

<b>Policy:</b>	652.9
<b>Effective:</b>	1 April 2026
<b>Revised:</b>	February 2026
<b>Subject:</b>	Two-Year-Old Racing Policy
<b>Reference:</b>	<i>Harness Racing Act 2009</i> <i>HRNSW Board Meeting – 29 March 2016</i> <i>HRNSW Board Meeting – 31 October 2017</i> <i>HRNSW Board Meeting – 9 October 2018</i> <i>HRNSW Board Meeting – 2 May 2019</i> <i>HRNSW Board Meeting – 25 June 2019</i> <i>HRNSW Board Meeting – 25 July 2019</i> <i>HRNSW Board Meeting – 31 October 2019</i> <i>HRNSW Board Meeting – 21 November 2019</i> <i>HRNSW Board Meeting – 30 September 2021</i> <i>HRNSW Board Meeting – 30 November 2022</i> <i>HRNSW Board Meeting – 24 April 2024</i> <i>HRNSW Board Meeting – 26 February 2026</i>

### TWO-YEAR-OLD RACING POLICY

#### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This Policy was been developed through a series of consultative measures undertaken by HRNSW to enhance, strengthen and guarantee the racing opportunities of two-year-old pacers in NSW.

#### 2. POLICY

- 2.1 The programming of two-year-old races will commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February and end on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December each year.
- 2.2 A schedule of two-year-old races will be programmed and released by HRNSW in the December preceding the commencement of the Racing Season for the first seven months of the calendar year (February 1 to July 31).
- 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, Western, and Riverina. Tamworth due to location will have guaranteed two-year-old races programmed based on local horse population.
  - 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 \$6,000. Therefore two-year-old races will not be programmed at Non-TAB 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 in the period February to April will be guaranteed at the value of HRNSW Funding if there is a minimum six (6) horses nominated when the original nominations close. Scheduled two-year-old races in the period May to July will be guaranteed at the value of HRNSW Funding if there is a minimum eight (8) horses nominated when the original nominations close.

- a) Two-year-old horses must be nominated in a two-year-old race to gain a start in any race during this period. Two-year-old horses may additionally nominate in another race ('open age'), in which they are eligible, but may only compete in that open age race if there are insufficient nominations for the two-year-old race to proceed.
- b) A two-year-old must NOT nominate for any race greater than 1901m during this period (February to July)
- c) 1) No less than six (6) horses must remain as acceptors for the scheduled race when the fields are released by HRNSW in the period February to April.  
2) No less than eight (8) horses must remain as acceptors for the scheduled race when the fields are released by HRNSW in the period May to July.
  - i. Where field manipulation occurs or is alleged to have occurred, the matter will be referred to the HRNSW Stewards for deliberation.
  - ii. Any horse that is withdrawn, or scratched, from any 2YO race will not be allowed to race for a period of ten (10) days after that race has been run.

Note: if horses have an unfulfilled engagement they will not count as an acceptor with respect to a minimum of six (6) horses, or eight (8) nominated when the original nominations close.

- d) If a race receives:
  - i. Six (6) to ten (10) nominations, it will proceed as a single race. (February to April)
  - ii. Eight (8) to ten (10) nominations, it will proceed as a single race. (May to July)
  - iii. Eleven (11) nominations, it will proceed as a single race, with the eleventh horses (as determined by the HRNSW balloting conditions) to be balloted
  - iv. Twelve (12) or more nominations (February to April) the race will be divided.
  - v. Races with Twelve (12) or more nominations (May to July) will be divided by the Handicappers on a case-by-case basis.
- e) A two-year-old horse with two (2) or more wins, will be eligible to nominate in any race (for which it is eligible), against older horses.
- f) During the period 1 February to 31 July, two-year-old races will be programmed as a ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) race. 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 (February to April), or eight (8) or more acceptors (May to July) 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.

Notwithstanding clause 2.3, if there are sufficient acceptors for a field to be divided by sex, 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)

- 2.4 The maximum field size for all 2YO events is ten (10); however two (2) emergencies will be drawn into all Finals and Group events.
- 2.5 Two-year-old horses must have their races spaced at least three (3) days apart (i.e. a two-year-old horse that races or trials on Wednesday can next race on Saturday).
- 2.6 A race for two-year-old horses will be programmed in each Region on a weekly basis for the period August to December but for the avoidance of doubt these races will not be guaranteed. The use of a two-year-old race during this period (August to December) as a ninth race will be solely at the discretion of HRNSW.

### Definition

"Race" means a race or official trial or official time trial or event in which harness racing horses race or participate.