

Policy: 605.3
Effective: 1 December 2011
Revised: October 2011
Subject: Race Field Selection Policy
Reference: *HRNSW Board Meeting – 27 February 2007*
Harness Racing Act 2009
HRNSW Board Meeting – 21 January 2009
HRNSW Board Meeting – 6 December 2010
HRCC Meeting – 7 December 2010
HRNSW Board Meeting – 26 October 2011

RACE FIELD SELECTION POLICY

1. PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

- 1.1 This policy sets the guidelines by which the HRNSW Handicapping Panel is to select race fields for any race conducted in NSW.
- 1.2 The Race Field Selection Policy is to be used in unison with policies 606.1 - HRNSW Handicapping Regulation Conditions for races conducted as heats & final/consolation and 609.3 Nomination and Scratching Policy.
- 1.3 The Race Field Selection Policy is subject to annual review.

2. RACES WITH PRIZEMONEY GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO \$10,000 / CARNIVAL OF CUPS MEETINGS

- 2.1 First preference will be afforded to the best credentialed horses
- 2.2 The HRNSW Handicapping Panel will refer to the following information when making their selections.

- 1) Class of race contested
- 2) Class of opposition in races contested
- 3) Current figure form

Discretionary adjustments may be made in accordance with:

- a) Margins beaten
- b) Mile rate (relative to the track)
- c) Interference received

2.3 The horses that in the opinion of the HRNSW Handicapping Panel have the best overall form based on the above criteria will be determined as starters in these events regardless of whether or not they have an unfulfilled engagement.

2.4 Multiple stable runners can be drawn as the only selection criteria is overall form.

3. RACES WITH PRIZEMONEY LESS THAN \$10,000 (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF RACES AT CARNIVAL OF CUPS MEETINGS)

3.1 First preference will be afforded to the best credentialed horses.

3.2 The HRNSW Handicapping Panel will refer to the following information when making their selections:

- 1) Class of race contested
- 2) Class of opposition in races contested
- 3) Current figure form

Discretionary adjustments may be made in accordance with:

- a) Margins beaten
- b) Mile rate (relative to the track)
- c) Interference received
- d) Ballots received – if and where possible

3.3 If possible, preference may be given to horses that:

- a) are having their first start
- b) are having their first start for a new trainer
- c) are having their first start for a new owner

3.4 Trainers must inform the HRNSW Racing Office on 1300 712 612 when nominating a new addition to their stable for the first time.

3.5 Should the Handicapping Panel deem that multiple nominees from the same stable are the best credentialed horses, they will be drawn as starters.

3.6 Should trainers not want multiple stable runners they must contact the HRNSW Racing Office on 1300 712 612 prior to acceptance time with their preference(s).

3.7 Horses with an unfulfilled engagement will be the first horses balloted.

4. ALTERNATE ENTRY INTO ANOTHER PROGRAMMED EVENT

4.1 At the discretion of the Senior Handicapper:

- a) if the race(s) of first choice fails to stand up, or
- b) a horse is balloted from the race(s) of first choice, then
 - I. A horse may be placed in an alternate event at the same meeting without trainer liaison where:
 - A. the distance of the race is the same as the race(s) of first choice
 - B. the horse is assessed as being competitive in such event, and
 - C. the horse does not have superior form to the nominees entered under the original race conditions

4.2 In the instance where the Senior Handicapper places a horse into an alternate event they are to change the conditions of the race to accommodate the placed horse.

5. COMBINING RACES/CHANGING RACE CONDITIONS

5.1 At the discretion of the Senior Handicapper and without trainer liaison:

- a) where the race distance and barrier draw are the same, any two races at any meeting which are of successive assessment class may be combined to make a race field
- b) if there are multiple horses nominated for a race meeting that do not gain a start, the Senior Handicapper may write conditions for those horses to race in a conditioned event, on the proviso that:
 - i. horses are assessed as being competitive in such an event, and
 - ii. no horse has superior form to the other horses entered
- c) in order to maximise race field numbers, the back of a conditioned race may be increased at the discretion of the Senior Handicapper on the proviso that no horse written into a race has superior form to the other horses entered.

6. SPLITTING OF RACES (Standard Events)

6.1 Notwithstanding the conditions of an individual race, where there are sufficient nominations received to split a race; Handicappers shall use the following principles:

- a) Owner, trainer and driver multiples (in that order of preference) shall be split into separate divisions. (*Manipulation of fields through owner, trainer and/or driver declaration is an offence in the Australian Harness Racing Rules and Regulations.*)

- b) Notwithstanding clause 6.1 a), if there are 16 or more nominations for a race code and 7 or more fillies and/or mares nominated they shall be placed into a race together. The remaining composition of the field shall be the least performed male horses. (In the case when the barrier draw is PBD/Sex, this clause will not be applied).
- c) Should clause 6.1 b) not be able to be achieved due to the provisions of 6.1 a), then horses shall be placed in competitive races at the discretion of the Senior Handicapper.

7. SPLITTING OF RACES (Heats - inc. Bathurst Gold Crown & Leeton Breeders Plate)

7.1 Where there are sufficient nominations received to split a race, Handicappers shall use the following principles:

- a) Owner, trainer and driver multiples (in that order of preference) shall be split into separate divisions. (*Manipulation of fields through owners, trainer and/or driver declaration is an offence in the Australian Harness Racing Rules and Regulations.*)
- b) Horses shall be placed in races with an even spread of the best performed horses nominated and the least performed horses nominated within each division. When determining the best and least performed horses Handicappers shall use the principles of clauses 2 and 3 (whichever is relevant to the individual event) and split races with the provision of 7.1 a)

8. EXCEPTIONS

8.1 NSW Breeders Challenge

- a) Refer to the NSW Breeders Challenge Conditions at www.hrnsw.com.au.

8.2 Australian Pacing Gold

- a) Refer to the Australian Pacing Gold Conditions at www.apgold.com.au.

8.3 Australasian Breeders Crown

- a) Refer to Australasian Breeders Crown Conditions at www.breederscrown.com.au

8.4 Bathurst Gold Crown

- a) Refer to Bathurst Gold Crown Conditions at www.goldcrown.com.au

8.5 Events as approved from time to time by HRNSW.

9. LATE NOMINATIONS

9.1 If for the purpose of maximizing a field size it is necessary to accept nominations after the original closing time of nominations, horses nominated prior to the original closing time will be given preference in selection of the field(s), regardless of whether or not these horses have an unfulfilled engagement.

10. ALL CARE BUT NO RESPONSIBILITY

- 10.1 All efforts will be made to meet the above conditions, however the incorrect inclusion of any horse over another shall not necessarily be sufficient cause to warrant an additional ballot or redraw, nor shall any liability of any nature be incurred by the HRNSW or any Club Official as a result of any error. In all cases the decision of the HRNSW Handicapping Panel will be final.

- 10.2 All published race programs are subject to change. Connections are advised to refer to the programs section of the national harness racing website www.harness.org.au or HarnessWeb for the latest updated version of race programs.