

**NEW ZEALAND
THOROUGHBRED RACING**



PUREI HŌIHO NĀTI O AOTEAROA

STARTERS MANUAL

**Manual for the Management of Starting Barriers and
the Responsibilities of Staff Employed at the Start at
NZ Thoroughbred Race & Trial Meetings**

(Version 4.0)

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A NZTR policy document containing directives issued under the NZ Rules of Racing
Rules 106 and 802(1)(a).

*This document has been compiled in consultation with the RIB, Starters and other Starting
Gate staff, Racing Clubs, the NZ Jockeys Association and the NZ Trainers Association.*

INTRODUCTION

Conduct Under Scrutiny

The loading process is one of the most publicly visible and scrutinised aspects of a race meeting. Even routine practices may be perceived differently by those unfamiliar with horses or racing. Every action should be appropriate, justifiable, and in line with community expectations.

If a situation arises where camera redirection is requested, this should prompt reflection on whether the method being used is likely to meet acceptable standards — both in terms of animal welfare and public perception.

Barrier staff should always ask:

- Would this handling stand up to public or regulatory review?
- Does this promote a safe, calm response or increase arousal?
- Does this reflect the industry's commitment to animal welfare and professional conduct?

Handling Horses at the Barriers: Welfare, Scrutiny and Responsibility

There is growing public and industry scrutiny of how horses are managed in high-pressure raceday environments — none more visible than the starting gates. While barrier staff are not responsible for a horse's foundational education or training, the way a horse is handled behind and within the gates can influence its immediate welfare, raceday performance, long-term behavioural responses — and the broader public perception and reputation of the sport.

These brief interactions can either help the horse remain calm and cooperative at the barriers, or contribute to fear, resistance, and long-term aversion to the starting gate environment. Importantly, they occur under constant public observation — whether by stewards, cameras, broadcasters, or online audiences. All handling must therefore reflect not just safety, but professionalism, compassion, and ethical standards that would withstand public and regulatory scrutiny.

Low-Arousal, Welfare-Focused Handling

Horses are flight animals with heightened sensitivity to touch, tone, movement, and environment. At the start, they are exposed to multiple stressors: confinement, noise, crowd activity, proximity to other horses, and the arousal associated with anticipation. When overwhelmed, they may exhibit refusal to load, rearing, kicking, or panic behaviours. These are not signs of disobedience, but rather may be expressions of anxiety, distress, or confusion. Barrier staff must handle horses in ways that reduce, rather than exacerbate, this arousal. Key principles include:

- **Minimise perceived threat and arousal**
Horses are highly reactive to sudden, fast, or physically imposing movements, which may be interpreted as threatening. Avoid rushing into their space and maintain calm, non-confrontational body language. Keep your voice calm and your movements controlled — not rushed or abrupt. Handling that causes distress, confusion, or is perceived as threatening can heighten arousal, increase risk, and reduce the horse's ability to respond calmly and predictably. Attempts to 'dominate' a horse through force, posture, or intimidation are outdated, often ineffective, and inconsistent with accepted welfare standards.
- **Avoid coercive or forceful handling**
Striking, deliberately startling, or aggressively driving a horse into the gates cannot be condoned. These actions compromise welfare, increase the risk of injury, and may have lasting negative effects on barrier-related behaviour. They can also impair performance and undermine public confidence in the racing industry.

- **Apply pressure fairly and release promptly**
Any pressure used to prompt movement must be minimal and removed immediately once the horse responds. Sustained or excessive pressure after compliance can increase stress, erode responsiveness, create confusion, and damage trust.
- **Respect the horse's cognitive limits**
Avoid attributing human motives (e.g. "he's being stubborn" or "he knows better"). Horses respond based on past experiences, current emotional state, and environmental cues — not from defiance or malice.
- **Promote positive barrier experiences**
While horses should arrive at the races adequately trained, conditioned and prepared, the behaviour of barrier staff still influences how they perceive and respond at the gates. Calm, consistent handling helps build confidence and reduces the risk of developing longer-term behavioural issues.
- **Know when to stop**
If a horse cannot be loaded despite reasonable effort, the situation should be reviewed with the starter and veterinarian. The stewards will make the final decision, taking into account welfare, safety, and potential impact on performance.

1 Restrictions on Betting, Ownership and Stable Runners.

	Applies to:
1.1 Betting Prohibited All staff employed at the starting gates/barriers must not bet on any races at or at any racemeeting in which they are officiating or working. The policy applies to those staff at the start: the Starter, Assistant Starter, Barrier Attendants, Veterinarian at the Start, Farrier and Clerk of Course. Rules of Racing prohibit a Starter, Veterinarian or other Official carrying out duties assisting one of these positions from betting in any race they are officiating in. <i>See Rules of Racing Appendices 9.2.</i>	Raceday
1.2 Ownership Prohibited All staff employed at the start must not officiate or work on those races in which horses that they have an ownership interest in are competing. This policy applies to the Starter, Assistant Starter, Barrier Attendants, Veterinarian at the Start, Farrier and Clerk of Course. These staff must inform the Starter at the start of the day if they have a horse starting and intend to carry out their normal duties for all other races. The Starter must inform the Stipendiary Stewards of these instances and detail what steps will be taken for the races concerned e.g. the Barrier Attendant will stand down from their duties for the specific race. Furthermore, the Rules of Racing prohibit a horse owned by a Starter or Veterinarian starting at a race meeting where they are employed in these roles. However, a Starter or Veterinarian may apply to the NZTR Board for permission to race horses and to fulfil their duties at the same meeting. In these circumstances, it is envisaged that permission will be granted to the Starter and Veterinarian on the condition that they stand down for the specific the race/s where their horses are starting. <i>See Rules of Racing Appendices 9.2.</i>	Raceday
1.3 Stable Runners Trainers working as Barrier Attendants must stand down from working in those races with a stable runner. Trainers working as a Clerk of Course may work in all races but must endeavor to avoid direct contact with their horses, except in circumstances where jockey or horse safety and welfare would otherwise be put at risk or with the approval of the Stipendiary Stewards. Where practical, Stablehands and Trackwork riders working as Barrier Attendants must not attend upon a stable runner or a horse they have had a direct association with, apart from in circumstances where jockey or horse safety and welfare would otherwise be put at risk or with the approval of the Stipendiary Stewards.	Raceday

2 Before Meeting

	Applies to:
2.1 Upon Arrival On Course The Starter must report to Stipendiary Stewards, and must obtain the following: - Official racebook - Starters Card - Starters Information Report - The official race time. The Starter's watch (and those of all other relevant staff) should be synchronised with the time shown on the TAB Website - A two-way radio or walkie talkie allowing direct contact with the Stipendiary Stewards and club staff. The Starter must ensure they have a cell-phone available as a back-up. - Brands and Marking Report, if the Starter or Assistant Starter carries out these duties.	Raceday
2.2 Report to the Stipendiary Stewards The Starter must report to the Stipendiary Stewards for any other updates prior to commencing their duties at the start. Stipendiary Stewards are to advise Starters of any other known issues affecting the starting operation – barrier positioning, exhibition gallops, track conditions etc.	Raceday and Trials
2.3 Liaise with staff The Starter must liaise with the Racecourse Manager, Veterinarian, Farrier, Clerk of Course and Ambulance prior to the first race or heat, review any relevant issues and ensure that each are aware of their responsibilities at the start.	Raceday and Trials

3 Barrier Attendants/Gate Staff

	Applies to:
3.1 Starter, Assistant Starter and Gate Staff The Starter must liaise with the Assistant Starter and Barrier Attendants to go over responsibilities prior to the running of the first race or heat. At the discretion of the Starter and/or the Stipendiary Stewards, the Assistant Starter may start at a race meeting, with the Starter taking the role of Assistant Starter for these races.	Raceday and Trials
3.2 Minimum Number of Attendants A minimum of eight Barrier Attendants must work every race meeting in New Zealand unless authorised by the Stipendiary Stewards. The club is responsible for ensuring that the minimum number of attendants are in employment at any given meeting. The Starter must advise the Stipendiary Stewards if the minimum required number of attendants are not available, including situations where attendants are required to stand down because of ownership interests or due to injury. There should be a ratio of one attendant for every two horses in the biggest field of the day. Note that no required minimum exists at trial meetings but an ideal number of four or more attendants are to operate in each heat.	Raceday
3.3 Safety Vest and Helmet All Barrier Attendants must wear an industry approved safety vest and helmet. The Starter must check all Barrier Attendants and ensure that relevant clothing, vests and helmets are being worn. The Starter must stand down any staff that do not meet these minimum standards and report any such issues to the Stipendiary Stewards.	Raceday and Trials
3.4 Staff Must be Approved All barrier attendants must comply with the NZTR Suitability Policy and NZTR or the RIB have the right to stand down any barrier attendant they do not deem suitable.	Raceday and Trials

4 Set up of Starting Gates/Barriers

	Applies to:
4.1 Starting Gate Operation The Starter must ensure that all facets of the starting gate operation are in place and in working order. All necessary and required equipment, including two false start/race recall sirens, must be available and in working order. The Starter must request advice from the Racecourse Manager or Starting Gates Manager that the Gates have been recently and regularly serviced and that the Gates are in full working order before the start of the meeting.	Raceday and Trials
4.2 Starting Gates Test The Starting Gates must be tested before the first race or heat, and retested every time they are moved. The Starter must advise the Stipendiary Stewards in the event of a malfunction or any other issue arising from a test of the gates. The Stipendiary Stewards may require the Starting Gates to be retested multiple times following any malfunction or other issue.	Raceday and Trials
4.3 Hazards The Starter must identify to the Stipendiary Stewards all hazards close to the operation of the Starting Gates and must arrange for the removal or minimisation of these hazards as applicable. The Starter must additionally ensure that no unauthorised persons are at the start or in a position that could be in breach of the Rules, the proper operation of the starting stalls or detrimental to safety.	Raceday and Trials
4.4 Positioning of Starting Gates The Starter is responsible for the correct positioning of the gates in consultation with the Racecourse Manager. The Starter must ensure that they receive advice on the relevant distance markers, the impact of rail movements and must utilise the Starters Report as their sole reference for the distance of the race. The Barriers must be positioned so that the inside horse is at least two horses from the inside fence and the outside horse is at least two horses from outside fence. The Starting Gates can be moved wider to improve angles or avoid track conditions as long as the Stipendiary Stewards are advised. The Starting Gates must be positioned to allow space for uncontrolled horses to get past the gates.	Raceday and Trials

4.5 Non-use of Starting Gates Refer to NZTR Flag Start (Open Barrier) Protocol. <i>See Rules of Racing Appendices 9.2 and Flag Start (Open Barrier) Protocol 9.3.</i>	Raceday and Trials
4.6 Barrier Extensions Barrier Extensions may be used, however prior permission must be obtained from Stipendiary Stewards which necessarily will include a gear change notification and it is the responsibility of the trainer to ensure prior to race day that the facility is available at the venue concerned.	Raceday and Trials
4.7 False Start/Race Recall Set-up A Clerk of Course (or other person specifically employed) with communication to the Starter must be positioned no less than 100m forward of the start. In addition, a false start flashing light/siren activated by remote control by the Starter is also to be positioned no less than 100m forward of the barriers. A second flashing light/siren is to be located towards the commencement of the home bend (near the 800m on the majority of tracks) to be activated by remote control held by the Chairman of the Stipendiary Stewards in the event of a fall occurring necessitating the mid-race abandonment of a race as per the attached In Race Abandonment Policy (Appendix 4).	Raceday
4.8 Ambulance The Starter must check for the presence of ambulance and races or heats may not start without an ambulance.	Raceday and Trials
4.9 Farrier A Farrier must be present behind the starting gates for all races and available to re-shoe horses as required and/or directed by the Starter or Veterinarian in consultation with the Stipendiary Stewards.	Raceday

5 Gear

	Applies to:
5.1 Starters Gear Bag The Starter must ensure that a Gear Bag is located at the start containing: towels, leads, long rope, blinkers, visor blinkers, ear covers, pacifiers, blindfold, tongue-tie, side winkers, bridle (ring-bit), barrier blanket, girth, surcingle, goggles and jockeys whip. In hot/humid weather the Starter should ensure a supply of chilled bottled water is available behind the barrier.	Raceday and Trials
5.2 Banned Gear The following gear must be prohibited from use on a horse at the start or by any of the staff employed in starting duties: Stockwhips, Twitches, or any electronic device.	Raceday and Trials
5.3 Buggy Whip A Buggy Whip may be used for the purpose of persuading horses into the barriers. The whip may not be raised and only used as a wrist action to encourage horses.	Raceday and Trials
5.4 Pre-Race Ear Covers Pre-Race Ear Covers are required to be red in colour and must be removed prior to entering the barriers.	Raceday and Trials

5.5 Blindfold Use of a blindfold at the start is permitted but subject to: - Being of a design approved by Stipendiary Stewards - Being listed as an approved gear change - Trainers are to ensure they bring their own blindfold for use on raceday - Blindfolds must be removed prior to the last horse entering the barriers - Starter to ensure that all blindfolds are removed prior to the final call.	Raceday and Trials
5.6 Barrier Blankets Use of barrier blankets at the start is permitted subject to: - Being of a design approved by Stipendiary Stewards - Being listed as an approved gear change. - Trainers are to ensure they bring their own barrier blanket for use on raceday. - If trainers have not supplied their own barrier blankets and where there are more horses requiring blankets than those available, the Stipendiary Stewards must determine which horses must have use of the barrier blanket/s.	Raceday and Trials
5.7 Gear Adjustments No alteration to the gear of a horse must take place at the start without approval of Stipendiary Stewards and supervision of Starter. The Starter must contact the Stipendiary Stewards and seek their approval for any gear changes.	Raceday

6 Loading Horses

	Applies to:
6.1 Riders Dismounting at the Start Riders may only dismount behind the barrier upon receiving permission from the Starter. Such permission may be granted in the circumstances of a gear adjustment or a rider's safety being compromised due to his/her mounts fractious behaviour. In all cases, a lead must be attached to the horse.	Raceday and Trials
6.2 Roll Call The Starter must conduct a roll call to establish all horses are behind the barrier. The Starter must not commence loading until all horses are behind barrier, except when cleared by the Stipendiary Stewards.	Raceday and Trials
6.3 Horses Loading Early Horses with Stipendiary Stewards' permission to load early must not do so earlier than four minutes before advertised start time.	Raceday
6.4 Calling in by Barrier Order The Starter must announce the barrier order to riders and attendants from the order on their Starter's Card and taking into account late scratchings. The Starter must perform the role of calling the horses to be loaded into the Starting Gates in tandem with the Assistant Starter. Horses should be loaded as per the following, as long as the Starter and Starting Gate staff determine that this is the most practical for the specific track and starting gate structure: - The field to be divided in half, with the Starter taking responsibility for the inside half of the field, the Assistant Starter the outside half of the field. - Loading to commence from the inside of each half, working outwards. For example in a field of 12 runners, the horses in barriers 1 and 7 would be the first to simultaneously load and those in barriers 6 and 12 would be the last to load.	Raceday and Trials
6.5 Loading by Barrier Attendants The Barrier Attendants must handle horses in preparation for loading, assist jockeys and other staff to re-saddle and change gear as required and lead horses into the starting gates, whilst being mindful of the safety of themselves, the rider and the horse.	Raceday and Trials

6.6 Horses Loading Early or Late. Horses must have approval from Stipendiary Stewards to either load early or late, based on evidence of previous loading difficulty. This permission will be recorded on the Starters Information Report. Normal practice for horses with permission to load late would be to load them “towards the rear” of the loading order, but in general not last. In consultation with the Stipendiary Stewards, these horses at subsequent meetings would be loaded slightly earlier each time until they were loading in their normal order. If no permission to load horses early or late is recorded on the Starters Card, the Starter must attempt to load the horse into the Starting Gates in the normal order as determined. After attempting to load a horse in the order as prescribed, the Starter may then make a determination on loading any unruly or fractious horses out of order, if the Starter believes this will assist in successfully loading the horse.	Raceday
6.7 Loading Techniques The practice of loading horses with the front gate open at meetings must not be permitted. The practice of reversing horses into the barriers at meetings must not be permitted.	Raceday and Trials
6.8 Barrier Position If a rider queries or objects to the position of a horse in a barrier, such objection must be referred immediately to the Stipendiary Stewards by the Starter.	Raceday and Trials
6.9 Delay to Start The Starter must report any possible delay in race start time immediately to the Stipendiary Stewards.	Raceday
6.10 Veterinary Examination It is mandatory to have a Veterinarian present behind the barriers for all races. All Veterinarians employed on race day should be mindful of the NZEVA document ‘A Code of Practice for the Official Veterinarian at Thoroughbred and Harness Race Meetings’. The Starter must alert the Stipendiary Stewards at the earliest opportunity should a veterinary examination of a horse be required at the start. The Stipendiary Stewards may talk directly to the Veterinarian to ascertain the need for a late scratching of a horse, or the recommendation will be made by the Starter to Stipendiary Stewards.	Raceday

6.11 Horses Scratched at the Barrier When a horse is to be withdrawn the Starter must await the order of the Stipendiary Stewards before dispatching the remaining runners. Before the order is given to start the race the following protocol must be adhered to. The withdrawn horse should have a lead rope attached by a barrier attendant and have the saddle removed. a) The Stipendiary Stewards may elect in the first instance to order the horse withdrawn, be returned to the mounting enclosure, with the assistance of the Clerk of the Course, if such action can be completed without causing an unnecessary delay and compromising the safety of horses and their riders that have already loaded into the barrier. b) If the Stipendiary Stewards elect not to return the withdrawn horse to the enclosure, then the withdrawn horse must have a lead placed on it and be handed to the possession of a barrier attendant. The attendant, whenever possible should ensure that the withdrawn horse is either led onto an alternate track or into a chute on the same track, if such action can be completed without causing an unnecessary delay and compromising the safety of horses and their riders that have already loaded into the barrier. The horse should remain rider-less, and the saddle to be removed as soon as practical. c) The Clerk of the Course should assist the barrier attendant in handling the horse whilst the race is being run and only once the race has been completed and the field is returning to the mounting enclosure should the withdrawn horse be handed to the Clerk of the Course, who may lead the horse back to the mounting enclosure. d) If a horse has been injured as a result of an incident in the barrier, it must not walk back to the stabling area unless the official veterinarian has given permission for it to do so. Except with the permission of the official veterinarian, injured horses must be transported by the Horse Ambulance.	Raceday and Trials
6.12 Starter's Position. Starters retain discretion as to where to position themselves; beside, in front of, or behind the barrier with an elevated view. The Starter must be on their stand prior to the last horse loading.	Raceday and Trials
6.13 Starter to Check. The Starter must ensure prior to starting the race or heat that all lead ropes are off, all riders are on horses, all personnel are clear of the front of the starting stalls and that no action is taken that could place any person in any danger along with receiving an "all clear" signal from the Assistant Starter. The Starter must pay particular attention to the safety and welfare of riders, their mounts and racing officials in ensuring safe, efficient and fair starts.	Raceday and Trials

6.14 Barrier Attendants Prior to the Jump The Barrier Attendants must advise the Starter and Assistant Starter: - If any jockeys are not securely on their mounts immediately prior to the start. - If any horse is fractious or not in a position to get a fair start and then to subsequently advise once this horse has settled and is ready to start. - That they are clear of the front of starting stalls.	Raceday and Trials
6.15 Assistant Starter Prior to the Jump The Assistant Starter must signal to the Starter an “all clear” that the final runner has been loaded, all gates are closed, all personnel are clear of the front of the starting stalls and a start may be affected.	Raceday and Trials
6.16 Race Start Time The Starter must ensure as much as is practicable that races start on or within one minute after the official start time of the race. No race must be started earlier than official start time, except in extraordinary circumstances and with the express permission of the Stipendiary Stewards.	Raceday
6.17 Start of the Race The Starter must undertake the start of the race or heat so that, as much as practicable, all horses receive an opportunity for a fair start and risk to jockeys, their mounts and racing officials is minimised. The Starter should use the following verbal sequence prior to effecting a start: - i. <i>“ALL GEAR OFF”</i> Prior to the last horse loading (Barrier attendants are to ensure blindfolds are removed, barrier blankets have been secured, lead ropes and towels removed from barrier) ii. <i>“LAST ONE COMING UP”</i> iii. When the last horse has loaded and the starter has been given the all clear from his assistant he may commence with the final call. iv. <i>“WATCH YOUR GATES”</i> at which time the starting mechanism is to be deployed and assisting barrier attendants are to release the reins and/or bridles.	Raceday and Trials

6.18 Barrier Attendants

Whilst the primary role of a Barrier Attendant is to load horses into the barrier, they will also be called on to assist in pacifying a fractious horse and aiding the safety of a rider in the barrier stalls.

When 'staying up' with a horse already loaded into the barriers, barrier attendants are directed they must remain alert and that as soon as the starter makes his final call, they must immediately release their hold on the horse irrespective of whether or not it is still fractious. This avoids confusion as to whether a horse was denied a fair start on grounds of a barrier attendant still having a hold of the horse's head when the start was effected.

Under no circumstances may a barrier attendant hit a horse leaving the barriers with his hand or other object. If a horse refuses or is reluctant to jump it may not be assisted in any way by a barrier attendant until it is retired from the event.

Raceday
and
Trials

7 After the Start of a Race or Heat

	Applies to:
7.1 False Start The Starter may consider signaling a false start where in their opinion runners were not afforded a fair start. These circumstances may include mechanical failure of the barrier stalls such as gates opening prematurely, slowly or not at all. However, should one or two stalls not open, the Starter has the option of allowing the race to proceed with a view of Stewards subsequently declaring that horse or horses a non-runner rather than attempting the difficult task, particularly with inexperienced horses or in sprint races, to recall the whole field. If a horse breaks through the front of the barrier a recall is necessary however the decision to signal a false start must ultimately be at the discretion of the Starter who must report such matter to the Stipendiary Stewards immediately.	Raceday
7.2 Removal of Starting Gates When the barriers are in a position so as to impede horses during or immediately after the race or heat that has just started, they must be removed from this position as soon as is possible. The Barrier Attendants must assist in packing up and moving the Starting Gates. The Starter must ensure that the tractor or other appropriate vehicle is running and connected to the barriers and no obstacles prevent them from being removed. When the barriers are moved off the Course Proper, the Starter and staff must ensure that the running rail is repositioned. The Starter must inform Stipendiary Stewards and Clerk of the Course immediately if difficulty is encountered in removing barrier stalls.	Raceday and Trials
7.3 Injured or Fallen Horses The Barrier Attendants must help the Veterinarian or other staff in attending to injured or fallen horses during a race or heat, including restraining or calming the horse, erecting a screen and otherwise assisting the Veterinarian, Stipendiary Stewards, Starter and other staff with any practical help.	Raceday and Trials
7.4 Amendments/Additions to Starter's Information Report The Starter must record notes on any issues/amendments to comments or loading procedures alongside each horse on the Starters' Card as appropriate which must be submitted to the Stipendiary Stewards. For trial heats, the Starter is to provide any comments to the Stipendiary Stewards during or at the conclusion of the trial meeting.	Raceday and Trials

7.5 Judicial Inquiry

All staff connected with the start may be required to attend any investigation by Stipendiary Stewards or Judicial Inquiry in connection with any matter connected with Racing. A Starter may be called upon to give evidence at a subsequent inquiry where a horse has been unruly or is late scratched. The Starter and relevant Barrier Attendants may be required where the connections of the horse apply to have a horse declared a non-runner.

Raceday

8 Other Requirements of Starting Staff

	Applies to:
8.1 Professional Conduct All staff involved in the start must present and conduct themselves at all times to the standard and integrity required. Staff must be dressed in tidy work clothes, any uniforms provided to them and all safety equipment required to be worn. Staff must remain aware that their actions may be covered on television, will be seen by the on-course audience and the need, consequently, for professional conduct.	Raceday and Trials
8.2 Compliance with Law, Rules and Policies All staff at the start must ensure their duties are carried out in accordance with any relevant statutory law of New Zealand, the NZ Rules of Racing, Health and Safety Policies, their individual employment contracts and all other official instructions and directives. All staff must remain free from the influence of drugs and alcohol whilst undertaking their duties.	Raceday and Trials
8.3 Report to Stipendiary Stewards Prior to leaving the course at conclusion of the meeting, the Starter must report to the Stipendiary Stewards for clearance to leave and advise them of any matter connected with the start and the duties of the Starter that requires reporting.	Raceday and Trials
8.4 Brands and Marking inspection The Starter, Assistant Starter, Stipendiary Stewards or other club official may be employed to verify the identity of all horses engaged in a race or trial meeting using the Brands and Markings Report. Under no circumstances are officials to rely on identifying runners in their tie-up stalls or any other location prior to the event. If there is any difficulty in reading a brand the horses identity must be positively verified by microchip.	Raceday and Trials

9 Appendices

9.1 APPENDIX 1: Starters Card

9.1.1 Current Starter's Card (Sample)

starter's card

Meeting – WAIKATO RC 4 JUL Day – 04 Jul 2020

Race: 1 Time: 10:30 AM, WAIKATO EQUINE VETERINARY CENTRE 2YO, \$15000.00 2YO
SW+P 1000 metres

start position	jockey	tote number	horse
1	S M McKay	7	TUMBARUMBA
2	S C Spratt	1	FLASH WARRIOR
3	C J Grylls	12	LADY WOBURN (AUS)
4	A C Goindasamy (A)	8	DE LA TERRE
5	A J Calder	3	JOHNNY CANUCK (AUS)
6	C E Lammas	15	SWANSEA BAY
7	T Yanagida (A)	4	ZOLTAN
8	S T Collett	9	EVA JAMES
9	B D Rogerson (A)	5	BURCHA
10	M Cameron	2	CHILLAX
11	S R Weatherley (A)	10	QUEEN OF THE PROM
12	L H Satherley	13	PRINCESS ALICE
13	D S Johnson	11	CHARMAINE'S DREAM
Ear Covers Pre-Race			
14	J J Fawcett (A)	14	SHEZA JAKKAL

9.2 APPENDIX 2: Relevant Rules of Racing

OFFICIALS

Official means a person appointed or employed by NZTR or a Club to carry out official duties in accordance with these Rules either at a Race Meeting or in any matter which relates to Races or racing.

REGULATIONS AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

106 NZTR may make or issue the following under these Rules:

- (a) regulations;
- (b) directives;
- (c) policies;
- (d) guidelines;
- (e) practices,

all of which must be followed by those bound by the Rules and form part of these rules.

ELIGIBILITY OF HORSES FOR RACES

- 525 (3) A horse owned by a person who at or in connection with a Race Meeting is appointed or acts as Handicapper, Clerk of the Scales, Starter, Judge or Veterinarian must not be eligible to be entered for or to start in a Race at that Race Meeting and a horse which is entered for or starts in a Race at the Race Meeting must be, in addition to any other penalty which may be imposed, disqualified for that Race provided however, that nothing herein must apply in respect of the entry for a Race of a yearling bred by such person.
- (4) (a) Any person who is affected by the provisions of paragraph (c) of sub-Rule (2) or by the provisions of sub-Rule (3) of this Rule may apply to NZTR for a permit to race a horse or horses notwithstanding such provisions and NZTR may, if satisfied that the circumstances so warrant, grant a permit accordingly.
- (b) Any such permit must be in writing and be expressed to be effective only during the pleasure of NZTR and may be cancelled at any time by NZTR.
- (c) For as long as the permit is effective, the horse or horses of the person to whom it was granted must not be subject to disqualification on the grounds set out in paragraph (c) of sub-Rule (2) and in sub-Rule (3) of this Rule nor prohibited from being trained on a Racecourse or Training Facility.

STARTING BARRIERS

- 627 (1) Subject to sub-Rule (2), the order of stall positions at the starting post from which horses must start must be determined by NZTR either conducting a draw for such stall positions or using a random number selection facility.
- (2) Where the order of stall positions is to be determined by a manual draw for promotional purposes, the draw must be conducted by a Stipendiary Steward.
- 628 (1) At a Race Meeting all Races must, unless a Stipendiary Steward otherwise determines, be started with starting stalls approved by the Stipendiary Stewards.

- (2) A blindfold, rope or other means of persuading a horse to enter the starting stalls, may be used at the start with the prior permission of a Stipendiary Steward.

AT THE START

- 629 All Races must be started by the Starter and, if applicable, Starter's assistant, or a person approved by the Stipendiary Stewards to carry out the role of Starter or Starter's assistant.
- 630 Only the Starter and his assistants, a Veterinarian, a farrier and the Riders in the Race, are permitted to be at the start of a Race, unless a Stipendiary Steward provides otherwise.
- 631 (1) A Rider and his horse must, immediately on arriving at the starting post, be under the Starter's orders and a horse and/or its Rider must thereafter not leave such starting post without the consent of the Starter.
- (2) Each horse must, as far as is practicable, be started from the starting stalls corresponding to such stall position determined by NZTR in accordance with Rule 627.
- (3) Subject to sub-Rule (4), a Stipendiary Steward in consultation with the Starter may refuse to allow to start in the Race a horse which:
- (a) refuses to enter its starting stall or is excessively unruly or fractious; or
 - (b) is considered by the Stipendiary Steward to be causing undue delay or to be injured or otherwise disabled,
- in which case such horse must be declared by such Stipendiary Steward to have been scratched from the Race.
- (4) If the Race is a Jumping Race then, a Stipendiary Steward in consultation with the Starter may in any case of emergency or with the prior permission of the Judicial Committee start a Race without using the approved starting stalls in which case the horses must be drawn up in their proper order of stall positions and as nearly as possible in a straight line and the Race must commence from a standing start, if possible, although this is not obligatory. If in so doing the Race is run over a shorter distance it must not be void. An objection or protest must not be taken or made, and an information must not be filed or received, under these Rules on the ground that the horses were not started in accordance this Rule.
- (5) The Starter's decision as to whether or not a proper start has been effected and to any other matter in connection with the start must be final and must not be subject to appeal, including where the Starter has by his actions declared a Race to be a false start.
- (6) Except as provided in Rules 628(1) and 631(4), where:
- (a) the horses are started in front of the starting post;
 - (b) the Race is run over the wrong distance, on a wrong course or before the appointed time; or
 - (c) any horse or horses is prevented by mechanical failure of the starting stalls from participating in the Race,
- the Judicial Committee must have an absolute discretion to determine whether the Race must be deemed to have been run or to be void, provided, however, that in exercising such discretion the Judicial Committee must have regard to:
- (d) the degree of variation from the advertised length of the Race; and
 - (e) the interests of the public who have invested on that Race.

In any case where the Race has been declared void the horses may be started again as soon as practicable. The decision of the Judicial Committee on any such matter must be final and must not be subject to appeal.

- (7) In the case of a horse which has behaved in an unruly or fractious manner prior to the start of or during a Race the Stipendiary Stewards may ban such horse from being entered for or started in a Race until the horse or its Trainer has complied with such conditions as the Stipendiary Stewards specify.
 - (8) If any horse starts from an incorrect stall position, the Judicial Committee must have the discretion to confirm the Official Result of Placings, declare the race to be void or declare any horse in the Race to be a non-starter. [Added 1 May 2015]
- 632 (1) If, in the opinion of the Judicial Committee, a horse which does not finish in the first three placings was prevented from taking an effective part in a Race owing to the mechanical failure of starting stalls, or is denied a fair start and such occurrence materially prejudiced the chances of that horse (but not where the horse is slow away by its own accord), the Judicial Committee may declare such horse to be a non-starter.
- (2) If, in the opinion of the Judicial Committee, any horse gained an unfair advantage by its barrier stall malfunctioning and opening, or being forced, by such horse, open prior to the starter effecting a start, such horse may be declared a non-starter. [Added 15 April 2016]

BETTING BY OFFICIALS

- 706 An Official must not bet on a Race at any Race Meeting where he is officiating in, or assisting, one of the following positions:

- (a) Stipendiary Steward;
- (b) Investigator;
- (c) Judge;
- (d) Starter;
- (e) Clerk of the Scales;
- (f) Veterinarian;
- (g) swabbing official; or
- (h) handicapper

A breach of this Rule may be deemed by a Judicial Committee to constitute a Serious Racing Offence.

BREACHES OF THE RULES

- 802 (1) A person commits a breach of these Rules who:
- (a) acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any provision of these Rules or any Regulations made thereunder, or any policy, notice, direction, instruction, restriction, requirement or condition given, made or imposed under these Rules;

9.3 APPENDIX 3: NZTR In-Race Abandonment Protocols

This policy applies to all race tracks holding Thoroughbred race meetings. The in race abandonment policy will apply when there is a fall prior to or immediately past the winning post where the race has another circuit of the track to complete and the rider or horse involved in the fall cannot be safely removed from the track.

The protocols are designed to provide a number of layers of communication with available staff and contractors who can act to warn the field that the race has been abandoned. This should ensure that regardless of the circumstances the protocols will ensure, as far as is practical, that the race can be safely abandoned.

Communication

The Steward in charge of the meeting would have radio communication with the Steward on the site, the paramedic, the starter, the Doctor (if the club has one), the Veterinarian on duty and the Clerk of the Course.

In addition there are two false start/race abandonment flashing lights/siren devices located on the track, one being 100-200 meters after the start, the other towards the commencement of the home turn (800 meter mark approx. at most venues).

Protocols for In Race Abandonment

The following are the protocols the Stewards will use to firstly decide whether a race should be abandoned and then execute the abandonment.

1. When a fall occurs the St Johns paramedic along with the Veterinarian and Steward following the field will stop and attend the scene. It is paramount that the most experienced St Johns person available is the one who is in immediate attendance.
2. Prompt communication via two-way radio or mobile telephone will be made with the Steward in charge of the meeting to advise whether there is any issue clearing the track.
3. If the advice is that either a fallen horse and/or rider cannot be safely moved out of harm's way the Steward in charge will enact the procedure to abandon the race.
4. The race abandonment light/siren near the 800 meters will then be activated to indicate to riders that the race has been abandoned. Additionally, through two-way radio communication the Clerks of the Course will be deployed to assist in signaling to riders. Usually in distance races the starting gate crew are also in a position to assist in this process if required.