

Policy: 606.1
Effective: 1 December 2011
Subject: Heats, Semi-Final and Final/Consolation Policy
Reference: *HRNSW Board Meeting – 12 July 2006*
Harness Racing Act 2009
HRNSW Board Meeting – 26 October 2011

HRNSW HEATS, SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL/CONSOLATION POLICY

1. CONDITIONS FOR RACES CONDUCTED AS A PREVIEW OR HEATS, SEMI-FINALS AND FINAL/CONSOLATION

- 1.1. A race (“the Event”) may be conducted as a Preview or Heats, Semi-Finals and a Final, and may have a Consolation/s in conjunction therewith provided that:
 - a. The winners of the Preview or Heats, Semi-Finals and Final and Consolation/s shall incur Penalties in accordance with the Australian Handicapping Rules.
 - b. The Penalties for a win in a Preview or Heat and Semi-Final shall not apply in the Final or Consolation/s of the Event.
 - c. The Penalties provided by these Rules for a win in a Preview or Heat and/or Semi-Final shall apply in any race other than the Final or Consolation/s of the Event.

2. PREVIEW

- 2.1. If there are insufficient acceptors for a Club to conduct Heats and/or Semi-Finals they may with the approval of HRNSW conduct a Preview.
- 2.2. Horses that win a Preview remain eligible for the Final and its Barrier Draw will be determined at time of the acceptances for the Preview.
- 2.3. Please note if a Preview is conducted horses must RE-NOMINATE for the Final.

3. SELECTION FOR HEATS - IF BALLOTS ARE REQUIRED

- 3.1. Horses that have already qualified for the final shall be the first ballot.
- 3.2. As per clause 2 or 3 of the Race Field Selection Policy (whichever applies to the heat and final series).
- 3.3. Futurity series’ are exempt except from clauses 3.1 and 3.2 as their individual terms and conditions apply.

4. HEATS, SEMI-FINALS, FINAL AND CONSOLATION CONDITIONS

- 4.1. The number of horses which will qualify from each Heat/Semi Final shall depend upon the number of Heats/Semi-Finals conducted. In the event that horses finish in the same qualifying position, the fastest individual mile rate recorded in the Heats/Semi-Finals will determine the make up of the Final.
- 4.2. Should a horse that has already qualified for the Final contest another Heat, and again finish in a qualifying position the next best placed horse with the fastest mile rate in the Heats shall be the qualifier, except where the qualifiers are determined by a pointscore. (If two or more horses finish with equal mile rates a ballot will be performed by the HRNSW Handicappers).
- 4.3. In the event of any Heat or Semi-Final being abandoned, based on clause 2 or 3 of the Race Field Selection Policy (whichever applies to the heat and final series) HRNSW Handicappers shall select, at its discretion, from the Final Acceptors of such Heat/Semi-Final, the horses that shall be deemed qualifiers for the Final should it be conducted.
- 4.4. In the event that a race is declared a no race, horses are to be selected from races run under the provisions of Clause 4.1.
- 4.5. The Barrier Draw conditions applicable to the Heats shall also apply to the Semi-Final/Final/Consolation and not take into account performances during the Heats. Eligibility for Heats, Semi-Finals and Finals/Consolations will be decided at the time of acceptances from the Heat the horse qualified.
- 4.6. The Barrier Draw conditions applicable to the Semi-Final shall also apply to the Final/Consolation and not take into account performances during the Semi-Final. Eligibility for the Final/Consolation will be decided at the time of acceptances from the Heat if it is a Heat – Semi-Final – Final series or the Semi-Final if it is a Semi-Final – Final series.
- 4.7. In the event of a Series where the winners progress to the Final and the Heats fall short for the number required for the Final, the remaining qualifier/s will be determined by the HRNSW Handicappers based on horses finishing in the most forward position/s in the Heats, with preference in selection going to the horse which recorded the fastest individual mile rate and so on until the field is full.
- 4.8. Horses which qualify for a Final shall be deemed acceptors for such Final and shall be liable for any penalties if scratched.

5. ADDITIONAL HEATS AND FINAL CONDITIONS

- 5.1 In the event of Heats and/or Semi-Finals being conducted the HRNSW Handicappers will draw up the Final or Consolation if required.
- 5.2 All Finals shall be conducted for prizemoney at least one Tier greater than the heats.
- 5.3 Clubs shall not be permitted to conduct a Consolation of any Final whereby the event attracts insufficient acceptors for three (3) heats of eight (8) or more acceptors.
- 5.4 All consolations, when conducted shall carry a minimum of 10% more prizemoney than the value of the heat unless approved by HRNSW.

- 5.5 Horses that contest Heats and/or Semi Finals that fail to qualify for the Final may contest a Consolation (if programmed). Horses must RE-NOMINATE for the Consolation with preference given to horses finishing in the most forward positions in the Heats/Semi-Final with preference in selection going to the horses which recorded the fastest individual mile rate and so on until the field is full.
- 5.6 Heats and Finals shall be programmed to finish within 15 days of the date of the first Heat unless otherwise approved by HRNSW.
- 5.7 Futurity series' are exempt from these conditions as their own terms and conditions apply.
- 5.8 These conditions are exempt from time to time as approved by HRNSW. When this is the case specified conditions will be used and such conditions will be included in the race program.
- 5.9 These conditions are exempt and specified conditions will be used where the Heats are conducted in one State and the Final is conducted in another State.

6. ELIGIBILITY AT ACCEPTANCE TIME - MOBILE AND STANDING START EVENTS

- 6.1 Any horse that wins after acceptance time will remain eligible to fulfil its engagement.
- 6.2 Any horse that wins after acceptance will retain its Barrier or Handicap mark with the exception of Discretionary Handicap Events which shall be left at the Handicappers Discretion.

7. LOCAL HANDICAPPING REGULATIONS

- 7.1. The local handicapping regulations of any State shall not affect the classification of any horse under these Regulations and shall be applicable only in respect of a race programmed in such State.
- 7.2. The classification of a horse under the Local Handicapping Regulations of any State shall be kept separate from its classification under these Regulations which shall be maintained and kept current by such State.