

**Policy:** 652.4  
**Effective:** 1 July 2019  
**Revised:** June 2019  
**Subject:** Two-Year-Old Racing Policy  
**Reference:** *Harness Racing Act 2009*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 29 March 2016*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 31 October 2017*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 9 October 2018*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 2 May 2019*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 25 June 2019*

### TWO-YEAR-OLD RACING POLICY

#### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This Policy has been developed through a series of submissions and consultative electronic surveys to enhance, strengthen and guarantee the racing opportunities of two-year-old pacers in NSW.
- 1.2 Submissions were accepted from industry stakeholders in July and October 2015 which culminated in an electronic survey in January 2016.
- 1.3 In all 71 submissions were received and 1,854 stakeholders were invited to complete the survey of which 579 responded the results of which can be viewed are on the HRNSW website ([click here](#)).
- 1.4 This Policy will take effect from the commencement of the 2016/17 Racing Season (1 September 2016) and will be reviewed September 2017.
- 1.5 The Policy was amended in October 2017 to include a clause concerning the splitting of races to provide additional opportunities for fillies to compete against their own gender (refer clause 2.4).
- 1.6 The Policy was amended in May 2019 to include a clauses which define how many days there are to be between runs for 2YO's and to determine that horses that are stood down in Heats cannot compete in Consolations within a specified timeframe.

#### 2. POLICY

- 2.1 The programming of two-year-old races will commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January and end on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August each year – which will be known as the Two-Year-Old Racing Season.
- 2.2 A schedule of all two-year-old races will be programmed during the Two-Year-Old Racing Season and will be released by HRNSW in the October preceding the commencement of the Season.
  - a) The schedule will take into consideration established Feature & Futurity Races and will focus on NSW Breeders Challenge eligible horses
  - b) The schedule will be Regional based – Metropolitan, Hunter, North West, Western/Young and Riverina/Young. Young being geographically located central

to the Western Districts and the Riverina will play a pivotal role in the scheduling of races at key times in the season.

- c) The schedule will create race opportunities for fillies on a regional basis.
- d) The Schedule will not include two-year-old races for prize money below \$5,000. Therefore two-year-old races will not be programmed at Non-TAB or Graduation Penalty (R) Meetings.
- e) The Schedule will only be amended by HRNSW taking into consideration imperative industry requirements.
- f) Race conditions will be released in accordance with standard HRNSW practices.

2.3 Scheduled two-year-old races will be guaranteed at the value of HRNSW Funding if there is a minimum six (6) pacers nominated when the original nominations close.

- a) No less than six (6) horses must remain as acceptors for the scheduled race when the fields are released by HRNSW.
  - i. Where field manipulation occurs or is alleged to have occurred, the matter will be referred to the HRNSW Stewards for deliberation.
- b) If at the close of acceptors a Club has maximum field sizes for a standard meeting of eight (8) races a two-year-old race with six (6) or more acceptors will be additionally included on the meeting program therefore creating nine (9) races.
  - i. The additional two-year-old race will be funded from the established Two-Year-Old Guarantee Fund.
  - ii. The division of other race nominations to increase the number of races to the standard eight (8) races so as to enact the ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) race Two-Year-Old Guarantee will not be permitted.
  - iii. All Futurity races will be required to be included in the standard eight (8) race meeting allocation.

2.4 Notwithstanding clause 2.3, if;

- a) there are twelve (12) or more final acceptances for a standard 2YO race, and;
- b) there are six (6) or more fillies accepted, and;
- c) there are six (6) or more colts & geldings accepted

the race is to be split into a fillies division and a colts & geldings division.

Prizemoney for the additional race will be supplied from the Two-Year-Old Guarantee Fund.

Note: if horses have an unfulfilled engagement they will not count as an acceptor with respect to splitting races (i.e. there are 12 acceptors and 2 horses have unfulfilled engagements, the race will not be split and the 10 horses without a prior engagement will be drawn as starters)

2.5 The maximum field size for all 2YO events is ten (10); however two (2) emergencies will be drawn into all Finals and Group events.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

- 2.6 Two-year-old pacers can be nominated in 3YO and upwards races by choice of connections with an advantage in the barrier draw however will be limited to one lifetime win only under this concession.
- 2.7 Two-year-old pacers will not be permitted to start in races conducted in NSW prior to 1 January.
- 2.8 Two-year-old horses must have their races spaced at least six (6) days apart. (i.e. a two-year-old horse that races on Wednesday can next race on Tuesday).

*Excludes when a two-year-old contests a Heat or Prelude into a Final or Consolation*

- 2.9 Two-year-old horses that contest Heats and are stood down which do not qualify for the Final are not permitted to contest a Consolation for at least six (6) days after the conduct of the Heats. (i.e. a two-year-old contests a Heat on a Friday and is stood down to trial, a Consolation is to be conducted the next Wednesday [five (5) days after the Heat], the horse will not be able to contest the Consolation).

*For the purposes of this Policy, a Race does not include an Official Trial.*