**THREE-YEAR-OLD RACING POLICY**

**1.      BACKGROUND**

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

**2.      POLICY**

2.1      The programming of three-year-old races will commence on the 1st of January and end on the 31st of December each year.

2.2      Three-year-old races will be programmed and released by HRNSW based on the current population, with consideration given to Feature and Futurity Racing.

2.3      Three-year-old races will be run at the value of HRNSW Funding if there is a minimum of seven (7) (January to March) or eight (8) (April to July) horses nominated when the **original** nominations close.

2.4

a)   Three-year-old horses must be nominated in a Three-year-old race to win any applicable Breeders Challenge Bonus and to receive the lesser points applicable for winning or placing in a 3YO race, should they be balloted from a Three-year-old race into any other race ('open age'). For clarity, any horse that nominates for any open age race, without being nominated in a Three-year-old race, the horse will not receive any Breeders Challenge Bonuses and will receive the same penalty as an older horse.

b)   1) No less than seven (7) horses must remain as acceptors for the scheduled race when the fields are released by HRNSW in the period January to March.

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 April to July.

   i.   Where field manipulation occurs or is alleged to have occurred, the matter will be referred to the HRNSW Stewards for deliberation.

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

c)   If a race receives:

   i.    Eight (8) to ten (10) nominations, it will proceed as a single race.
   ii.   Eleven (11) nominations, it will proceed as a single race, with the eleventh horses (as determined by the HRNSW balloting conditions) to be balloted

e)   All three-year-old races will be programmed within the standard eight (8) race programme, which includes any Futurity races.

2.5   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.

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)

2.6   A race for three-year-old horses will be programmed in each Region on a weekly basis but for the avoidance of doubt these races will not be guaranteed. The use of a three-year-old race as a ninth (or greater) 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.