

Policy: 609.11
Effective: 21 March 2018
Revised: March 2018
Subject: Nominations & Scratchings
Reference: *HRNSW Board Meeting – 27 February 2007*
HRNSW Board Meeting – 23 September 2008
HRNSW Board Meeting – 25 February 2009
HRNSW Board Meeting – 6 December 2010
HRCC Meeting – 7 December 2010
HRNSW Board Meeting – 26 October 2011
HRCC Meeting – 2 June 2015
HRNSW Board Meeting – 30 June 2015
HRNSW Board Meeting – 29 March 2016
HRCC Meeting – 2 August 2016
HRICG Meeting – 15 August 2016
HRNSW Board Meeting – 19 August 2016
Harness Racing Act 2009
HRNSW Board Meeting- 21 March 2018

NOMINATION, ACCEPTANCE, SCRATCHING AND DRIVER DECLARATION POLICY

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This policy has been proposed to help maintain high levels of nominations and final acceptors at all race meetings.
- 1.2 A policy of not allowing nominations to be viewed was trialled from 1 November 2008 to 28 February 2009 and was found to be unsuccessful.
- 1.3 At the review of policies in March 2011 it was decided that the Nomination and Scratching Policy should be merged with the Final Field Scratching and Driver Declaration Policy.
- 1.4 Further amendments include bringing forward the day and time for FINAL notification of drivers. This will allow ample time for information to be sent to the media to ensure that the correct information is published.
- 1.5 In May 2013, amendments were made to the Final Field Scratching's due to trainers consistently scratching horses after the prescribed scratching deadline time and in August 2013 these amendments were modified following various examples of genuine late scratchings.
- 1.6 In September 2014 HRNSW implemented changes to the programming of races and viewing of nominations (viewing period is between 12:30pm and 1:30pm).
- 1.7 Programs included a Divided Stakes where trainers nominated for an event without race conditions. Trainers were advised that for a trial period there would be no charge for withdrawing horses in the viewing period if they felt any horse was disadvantaged.

- 1.8 The trial period ceased on 31 December 2014 however there has continued to be no fee charged for withdrawals.
- 1.9 At the HRCC meeting on 2 June 2015 individual Clubs raised concerns that their nominations had been decimated by trainers scratching their horses prior to acceptances being drawn.
- 1.10 The HRCC wrote to HRNSW with a recommendation that “trainers who withdraw their horses after nominations have closed should have a fine imposed and/or have the window of opportunity to view nominations removed”.
- 1.11 Clause 2 of the Policy has been amended to implement the recommendation of the HRCC.
- 1.12 Further to clauses 1.9, 1.10 & 1.11, in March 2016 Withdrawal Fees between the close of nominations and the close of acceptances were changed for a 1 July 2016 implementation. This action was due to races at multiple meetings becoming decimated with withdrawals once trainers viewed the nominations. These withdrawals lead to smaller than optimal race fields sizes and/or races being deleted from the program.
- 1.13 In March 2016 for a 1 July 2016 implementation it was determined that all horses must be nominated **via HarnessWeb only**.
- 1.14 In August 2016 the withdrawal fees for horses scratched from an event other than the Divided Stakes (i.e. 3C0/3C1, 4YO+ C0, M0 etc) between the close of nominations and close of acceptances were discussed at the HRCC Meeting, HRICG Meeting & the HRNSW Board Meeting. It was proposed at the HRCC Meeting, endorsed at the HRICG Meeting and sanctioned at the HRNSW Board Meeting that horses cannot be withdrawn from such events.

2. NOMINATIONS

2.1 Nomination and Acceptance Closing Times

- a) Nominations and Acceptances for all meetings close as advertised in the New South Wales Official Notices and Program.
 - b) Should there be a change in nomination and acceptance times, a SMS will be sent to all trainers advising the change.
 - c) All times are correct at the time of printing but are subject to change. For the most up to date nomination and acceptance times the meeting calendar at <http://www.harness.org.au/meeting-calendar.cfm> should be referred to.
- 2.2 Nominations will be displayed on HarnessWeb during the viewing period from 12:30pm to 1:30pm, (unless advised otherwise). They will not be obtainable by calling the Racing Office.
- 2.3 Any nominated horse not scratched prior to acceptance close time will be deemed an acceptor.

2.4 Withdrawals:

- a) Horses are not permitted to be withdrawn **from an Event other than the Divided Stakes (i.e. 3C0/3C1, 4YO+ C0, M0 etc)** between the close of nominations and the close of acceptances on the same day. Normal scratching penalties will apply for horses scratched outside of these times.
- b) \$44 (GST inclusive) will be charged to a trainer if they withdraw in excess of one (1) horse **from a Divided Stakes Event (i.e. C0 or better)** between the close of nominations and the close of acceptances. Normal scratching penalties will apply for horses scratched outside of these times.

2.5 Clause 2.4 will NOT apply in the following circumstances;

- a) Where a trainer has nominated for multiple races (when the acceptance time is the same) and is gaining a start in an alternate event. In this instance and during the viewing period (refer clause 2.2) the trainer **must** withdraw their horse(s) from the event they do not wish to accept for, or, notify the Racing Office of their preference.

A preference is just that and it is not always possible to obtain your preference.

- b) Where prior to the close of nominations the trainer has notified the Racing Office of a minimum number of starters at a meeting (i.e. three starters or none).
- c) Where prior to the close of nominations the trainer has notified the Racing Office that they only require one runner per division of a race (i.e. split my horses – only draw one runner per race)

2.6 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.

2.7 A horse must be nominated **via HarnessWeb only**.

2.8 Trainers are reminded that they should always check any nominations lodged in HarnessWeb by using the 'MY NOMS' icon. This will confirm that nominations have been correctly lodged and provide a chance to rectify any problems or errors.

2.9 Race programs are subject to change. Trainers should always refer to the race calendar on <http://www.harness.org.au/meeting-calendar.cfm> for updated programs.

3. HORSES ENTERED IN FEATURE RACES

Any horse entered in a Feature Race cannot be nominated in any State for a race of lesser grade that is scheduled within a period of 4 days prior to the feature race.

4. FINAL FIELD SCRATCHINGS

4.1 Any horse scratched after acceptance time will automatically be stood down for 28 days, however if scratched prior to the scratching deadline prescribed in clause 5.1, the horse may be withdrawn without a Veterinary Certificate in non-Feature Races for a fee of \$88 (inclusive of GST) or with a Veterinary Certificate (subject to Stewards

review). Payment of the fee or the submission of an approved Veterinary Certificate will decrease the stand down period to 6 days or as prescribed by the Veterinarian (with the minimum stand down period being 6 days).

4.2 Any horse scratched after acceptance time and prior to the scratching deadline, prescribed in clause 5, in a Final or Feature Race will automatically be stood down for 28 days. The submission of an approved Veterinary Certificate (subject to Stewards review) will decrease the stand down period to 6 days or as prescribed by the Veterinarian (with the minimum stand down period being 6 days).

4.3 Any horse withdrawn after the official scratching deadline will automatically be stood down for a period of 28 days and will incur a scratching fee of \$330 (GST inclusive).

4.4 Any horse withdrawn in accordance with clause 4.3 may have the stand down period reduced to 10 days by submitting an approved Veterinary Certificate.

4.5 HRNSW may waive the \$330 late fee imposed under clause 4.3 after the submission of an approved Veterinary Certificate stating the horse was unfit to race on the day in which it was scratched. Upon application, HRNSW Stewards may alter the stand down period in addition to any of the above or for other legitimate reasons such as transportation difficulties.

4.6 This policy as it applies to all horses scratched after the official scratching deadline includes horses scratched on course by the Club Veterinarian.

5. DRIVER DECLARATIONS

The FINAL notification time for Drivers will be 10.30am two days prior to the running of the race. A fee may apply for non-compliance.

6. SCRATCHING DEADLINE

The FINAL notification time for the scratching from all races will be 9.00am on the morning of the race, unless otherwise directed by Stewards.

DEFINITIONS

Feature Race A race valued at \$30,000 or more and the Final in a race series.