

Policy: 637.1
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Subject: Starting and Race Track Officials Policy
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HRNSW Board Meeting – 23 October 2012
Harness Racing Act 2009

STARTING AND RACE TRACK OFFICIALS POLICY

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 This policy sets the guidelines for the Race Starter, Mobile Barrier Driver, Clerks of the Course and Barrier Attendants on race day.

2. STARTERS POLICY

2.1 All race starters must be approved by HRNSW to start races.

2.2 A Starter cannot perform these duties in a race in which they either own or train a horse. Furthermore they shall notify the Stewards prior to the first race of any such occurrence.

Pre-Race Duties and Responsibilities

2.3 The race starter must make themselves aware of the Rules, Policies and Procedures relating to starting.

2.4 Report to the Stewards' Room **60 minutes** prior to the advertised starting time to check scratching's, change of drivers etc. Collect two-way radio.

2.5 Mark the race book clearly indicating lines and individual barriers.

2.6 Test the Mobile Barrier by simulating a race start in both the front and back straights.

2.7 If the track is wet or gives indications that the mobile may slip report to the Steward in Charge.

2.8 Ensure that all starters are in the parade yard no later than **12 minutes** before the advertised or re-scheduled time of the race. All horses to parade.

2.9 Identify all horses entering the parade yard against the Brands report.

2.10 Check the drivers' colours being worn are correct and that they are wearing safety vests.

2.11 Check that saddlecloth numbers are correct.

2.12 Check horse's gear being worn is correct.

2.13 Check overall presentation of Drivers, Stablehands and Trainers and report to Steward in Charge if any licensed persons are not up to standard.

- 2.14 Check overall presentation of horse's gear.
- 2.15 Ensure that horses leave the parade ring no less than **10 minutes** before the advertised starting time of the race.
- 2.16 As the horses leave the parade ring, make the drivers fully aware of their starting position number and line and distance of race.
- 2.17 Ensure horses enter the track in race book order for the race – both mobile and standing start events.
- 2.18 No horse shall leave the confines of the track without permission of the starter.

Mobile Start Race Responsibilities

- 2.19 Indicate to the drivers by blowing the whistle **5 minutes** prior to starting time to proceed to the marshalling area for gear adjustments.
- 2.20 Ensure the Clerks of Course are in position.
- 2.21 Ensure that all horses are in their right barrier positions
- 2.22 All horses on the front line are to be on the gate prior to the starting point with 2nd row horses in position trailing.
- 2.23 Where a horse gallops and does not cause any interference or if it has caused interference to another runner ensure that it is able to regain its correct position and continue with the score up.
- 2.24 Where interference has taken place and a horse is disadvantaged, or if a horse falls, breaks gear, scores up in front of the mobile arm – a **false start is to be declared**.
- 2.25 After the start follow field and if a fall occurs park mobile to give protection and provide assistance if required.
- 2.26 Report any problems with the Mobile Barrier to the Chief Steward in charge of the meeting.

Standing Start Race Responsibilities

- 2.27 Indicate to the drivers by blowing the whistle **5 minutes** prior to starting time to proceed to the marshalling area for gear adjustments.
- 2.28 Ensure the Clerks of Course are in position.
- 2.29 Ensure that all horses are in their right starting positions.
- 2.30 All horses on the front line are to be circling in number order between the FT and 10m mark.
- 2.31 All horses on the 10m line are to be circling in number order between the 10m and 20m mark, and so on.
- 2.32 When the Chairman of Stewards advises the race is ready to start, the barrier strand attendants are to draw the strands across the track and horses are to be told to immediately come out of the circling formation and stand in number order across the track.

- 2.33 When horses are in formation the starter is to call “bring them up” and the release the strands.
- 2.34 Where a horse has struck the stands or all strands fail to release simultaneously and a horse(s) is disadvantaged, or if a horse falls - a **false start is to be declared** and you are to commence the start again from 2.27.
- 2.35 Report any problems with the Standing Start starting equipment to the Chief Steward in charge of the meeting.

3. MOBILE DRIVER POLICY

- 3.1 All mobile drivers must be approved by HRNSW to start races.

Pre-Race Duties and Responsibilities

- 3.2 Make yourself aware of the Rules, Policies and Procedures relating to starting.
- 3.3 Familiarise yourself with the track exits and surrounds in case of malfunction of gates.
- 3.4 Report to the Starter approximately **45 minutes** prior to the advertised time of the first race.
- 3.5 Test the Mobile Barrier with the Starter by simulating a race start in both the front and back straights.
- 3.6 Report any concerns regarding machine/equipment to the starter immediately.

Mobile Start Race Responsibilities

- 3.7 Place the Mobile Barrier at starter pick up point **10 minutes** before the advertised/rescheduled time of the race.
- 3.8 Follow instructions of the Starter when driving the vehicle during the score up.
- 3.9 When the start is effected, remain in the centre of the track for **50 metres** after start, then move to the outside of the track (when gates have closed) and proceed into the turn stopping before the apex until field and Ambulance have passed.
- 3.10 If there is a false start stay in centre of the track and follow Starter’s instructions.
- 3.11 Follow the field for duration of the race.
- 3.12 If a fall occurs and horse or driver are unable to be moved off the track park mobile so as to protect them. **Stay in the vehicle so as to be able to clear the track as soon as possible.**
- 3.13 Each Club is required to have a back up driver/starter approved by the Stewards.

4. CLERK OF THE COURSE POLICY

- 4.1 All Clerks of the Course must be approved by HRNSW to officiate at races.

Pre-Race Duties and Responsibilities

- 4.2 Report to Stewards **45 minutes** prior to first race.

- 4.2 Shall ensure that when mounted upon a horse, wear an approved and appropriate fitting helmet.
- 4.3 That they are wearing suitable clothing to perform the duties
- 4.4 No later than **15 minutes** prior to the starting time, commence to marshal horses into the parade ring. Marshal horses into numerical order in the parade ring and lead field onto track 10 minutes prior to race time

Mobile Start Race Responsibilities

- 4.5 In mobile races, when the **5 minutes siren** has been blown, the Senior Clerk is to position himself/herself at the front mark of the marshalling area. No later than **2 minutes** before starting time circle the horses from the horse drawn outside of the front row back in an anti clockwise direction. **The Clerk is to walk beside the outside horse** and when the field is called up stay there until the mobile starts to move.
- 4.6 The other Clerk is to position himself/herself at the rear of the marshalling area to ensure that the horses remain inside the marshalling area, and circle the second row horses from the horse drawn outside of the second row back. When the horses are called up make sure that the back line all move up together.
- 4.7 If Hobble Pins or Ear Plugs come out once the score up has started, you are not to stop to fix them.

Standing Start Race Responsibilities

- 4.8 In **standing start races** no later than **2 minutes before starting time** circle the horses in an anti clockwise direction from the horse drawn the inside of the front row and walk beside the leading horse.
- 4.9 The horses are to be in one circle no less than 50 metres from the front tape.
- 4.10 When the starter blows the whistle horses are to walk forward in their handicap lines.
- 4.11 The Senior Clerk is to stand behind the back tape and when the starter gives the command to clear the track, raise his hand above the head if the track is not clear or if a driver needs assistance.

Responsibilities when there is a fall

- 4.12 In the event of a fall during a race, **the Clerk nearest the fall** is to immediately go to the scene and assist the fallen horse.
- 4.13 If a driver or horse is lying on the track the Clerk is to go to a point approximately 100 metres prior to the scene to warn the drivers and direct them around the accident scene.
- 4.14 If there is a loose horse, the closest available Clerk shall endeavour to catch the horse, without causing any further risk to the other runners.

Responsibilities after each race

- 4.15 As soon as possible after each race, parade the placegetters **in order** 1st through to 5th past the Chief Steward.
- 4.16 It is the responsibility of one of the Clerks to obtain the Judge's Numbers from the Semaphore Board.

5. BARRIER ATTENDANTS POLICY

- 5.1 Each Club shall provide no less than two (2) barrier attendants for each race. One (1) of these should be either a farrier or a person capable of shoeing a horse.
- 5.2 Shall ensure that they wear fully covered footwear and suitable clothing to perform the duties.
- 5.3 The Attendants shall be under the direction of the Starter, and follow their instructions at all times.
- 5.4 They are responsible for assisting the driver(s) when parading, with adjusting gear and any malfunctions.
- 5.5 Should any gear require replacing due to malfunction, and it is likely to hold up the start, they shall inform the starter immediately.
- 5.6 Should a horse require farrier attention, it shall be reported to the starter immediately.
- 5.7 The Attendants should follow the field during the race, and if there is a fall, assist with the incident under the direction of the starter.
- 5.8 A Barrier Attendant cannot perform these duties in a race in which they either own or train a horse. Furthermore they shall notify the Stewards prior to the first race of any such occurrence.

6. EQUIPMENT REQUIRED AT THE START OF A RACE

- 6.1 Each Club must provide a "Gear Bag" and spare Sulky at the score up position of each race. The Gear Bag shall include the following:
- Bridle and Headcheck
 - Snaffle Bit
 - Carrying Straps – 1 Set
 - Shadow Roll
 - Lugging Pole
 - Plastic Burr - (Rein Burr)
 - Crupper
 - Bike Pump
 - Double End Dog Clips (x2)
 - Reins
 - Rubber Tongue Ties (x4)
 - Black Electrical Tape (x5)
 - Spare wheel and tools to change wheel

7. MOVE- UP STARTS POLICY

The following guidelines shall be observed in move-up start races.

- 7.1 Move-up starts will only be employed under the following circumstances:
- The race meeting must have commenced
 - The use of the mobile is deemed to be unsafe
 - The track is declared safe for racing by the Stewards
- 7.2 When a decision is made by the Stewards to use move-up starts the Chairman of Stewards or the Steward in charge of the meeting shall assemble the drivers, the Clerks of Course and the Starter and clarify the procedures for a move-up start.
- 7.3 The horses will be assembled by the Clerk of the Course 60 metres behind the start.
- 7.4 The Starter shall position himself in the starter's stand (if available) or in an elevated position.
- 7.5 The Clerk of Course will jog slowly alongside the outside horse on the front line at a speed that has the horses comfortable in their gait. All front line horses will use the outside horse and the Clerk of Course as their guide to the line required for a start with no horse or horses to be in advance of the Clerk or the horse to the outside of the front line.
- Significant penalties will apply to any driver deemed to have gained an advantage at the start by being forward of the Clerk of Course at the starting point.
- 7.6 The Starter will indicate a start by the drop of a flag and calling "go".
- 7.7 If a false start is to be declared the Starter shall indicate this by the sounding of a whistle.
- 7.8 In the event of a recall, all drivers shall immediately return their horses to the start point marshalling area
- 7.9 The Stewards will have the discretion to vary these guidelines if circumstances require it.

8 GROUP ONE RACE STARTER/ASSISTANT STARTER POLICY

- 8.1 For the running of all Group One races in NSW, both the Starter and an Assistant Starter shall be present in the mobile barrier.
- 8.2 In the absence of an Assistant Starter, this position will be filled by a Steward or such person as appointed by the Chairman of Stewards.
- 8.3 The duties of the Assistant Starter when acting in this position shall include:
- Checking all runners are assembled for a start
 - Checking runners are in their correct barrier position
 - Other duties as directed by the Starter