



Track Preparation Policy

NZTR RACE MEETING TRACK PREPARATION POLICY

This NZTR Track Preparation Policy sets out the obligations on racing clubs when preparing a racing surface for a race meeting.

NZTR recognises the preparation of the racing surface is not always capable of precise control, particularly having regard to weather conditions leading up to and on the race day itself, and taking into account the particular characteristics of the track (e.g. soil type, soil moisture, grass cover) and the quality of the irrigation system.

The purpose of this Policy is to set minimum expectations as to how a prudent racing club and track manager should manage those issues.

Application of this Policy

Racing clubs **must** adhere to this Track Preparation Policy. For each race meeting, the host racing club is responsible for adhering to this Policy.

Annual Track Renovation

An Annual Track Renovation **must** take place during the time frame agreed with NZTR and the RTA. The plan of works to take place during the renovation must be agreed with the Club's RTA, and submitted to NZTR.

Race Day Track Preparation Process – Mandatory Requirements

Clubs **should** aim to produce a track with a GOOD rating (i.e. a track with good grass coverage and cushion) for the majority of the race meeting. They should however, [do their best to] avoid a track with a GOOD 2 rating at any time during the race meeting).

Track Managers will not be criticised if they have prepared a track in line with this Policy, and, due to elements outside of their control (including the weather), the track is rated softer than GOOD at the time of the first race, especially in the warmer months.

It is also recognised that the preparation of turf racetracks with more give may lead to an increased level of wear and tear over the course of a racing season.

A Club **must** advise NZTR on Nomination Day on the Race Meeting Track Information Sheet details regarding rainfall and irrigation over the previous seven days, and any machinery used in the preceding 14 days.

A Club **must** submit fully completed Race Meeting Track Information Sheets to NZTR ahead of each meeting as per the times outlined at the bottom of that document.

A Club **must** ensure that the Racecourse Manager or their delegate has inspected the track in person both 48 hours and 24 hours before the start of the race meetings and again by 6.45am on race morning.

A Club is encouraged to arrange track gallops on the course 48 hours prior to the race meeting. A Club **must** arrange for a track gallop on the course on the morning of the race meeting to reconfirm the declared track rating, unless this is not practical