Dead Heat</b>	Refer to current Australian Handicapping Rule 3.4
<b>Discretionary Handicap</b>	A race which is selected and handicaps assigned by the Handicapping Panel.
<b>Field Selection Points</b>	Points allocated to a horse with respect to its current form as detailed in Clause 6.
<b>Handicapper</b>	A person or persons appointed by the Office of Racing Integrity to determine field selection and handicapping in harness races.
<b>Handicapping Panel</b>	A panel of ORI employees including the person responsible for selection of fields, Racing Integrity Manager, Stewards representative and Director of Racing.
<b>Fillies &amp; Mares Concession</b>	Refer to current Australian Handicapping Rule 11
<b>Maiden Race</b>	Refer to current Australian Handicapping Rules Definitions
<b>Manual Field Selection</b>	A race where the best credentialed horses are selected by the Handicapping Panel.
<b>OD</b>	Outside Draw. ODS or RODS for standing start races. ODM or RODM for mobile start races.
<b>ORI</b>	The Office of Racing Integrity.
<b>Racing In Advance of Rating</b>	Refer to current Australian Handicapping Rule 8.2
<b>Scratching</b>	Removal of a horse from a race field in which it has been accepted.
<b>Unfulfilled Engagement</b>	Where a horse has been selected in a race yet to be conducted including as an emergency.
<b>Working Day</b>	An ordinary weekday, not including a public holiday.

## 2 NOMINATIONS/ACCEPTANCES

2.1 A horse must be nominated for a race by the advertised closing time via HarnessWeb or on an ORI Fax Acceptance form in neat and legible print and lodged via one of the following ways:-

- Fax: 6777 5148
- Email: [operations@racingintegrity.tas.gov.au](mailto:operations@racingintegrity.tas.gov.au)
- In person: ORI Reception (Launceston) – Henty House, Level 2, Civic Square.

2.1.1 If accepting by fax trainers should ensure their fax machine displays the correct time, date and ID facsimile number.

- 2.1.2 If using HarnessWeb all acceptances should be checked by using the 'My Noms' icon and either printed out or saved to a folder on your computer.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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 renewed his/her respective licence at the time of nomination or declaration.
- 2.4 Trainers should always refer to the online Race Calendar. Updated programs are also available at [www.harness.org.au](http://www.harness.org.au) and on HarnessWeb.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 A nomination may be refused by ORI if incomplete, incorrect information is provided or it is received after the advertised nomination closing time.
- 2.7 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 such horse.
- 2.8 **Supplementary Races** – Where supplementary races are scheduled, nominations/acceptances will close at the standard closing time for the meeting where they are programmed.

### 3 PREFERENCES

- 3.1 Trainers may accept for more than one race at a meeting. Preferences must be clearly advised on the Fax Acceptance Form or on HarnessWeb by a brief (max 25 characters) message in "Nomination Comments".
- 3.2 While preferences will be considered the Handicapper may place a horse at their discretion to maximise race numbers or field sizes.
- 3.3 If preferences are not advised by the closing time for acceptances the Handicapper will place the horse at their discretion.
- 3.4 A horse with a preference (2<sup>nd</sup>) may be moved to that race rather than left as the emergency in its first preference.
- 3.5 Preferences between race meetings will not be considered.

### 4 EXTENDED RACES

- 4.1 When acceptances are extended for a particular race, the following order of selection will apply:
- 4.1.1 Horses nominated by the original close of acceptances.
  - 4.1.2 Horses balloted from another race at the same meeting at the original close of acceptances then nominated for the extended race.
  - 4.1.3 Horses nominated in the extended period only.
- 4.2 Points used for field selection will be those as at the original acceptance deadline for a meeting.

### 5 HORSE ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1 **Qualifying to Race** – An un-raced horse must satisfy the Stewards of its manners and competitiveness in two satisfactory Qualifying Trials in order to race at a registered meeting and to gain Field Selection Points.
- 5.2 Horses which are ineligible for any reason at the close of acceptances will not be considered for selection.
- 5.3 A horse that has its National Rating reclassified beyond the race criteria after acceptance time by accruing rating points in another race (winning performance or otherwise) shall remain eligible to contest such race for which it was eligible at the close of acceptances.
- 5.4 **Ineligibility Matters** –

5.4.1 If by winning or incurring penalties a horse becomes *ineligible* for a race in which it is an acceptor, prior to the release of fields, the trainer must clearly advise the Handicapper of any preferred options that may include scratching (without penalty), moving to another race or, provided the race is one in which a concession may be claimed, the engaging of a concession driver to keep the horse eligible, by close of acceptances or the horse will be placed, as an original acceptor, at the discretion of the Handicapper.

5.4.2 Where handicaps require adjustment, this determination will be made by the Chairman of Stewards with respect to discretionary handicaps or in accordance with race conditions.

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

5.5 **Import Clearances:** 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.

## 6 FIELD SELECTION POINTS

6.1 A horses’ field selection points are calculated 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.

6.2 When a horse qualifies to race it will be initially allocated a point score of 24 points (4 “gifted” starts x 6 points). 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.

6.3 **Field Selection Points** – Horses which 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 Prize money of \$5,000 - \$14,999	10	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Races with Prize money of \$15,000 or more (Bonus 4 points)	14	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4

6.4 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.

6.5 Points used for field selection will be those as at the original acceptance deadline for a meeting including any ballot points accrued.

## 7 BALLOTTED HORSES

7.1 A horse will be awarded 6 **field selection points** if it is balloted from a race. These points earned if balloted are treated as points 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 after each performance.*

Start	Placing	Points	Calculation	Score
Qual		24	6,6,6,6,	24
1	9 <sup>th</sup>	1	6,6,6,6,1 (1 discarded)	24
2	4 <sup>th</sup>	6	6,6,6,1,6 (1 discarded)	24
3	10 <sup>th</sup>	0	6,6,1,6,0 (0 discarded)	19
4	8 <sup>th</sup>	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

7.2 Horses will not earn points if balloted, as outlined in 7.1, under the following scenarios:

7.2.1 A manual field selection race including if named as an emergency but did not gain a start.

7.2.2 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.

7.2.3 A race selected in ascending points score order

7.2.4 When a horse is a late nomination (IE - during "Extended Nomination" time)

7.2.5 When a horse is deemed ineligible at acceptance time

7.2.6 When a horse is balloted from a race having already been balloted from another race on the same day

7.2.7 If a horse is declared an emergency but is scratched prior to final official scratching time for the meeting

7.2.8 If the race is declared void (no race) or is abandoned

7.3 If applicable these points 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.

7.4 Horses named as emergencies, which do not gain a start, are allocated 6 points following the processing and acceptance of results by ORI.

## 8 RACE FIELD SELECTION

8.1 The Handicapper will make the final decision regarding the makeup of fields.

8.2 If a race is extended industry notification will be by SMS Text message and on Harnessweb.

8.3 If a race condition is altered trainers of acceptors may withdraw without penalty subject to the following:

8.3.1 If a new race is to be created from balloted acceptors with stakes of \$4,999 or less, eligible balloted horses, if agreed by the trainer, will be transferred to this race.

8.4 **Selection of Starters for Regular Races** – After acceptances close, the horses for each race are sorted by field selection points (including ballot points). 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. 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. If advertised in race conditions, some field selections may vary from the above process.

8.5 **Selection of Starters for Races \$15,000 or more** – 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.

8.6 **Manual Field Selection** – Races advertised as "Manual Field Selection" will be selected by the Handicapping Panel. Horses deemed by the Handicapping Panel to be the best credentialled based 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 will be declared as starters in the field. Manual Field Selection applies to all races with prize money of \$15,000 or more and heats of races where the final is \$15,000 or more, unless otherwise specified in the race conditions. A horse that has not previously had a race start has no exposed form. Therefore horses that have had a race start will be included first under the Manual Field Selection Policy. Trial form will not be considered. If balloting is required with multiple unraced horses a random ballot will be conducted to determine which of the unraced horses gain a start.

**8.7 Discretionary Handicaps** – All discretionary handicaps are selected using Field Selection Points (unless otherwise stated in race conditions) with handicaps for the event 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. A horse may be re-handicapped by the ORI Handicapping Panel after a subsequent winning performance if deemed necessary.

**8.8 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:

8.8.1 Horses that fulfil an also eligible race condition

8.8.2 Horses nominated in advance of rating

8.8.3 Horses with an unfulfilled engagement as an emergency

8.8.4 Horses with an unfulfilled engagement

8.8.5 Horses with an unfulfilled engagement as an emergency and fulfil an *"also eligible"* race condition

8.8.6 Horses with an unfulfilled engagement and fulfil an *"also eligible"* race condition

8.8.7 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.

**8.9 Racing in Advance of Rating** – Where a horse is engaged to run in advance of its rating, 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.

**8.10 Division of Races** – Where Tasracing determine it appropriate to divide races, the following will apply:

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

8.10.2 If a race is divided and there are lower stakes for the second division, the division is 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.

8.10.3 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.

**8.11** 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.

**8.12 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.

## 9 FIELD SIZES

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

## 10 UNFULFILLED ENGAGEMENTS

10.1 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 deprives 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.

## 11 CONCESSIONS

### DUAL CONCESSIONS

A dual filly or mare and driver's 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 55 points.

#### 11.1 Fillies & Mares

11.1.1 Unless the conditions of the race stipulate otherwise, a Filly or mare is entitled to a concession of 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 and Mares only race.

11.1.2 In a mobile race combining 15 or more rating points, unless the conditions of the race stipulate otherwise, a Filly or Mare is entitled to a concession of 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.*

11.1.3 A filly or 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.)*

11.1.4 A Filly or Mare Concession may be used in conjunction with a Driver Concession for rating races with a front of 55 or better, where programmed. The minimum rating utilising a dual claim cannot be less than NR55.

11.1.5 Where a dual concession is unable to be utilised and a Filly or Mare Concession is available, it will be used prior to the utilisation of a Driver Concession.

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

## 11.2 Drivers

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

<b><u>Discount Points</u></b>	<b><u>Minimum Wins</u></b>	<b><u>Maximum Wins</u></b>
<b><u>5</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>50</u></b>
<b><u>3</u></b>	<b><u>51</u></b>	<b><u>100</u></b>

11.2.2 Unless the conditions of the race stipulate otherwise, a Concession Driver is entitled to a discount of rating points as details in Clause 11.2.1 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
- Concession Driver only races

11.2.3 In a mobile race combining 15 or more rating points, unless the conditions of the race stipulate otherwise, a concession driver is entitled to a discount of rating points as detailed in Clause 11.2.1 for the purpose of a barrier draw only.

11.2.4 A Concession Driver will be granted:

11.2.4.1 A discount of points, as per Clause 11.2.1, in the rating of a horse to a rating no lower than the front rating of the race.

11.2.4.2 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.)*

11.2.4.3 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.

- 11.2.5 A Driver Concession may be used in conjunction with a Filly or Mare Concession for rating races with a front of 55 or better, where programmed. The minimum rating utilising a dual claim cannot be less than NR55.
- 11.2.6 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 or on the Fax Nomination form.
- 11.2.7 'Concession Claim' can be ticked either with an eligible concession driver nominated or with no driver nominated.
- 11.2.8 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.
- 11.2.9 Should an eligible concession driver be nominated without 'Concession Claim' being ticked, a Driver Concession claim will not be applied.

### 11.3 Trotters in Pacing Races

- 11.3.1 Trotters with National Rating Points of 50 or less will be considered for both Race Field Selection and in the Barrier Draw at the same number of points (ie – a Trotter with a National Rating of 47 can nominate into any eligible pacing race and will be considered as a 47 National Ratings Point horse).
- 11.3.2 Trotters with National Rating Points of 51 or more will be considered for both Race Field Selection and in the Barrier Draw with a maximum of a 20 point reduction to a minimum of a NR 50 (ie – a trotter with a National Rating of 55 can nominate into any eligible pacing race and will be considered a 50 National Ratings Point horse, whereas a trotter with a National Rating of 75 can nominate into any eligible pacing race and be considered a 55 National Ratings Point horse).
- 11.3.3 Driver and Mare concessions **will not** be applicable to trotters entering in pacing races.

## 12 CLAIMING RACES

- 12.1 In order 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 race.
- 12.2 Once accepted the claiming amount may be varied upwards in multiples of \$1000 (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.*
- 12.3 If a claiming amount is not notified when accepting, the minimum amount stated on the current Authority to Nominate form will be used.
- 12.4 If a claiming price is not specified at close of acceptances, the nomination will be deemed ineligible and the horse not considered for selection.
- 12.5 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

### **13 GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR RACES CONDUCTED AS HEATS AND FINAL/CONSOLATION**

- 13.1 A race may be conducted as Heats and a Final and may have a non-compulsory Consolation/s.
- 13.2 Heats and finals will be programmed to finish within 21 days of the first heats unless otherwise approved by ORI.
- 13.3 Heats for a final must be completed prior to the acceptance deadline for the meeting at which the final is to be conducted.
- 13.4 A horse that has qualified for a final shall 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.
- 13.5 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.
- 13.6 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.
- 13.7 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 or not such a horse has qualified for the Final.
- 13.8 A horse must be declared a starter in a heat in order to be eligible for the final. Where the race is abandoned or declared void (no race) the horse, to be eligible to accept for the final, must have been entitled to contest the race at the time the race was abandoned or declared a no race.
- 13.9 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.
  - 13.9.1 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, the horse that placed in the fastest finishing heat (mile rate) will get selection preference.
- 13.10 Qualifiers for Finals will retain their handicap in any other Heat and/or the Final/Consolation and unless the race conditions state otherwise shall 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.
- 13.11 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.
- 13.12 Horses may contest more than one round of Heats unless otherwise stated in the race conditions.

Order of preference in field selection in subsequent heats will be as follows:

  - 13.12.1 Horses which have not contested a Heat.
  - 13.12.2 Horses which have not qualified for the Final.
  - 13.12.3 Horses which have qualified for the Final.
- 13.13 If a horse that has already qualified for the Final contests another Heat, and again finishes in a qualifying position, the next placed horse from the same heat will be declared the qualifier and so on.
- 13.14 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.
- 13.15 Should a horse qualify as an emergency for a final and is 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, it must take the run and be scratched from the other race.
- 13.16 Fields for Consolation races will be selected on finishing order in the Heats.
- 13.17 The type of barrier draw applied in the Heats will also apply to the Final, unless otherwise approved by ORI.
- 13.18 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.

13.19 In the event of any Heat being abandoned or declared void, the horse/s to qualify from that heat will be selected by points with ties being separated by random draw.

13.20 In the event of there only being sufficient acceptors to conduct one race when heats have been programmed, a Prelude may be conducted.

## **14 GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR PRELUDES**

14.1 A prelude may be conducted in the following circumstances:

14.1.1 If heats have been programmed, but there are only sufficient acceptors for one race.

14.1.2 As a lead in race to an Open feature event with stake money for the final of \$15,000 or more in order to exempt a predetermined number of finishers from ballot if subsequently nominated for the feature final.

14.1.3 A Tasbred series race according to published conditions in the Tasracing Breeders Support Policy.

14.2 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.

14.3 The barrier draw for a Prelude will be preferential based on ratings unless otherwise noted in the race conditions.

14.4 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 that may be subject to a re-handicap.

14.5 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 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 section 15 for further information regarding driver concessions.

1.4 A trainer is allowed to drive another horse in a race if a horse from his own stable is using a novice driver claim to become eligible for the race.

## **2 COLOURS NOTIFICATION**

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**

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 and will be available on HarnessWeb by 8.30am.

4.2 All scratchings must be made by calling ORI on 6777 1900 either during business hours or to 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
- 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 which 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 Any alteration to Stable Return details after accepting for a race must be lodged 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 to be lodged with ORI either by fax nomination on 6777 5148 or by 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 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 the trial-code you need, just follow the step-by-step instructions below

<b>Step by step instructions to compile a trial-code</b>	<b>Example</b>
Write down the three letter club code	EHQ, CKQ, DVQ, BEQ, NNQ.....
Add the six figure <b>date of trial meeting</b> (ddmmyy)	EHQddmmyy
Add the two digit code from the list below	EHQddmmyy <b>01</b>
The end result is a complete trial-code for the trial of your choice. (Example Only- Ensure date of trial meeting used)	<b>EHQddmmyy01</b>

<i>Purpose</i>	<b>Mobile Start</b>	<b>Standing Start</b>
<b>To Trial</b>	EHQddmmyy <b>01</b> <i>Mob trial Hob</i>	EHQddmmyy <b>03</b> <i>SS trial Hob</i>
<b>To Qualify</b> (including ODM/ODS and Stewards trials)	EHQddmmyy <b>02</b> <i>Mob Q trial Hob</i>	EHQddmmyy <b>04</b> <i>SS Q trial Hob</i>

**Trial Nomination deadlines**

- Saturday and Monday trial nominations close on the previous Friday 12:00 noon
- Wednesday trial nominations close on prior Monday 12:00 noon
- These may vary to previous working day if a public holiday falls on the usual nomination day.
- Please note late nominations will not be accepted.

## Revision History

Date	Version	Changes
4 January 2019	1	Updated document – Formatting and other general information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deleted – Selection of Starters – Restricted Races Clause</li> </ul>
31 January 2019	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New definitions – Ballot and Discretionary Handicap</li> <li>New Clause 11.5 – Selection of Starters for Metropolitan Races <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renumber subsequent clauses</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
17 April 2019	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New definitions – Ballot Points; Field Selection Points; Mares Concession and Out of Class</li> <li>Amend Clause 10.1 – Ballot Points</li> <li>Add new Clause 10.2 and renumber subsequent clauses</li> <li>Amend Clause 14.1 – Mares Concession to include Fillies &amp; Mares Only races to the exception list.</li> <li>Amend Clause 16.3 – Out of Class racing</li> <li>Add new Clause 19.8 – Heats and Finals. Renumber subsequent clauses.</li> <li>Add new Clause 19.15 and renumber subsequent clauses.</li> </ul>
30 April 2019	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add new Clause 11.9 – Division of Races</li> </ul>
1 July 2019	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple changes to format, naming and all clauses with respect to the introduction of Ratings Based Handicapping (Appendix 1)</li> </ul>
15 July 2019	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Definition – Unfulfilled Engagement</li> <li>Supplementary Race Nominations</li> <li>Horse Eligibility – Add new Clause 5.3; Renumber following including amend 5.4</li> <li>Clause 8.7 - Last in Selection – Include detail re Unfulfilled engagement as an emergency</li> </ul>
7 August 2019	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amend Clause – 11.5 – Driver Concession to be applied</li> </ul>
4 September 2019	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add to Clause 8.9.2 – Selection of emergency in lower division race</li> </ul>
1 January 2020	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add new Clause 11.2.2 – Concession Driver claims and renumber and update following clauses</li> </ul>
1 March 2020	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amend Definitions – Ballot Points to Ballotted Horses</li> <li>Add Definitions – Handicapping Panel and Manual Field Selection</li> <li>Add new Clause 2.7 – Refusal of nomination – Maximum number of starts</li> <li>Add new Clause 5.4.3 – Ineligibility Matters – Maximum Number of Starts policy</li> <li>Amend Clause 7 title to Ballotted Horses and amend clauses 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4</li> <li>Amend Clause 7 – Ballotted Horses – Points increas from 4 to 6</li> <li>Add Manual Field Selection process to Clause 8.6</li> <li>Add new clause 8.7 – Discretionary Handicaps and renumber subsequent clauses.</li> </ul>
12 June 2020	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add Clause 11.9 – Trotters in Pacing Races concessions</li> </ul>
24 September 2020	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add Clause 13.9.1 – Selection preference – Heat to Final</li> </ul>
1 January 2021	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amendment to Clause 11.2 – Concession Drivers in line with change to conditions introduced by Tasracing.</li> <li>Following clause numbers amended.</li> </ul>
1 October 2021	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction of Dual Concessions (Mares &amp; Drivers)</li> <li>Amendments to Clauses 11.1.4 and 11.2.5</li> </ul>

## **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