



# NZTR DIRECTIVE

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## 2YO Horses Trialling Around Markers

Effective 27 March 2026

Dear New Zealand Racing Clubs, Trainers and Jockeys,

In conjunction with the New Zealand Jockeys' Association (NZJA), a decision has been made by NZTR, with immediate effect, that all two-year-olds running at an official barrier trial throughout New Zealand can only trial against the running rail and can no longer trial around cones/markers positioned away from the rail.

Whilst this may present some challenges for operational aspects on trial days, during the lead-up to those, and for trial programming, NZTR will work closely with Clubs and Recognised Industry Organisations to help support efforts to accommodate this requirement.

NZTR General Manager - Racing, Mitch Lamb, stated, "It is paramount that we listen to feedback when creating guidelines for how we execute our everyday functions on the track, including barrier trials."

"Whilst there are inherent risks anytime a Jockey rides a racehorse, when possible, it's incumbent on the governing body to minimise that in a workable solution.

"We recognise the need for younger horses to gain educational experience by trialling against a running rail as they do under raceday conditions".

Andrew Lacy, NZJA Executive Officer, said, "The NZJA appreciate NZTR's collaboration on this topic and supports any action being taken to help educate young horses".

Regards,

Mitch Lamb  
GM - Racing  
New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing  
E: Mitch.Lamb@nztr.co.nz