NZTR DIRECTIVE FOR STRANGLES DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Effective Date: 30 October 2026

This Directive relates to all Thoroughbred breeding, training, trialling and racing activities. This Directive replaces all directives relating to Strangles Disease Management issued by NZTR previously. **This Directive replaces prior versions of the Directive initially released on 8 July 2026.**

Purpose

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) has issued this Directive to reduce the risk of Strangles spreading within the Thoroughbred racing industry.

Enforceability

This Directive is binding on all Trainers, Breeders, licensed persons, owners, and all other persons (including agistment operators, pre-trainers and other service providers) to whom the equine welfare provisions of the Rules of Racing apply. The possible consequences of a failure to adhere to this Directive are detailed in Section 3 of this Directive.

1. Definitions

1.1 For the purpose of this Directive:

Horse means any horse including a horse used as a travelling companion horse or a Clerk of Course horse.

Meeting means a Race or Trial meeting and includes Jump Outs that are timed over set distances.

Strangles means the equine disease caused by *Streptococcus equi* subsp. *equi*.

1.2 Any other term used in this Directive shall have the meaning given to it in the Rules of Racing unless the context requires otherwise.

2. Obligations

2.1 *Disease control when Strangles is confirmed*

Notification of Strangles cases must be made by email to the RIB Veterinary Services Manager via: vet@rib.org.nz. If Strangles is confirmed by veterinary diagnosis or laboratory testing in any horse in the care of a Trainer, Breeder, Licensed Person, pre-trainer, agistment operator or other service provider or any other person to whom the

Rules apply, the person must advise the RIB Veterinary Services Manager (email: vet@rib.org.nz) immediately upon confirmed diagnosis.

All further training and stable movements must be halted immediately and the stable premise placed in biosecurity restrictions whilst further testing is conducted and the attending veterinarian and the RIB Veterinary Services Manager (or their delegate) jointly assess and confirm biosecurity measures that are necessary to minimise the risk of further transmission of Strangles. Subsequent movement of horses must be coordinated under the direction of the RIB Veterinary Services Manager.

The person must comply with all instructions or directions issued by NZTR or the Racing Integrity Board (RIB) concerning testing, isolation, movement restrictions or other disease control measures.

Biosecurity restrictions may be lifted or eased by the RIB Veterinary Services Manager if satisfied that the affected horse has (or horses have) been isolated and managed with evidenced effective stable biosecurity measures under veterinary guidance and RIB approved clearance testing protocols have been undertaken. If permission is granted for biosecurity restrictions to be lifted or eased, this may allow resumption of training, racing, breeding or other usual activities.

A full clearance may be issued by the RIB Veterinary Services Manager following consideration of written advice from the attending veterinarian and negative test results obtained in accordance with the RIB-approved clearance testing protocol. Once full clearance is issued, the stable may be permitted to resume training and racing activities, subject to the requirements of this Directive and any additional conditions or biosecurity measures imposed by the RIB Veterinary Services Manager.

2.2 *Health monitoring*

The Trainer must monitor all horses under their control for signs of illness. A horse must not race, train or trial if it appears to be unwell, with symptoms including but not limited to:

- fever;
- nasal discharge;
- coughing; or
- enlarged lymph nodes.

2.3 *Temperature monitoring*

All Trainers with horses trained in the Central Districts must record the rectal temperature of every horse under their control twice daily, once in the morning and once in the evening, with a minimum of 8 hours elapsing between consecutive readings.

Any horse that records a resting temperature greater than 38.5°C must be notified immediately to the RIB Veterinary Services Manager (email: vet@rib.org.nz), and the Trainer must immediately consult their veterinarian.

Temperature records (as detailed on this form) must be retained by the Trainer and

taken to the race or trial meeting for presentation to stewards, if required. These records must detail the date, the time each temperature is taken, the recorded temperature, and any relevant observations regarding the horse's health.

2.4 Movement restriction – New Plymouth Raceway

Horses trained or stabled at New Plymouth Raceway are subject to a minimum 14-day stand-down from racing and trialling. Completion of the 14-day stand-down does not constitute clearance to race or trial. Horses must also undergo PCR testing in accordance with RIB requirements and receive clearance before returning to racing or trialling.

This restriction will remain in place until amended or revoked by NZTR, on the recommendation of the RIB following ongoing risk assessment.

2.5 Central Districts horses racing in other regions

For every horse trained and stabled in the Central Districts that is engaged to race at a Meeting, the temperature records required under section 2.3 must accompany the horse to the Meeting. The records must be produced immediately upon request by a Steward or a Club employee.

2.6 Travel between the North Island and the South Island

(a) Requirements applying to North Island horses travelling to the South Island

All horses trained in the North Island that are transported to the South Island must:

- be clinically healthy and not display signs consistent with Strangles, including fever, nasal discharge, enlarged or painful lymph nodes, abscessation, difficulty swallowing or any other suspicious clinical signs;
- have their health monitored for the five days immediately preceding transport;
- have their rectal temperature recorded twice daily, at least eight hours apart, during the five days immediately preceding transport;
- not have recorded a rectal temperature greater than 38.5°C during the monitoring period; and
- immediately notify the RIB Veterinary Services Manager if Strangles is suspected or confirmed before transport.

In addition, for horses trained in the Central Districts, the 'RIB North Island to South Island Strangles Travel Declaration' form must be submitted and the prior written approval of the RIB Veterinary Services Manager obtained before travel. A registered veterinarian must collect a nasopharyngeal swab or nasal swab within the 72 hours prior to travel for PCR testing for *Streptococcus equi* by an accredited diagnostic laboratory, and the horse must either return a negative result before travel or have the ability to appropriately isolate at their destination until a negative result is received.

Horses arriving in the South Island from the Central Districts should be kept separate

from other horses, as far as practicable, for 14 days after arrival.

(b) Requirements for transport from the South Island to the North Island

From 6 August 2026, no requirements are imposed for the transport of horses from the South Island to the North Island.

3. Compliance

Failure to adhere to this Directive (and the requirements set out above) constitutes a breach of the Rules of Racing (Rule 801 - Serious Racing Offences).

Providing false or misleading information in any declaration or record required under this Directive may constitute a Serious Racing Offence.

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