

**Policy:** 613.4  
**Effective:** 1 November 2018  
**Revised:** October 2018  
**Subject:** NSW Rising Stars Series Policy  
**Reference:** *HRNSW Board Meeting – 29 June 2007*  
*Australian Handicapping Rules*  
*HRCC Meeting – 3 February 2009*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 25 February 2009*  
*Harness Racing Act 2009*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 26 October 2011*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 30 October 2018*

### NSW RISING STARS SERIES POLICY

#### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This policy was introduced as there was no formal policy concerning; the selection of NSW Rising Stars Series representatives, race conditions and the point score system.
- 1.2 The NSW Rising Stars Series serves as an avenue for up and coming drivers to compete in a driving series against drivers of equal ability. Whereas, the NSW Australasian Young Drivers Championship Representative is to be of an elite level.
- 1.3 Following a 2007 NSW Rising Stars Series Summary Report compiled by Chief Supervisor Allan McIntosh, it was apparent that a number of issues were required to be covered by policy.
- 1.4 Following a HRCC meeting on 3 February 2009, additional selection criteria (2.5 and 2.6) was added at the request of clubs to clarify the direction towards up and coming drivers rather than those that had already established a name for themselves.
- 1.5 All references to the GHARRA have been removed and updated.
- 1.6 Western Australia ceased conducting their own Young Driver Series and the selection criteria was changed to add an additional NSW Representative to the competition.
- 1.7 In November 2018 Clause 2.11 was introduced.

#### 2. DRIVER SELECTION CRITERIA

- 2.1 A driver is eligible to compete if they were under the age of 23 prior to the start of the racing season.
- 2.2 If the driver that won the previous years NSW Rising Stars Series is eligible under Clause 2.1 they receive automatic entry into the following year's series.
- 2.3 A driver must hold an A Grade Driver's licence or be approved by the Stewards to drive at Metropolitan meetings in order to be eligible to compete in the series.
- 2.4 A driver who has competed in the past 2 series is ineligible to compete in a 3rd series in succession, unless they won the previous year's series.

- 2.5 A driver who has previously won the NSW Junior Driver Championship will be ineligible to compete in the series, unless they won the previous year's Rising Stars series.
- 2.6 A driver who has driven the winners of more than 100 races at the start of the season will be ineligible to compete in the series, unless they won the previous year's Rising Stars series.
- 2.7 Regional Associations and Metropolitan Clubs are to recommend drivers to HRNSW and recommendations should be based on a driver's performance over the previous 12 months of racing.
- 2.8 Regional Associations are to also recommend an emergency driver. This is due to nominees having to be approved by Stewards pursuant to clause 2.3 and the unlikely occurrence where a recommended driver is required to be replaced pursuant to clauses 2.11, 2.12, 2.13 or 2.14 or if a selected driver incurs a driving suspension which is to be served during the NSW Rising Stars Series.
- 2.9 The split up of drivers to be selected from each region is as follows; Metropolitan 2, North East 2, North West 1, Western Districts 2 and South West & Riverina 2. If a Region pursuant to clause 2.3. does not have the number of drivers to fill their allocation, HRNSW shall select a driver from an alternate Region to compete in the Series.
- 2.10 If the previous year's champion is ineligible under clause 2.1. HRNSW shall invite one additional driver.
- 2.11 Any licensee that has been found guilty of an offence resulting in a disqualification will be ineligible to compete in any Drivers Invitation Series for a period of two (2) years from the time of the re-allocation of their drivers licence.
- 2.12 Any licensee selected is subject to an assessment of their record as a participant by both the HRNSW Board and the Stewards Panel.
- 2.13 Should the HRNSW Board decide that any licensee selected fails in an assessment of their record, they shall be replaced.
- 2.14 Should any licensee selected be associated with an activity deemed to bring the sport into disrepute or found guilty of an offence prior to the commencement of the NSW Rising Stars Series, they shall be replaced.
- 2.15 All assessments and decisions made by the HRNSW Board under Clauses 2.11, 2.12, 2.13 or 2.14 shall be final.

### **3. RACING CONDITIONS & POINTS SYSTEM**

- 3.1 HRNSW is to determine race dates, race venues and race classes.
- 3.2 The participating drivers will be notified by HRNSW of the Guidelines and Conditions under which they will drive at least two weeks prior to the first race of the Series and of the arrangements for accommodation, travelling and personal expenses together with the logistics of travel and accommodation involved in the Series.
- 3.3 The maximum number of participating drivers in the Series shall be limited to ten (10) drivers and should there be a vacancy(ies) created for any reason, HRNSW will select another driver or driver at its discretion.

- 3.4 One driver at the discretion of HRNSW will be selected as an emergency for the series should one of the selected representatives be unavailable to fulfil their engagements. Such cases include:
- a) In the event of a driver who has been suspended in a race in the Series being suspended in a later race in the series the driver shall not be eligible to compete in any remaining races in the Series.
  - b) In the event a driver is unable to take their place in a race because of illness, injury or exceptional circumstances.
- 3.5 For the purpose of handicapping, the races on which the Series will be determined shall be penalty free races.
- 3.6 Each race in the Series shall be restricted to no more than 10 starters plus 2 emergencies.
- 3.7 Fields must be drawn with 10 final acceptors with each driver participating.
- 3.8 Driving assignments will be drawn in accordance with the attached barrier draw template used in the World Driving Championships (Refer attachment 1).
- 3.9 A driver shall not drive a horse such driver normally drives or works.
- 3.10 Points for the Championship will be awarded in each race on the following basis:
- Number of starters 10: 17(1), 12(2), 9(3), 7(4), 6(5), 5(6), 4(7), 3(8), 2(9), 1(10).  
Number of starters 9: 16(1), 11(2), 8(3), 6(4), 5(5), 4(6), 3(7), 2(8), 1(9).  
Number of starters 8: 15(1), 10(2), 7(3), 5(4), 4(5), 3(6), 2(7), 1(8).
- 3.11 In the event of a horse being scratched or failing to complete the race as a result of a racing incident deemed by the Meeting's Stewards Panel five (5) points shall be awarded to the driver. In all other cases where a horse and driver fail to complete the race the driver will receive one (1) point.
- 3.12 In the event of a dead heat for any placing in any race the points for the horses involved in the dead heat will be added together and divided equally among the drivers concerned.
- 3.13 In the event of a driver being suspended in a race in the Series points will not be awarded to the driver for that race.
- 3.14 In the event a driver cannot take his place in a race for whatever reason and a substitute driver is not available from the nominated drivers then the horse the representative was to drive will be scratched.
- 3.15 All drivers must be available to travel and stay with the group throughout the series and compete in all races and in the Series, unless unable to do so because of illness, injury or exceptional circumstances as determined by HRNSW.
- 3.16 In the event of a tie for any position, the driver with the most number of winning drives in the Championship races shall be declared winner; if still tied the greater number of second placed drives and so on until the winner is declared.

- 3.17 The driver with the most points after "all clear" is given in the last race of the NSW Rising Stars Series shall be declared the NSW Rising Stars Series Champion and shall be elected the NSW representative in the RWWA Rising Stars series in the following year, provided that that driver meets all eligibility criteria set at the discretion of HRNSW.

**Attachment 1**

**NSW Rising Stars Series  
Barrier Draw Allocation**

Random Letter Draw	Heat 1	Heat 2	Heat 3	Heat 4	Heat 5	Heat 6	Heat 7	Heat 8	Heat 9	Heat 10
A	1	10	5	6	3	8	4	7	2	9
B	2	9	3	8	5	6	1	10	4	7
C	3	8	4	7	2	9	5	6	1	10
D	4	7	2	9	1	10	3	8	5	6
E	5	6	1	10	4	7	2	9	3	8
F	6	5	10	1	7	4	9	2	8	3
G	7	4	9	2	10	1	8	3	6	5
H	8	3	7	4	9	2	6	5	10	1
I	9	2	8	3	6	5	10	1	7	4
J	10	1	6	5	8	3	7	4	9	2

### 4. CODE OF CONDUCT

Abide by all policies of HRA and HRNSW;

- 4.1 Neither possess nor use illegal or prohibited drugs or other substances (either at law or under the AHRC Anti-Doping Policy).
- 4.2 Not use legal or permissible drugs and other substances (either at law or under the AHRC Anti-Doping Policy) in an irresponsible or dangerous manner.
- 4.3 Participate for your own enjoyment. Be a good sport. Respect all other participants. Accept victory and defeat with dignity and grace.
- 4.4 Be sure to respect your fellow Rising Star Series competitors and show them the courtesy that you would wish someone to show you.
- 4.5 Never become involved in acts of foul play, whether before, during or after a race.
- 4.6 Honour both the spirit and letter of the sports rules and live up to the ideals of sportsmanship related to harness racing as well as respecting the traditions of the sport.
- 4.7 Never engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including sledging, profanity, obscene gestures or any other actions that may, or may be perceived to be bringing the sport into disrepute.
- 4.8 Care for and respect the facilities and equipment made available to you during the series, including all items related to harness racing and those that are not.
- 4.9 Do not bet or otherwise financially speculate on the outcome of a race that you are involved in.
- 4.10 Respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow drivers, trainers, officials and spectators.
- 4.11 Respect the talent, potential and development of fellow drivers.
- 4.12 At all times avoid intimate relationships with your fellow peers.
- 4.13 Conduct yourself in a professional manner relating to language, temper and punctuality. Behave and dress in a dignified manner when representing the NSW Rising Star Series both on and off the competition arena.
- 4.14 Wear the official NSWRSS silks designated when in competition.
- 4.15 Maintain high personal behaviour standards at all times.
- 4.16 Abide by the rules and respect the decision of the official, making all appeals through the formal process and respecting the final decision.
- 4.17 Be honest in your attitude and preparation to training.
- 4.18 Cooperate with trainers and officials in development of programs to adequately prepare you for competition at the highest level.

### **5. FORMS OF CONSENT**

5.1 All selected drivers must complete the following forms prior to competing in the NSW Rising Stars Series:

- 5.1.1 Participant Information
- 5.1.2 Parent/Guardian Information
- 5.1.3 Indemnity, risk waiver & media consent