

**Policy:** 606.4  
**Effective:** 19 September 2019  
**Subject:** Heats, Semi-Final and Final/Consolation Policy  
**Reference:** *HRNSW Board Meeting – 12 July 2006*  
*Harness Racing Act 2009*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 26 October 2011*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 25 June 2012*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 29 August 2019*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 19 September 2019*

### **HRNSW HEATS, SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL/CONSOLATION POLICY**

#### **1. CONDITIONS FOR RACES CONDUCTED AS A PRELUDE OR HEATS, SEMI-FINALS AND FINAL/CONSOLATION**

- 1.1. A race (“the Event”) may be conducted as a Prelude or Heats, Semi-Finals and a Final, and may have a Consolation/s in conjunction therewith provided that:
- a) The winners of the Prelude or Heats, Semi-Finals and Final and Consolation/s shall incur Penalties in accordance with the Australian Handicapping Rules.
  - b) The Penalties for a win in a Prelude or Heat and Semi-Final shall not apply in the Final or Consolation/s of the Event.
  - c) The Penalties provided by these Rules for a win in a Prelude or Heat and/or Semi-Final shall apply in any race other than the Final or Consolation/s of the Event.

#### **2. PRELUDE**

- 2.1. If there are insufficient acceptors for a Club to conduct Heats and/or Semi-Finals they may with the approval of HRNSW conduct a Prelude.
- 2.2. Horses that win a Prelude remain eligible for the Final and its Barrier Draw will be determined at time of the acceptances for the Prelude.
- 2.3. Please note if a Prelude is conducted horses must RE-NOMINATE for the Final.
- 2.4. Horses that competed in a Prelude will receive preference in race field selection for the Final.

#### **3. SELECTION FOR HEATS - IF BALLOTS ARE REQUIRED**

- 3.1. Horses that have already qualified for the Final shall be the first ballot.
- 3.2. As per the HRNSW Race Field Selection Policy (whichever applies to the Heat and Final series).
- 3.3. Futurity series’ are exempt except from clauses 3.1 and 3.2 as their individual terms and conditions apply.

#### **4. HEATS, SEMI-FINALS, FINAL AND CONSOLATION CONDITIONS – RACES CONDUCTED AT THE SAME TRACK**

4.1. The number of horses which will qualify from each Heat/Semi Final shall depend upon the number of Heats/Semi-Finals conducted. In the event that horses finish in the same qualifying position, the fastest individual mile rate recorded in the Heats/Semi-Finals will determine the makeup of the Final.

For example:

- a) The final is to comprise 10 horses. There are three (3) Heats conducted, the first three (3) placegetter's from each Heat are to progress to the final. The horse which finishes fourth and has the fastest individual mile rate recorded will also progress to the final.
- b) The final is to comprise 10 horses. There are two (2) Heats conducted, the first five placegetter's from each Heat are to progress to the Final. There is a dead-heat for fifth placing in one of the Heats and therefore there are three (3) fifth placegetter's. The two (2) horses with the fastest individual mile rate recorded will progress to the final. If the times are still equal for the tenth position, then a random ballot will determine which horse is to gain a start.

4.2. In the event of a Series where the winners progress to the Final and the Heats fall short for the number required for the Final, the remaining qualifier/s will be determined by the HRNSW Handicappers based on horses finishing in the most forward position/s in the Heats, with preference in selection going to the horse which recorded the fastest individual mile rate and so on until the field is full.

4.3. Should a horse that has already qualified for the Final contest another Heat, and again finish in a qualifying position the next best placed horse with the fastest mile rate in the Heats shall be the qualifier, except where the qualifiers are determined by a pointscore. (If two or more horses finish with equal mile rates a ballot will be performed by the HRNSW Handicappers).

4.4. Horses that contest Heats and/or Semi Finals that fail to qualify for the Final may contest a Consolation (if programmed). Horses must RE-NOMINATE for the Consolation with preference given to horses finishing in the most forward positions in the Heats/Semi-Final with preference in selection going to the horses which recorded the fastest individual mile rate and so on until the field is full.

#### **5. HEATS, SEMI-FINALS, FINAL AND CONSOLATION CONDITIONS – RACES CONDUCTED AT DIFFERENT TRACKS**

5.1 The number of horses which will qualify from each Heat/Semi Final shall depend upon the number of Heats/Semi-Finals conducted. In the event that there are horses that finish in the same qualifying position eligible to contest the Final a ballot will determine which horse is the starter, which horse is the emergency and which horse(s) are balloted.

For example:

- a) The Final is to comprise ten (10) starters and one (1) emergency. There are three (3) heats conducted, the first three (3) placegetter's from each Heat are to progress to the Final. The horses which finished fourth will be drawn by ballot, with the first horse drawn to be declared the starter, the horse drawn second declared the emergency and the horse(s) not drawn declared a ballot.

5.2 In the event of a Series where the winners progress to the Final and the Heats fall short for the number required for the Final, the remaining qualifier/s will be determined by the HRNSW Handicappers based on horses finishing in the most forward position/s in the Heats, with a ballot to determine which horse(s) are the starter(s), which horse is the emergency and which horse(s) are balloted.

5.3 Should a horse that has already qualified for the Final contest another Heat, and again finish in a qualifying position that horses' lowest placing will not be considered.

5.4 Horses that contest Heats and/or Semi Finals that fail to qualify for the Final may contest a Consolation (if programmed). Horses must RE-NOMINATE for the Consolation with preference given to horses finishing in the most forward positions in the Heats/Semi-Final with a ballot to determine which horse(s) are the starter(s), which horse is the emergency and which horse(s) are balloted.

### 6. ADDITIONAL HEATS AND FINAL CONDITIONS

- 6.1 In the event of any Heat or Semi-Final being abandoned or a race being declared a no race, based on the HRNSW Race Field Selection Policy (whichever applies to the Heat and Final series) HRNSW Handicappers shall select, at its discretion, from the Final Acceptors of such Heat/Semi-Final, the horses that shall be deemed qualifiers for the Final.
- 6.2 The Barrier Draw conditions applicable to the Heats shall also apply to the Semi-Final/Final/Consolation and not take into account performances during the Heats. Eligibility for Heats, Semi-Finals and Finals/Consolations will be decided at the time of acceptances from the Heat the horse qualified.
- 6.3 The Barrier Draw conditions applicable to the Semi-Final shall also apply to the Final/Consolation and not take into account performances during the Semi-Final. Eligibility for the Final/Consolation will be decided at the time of acceptances from the Heat if it is a Heat – Semi-Final – Final series or the Semi-Final if it is a Semi-Final – Final series.
- 6.4 Horses which qualify for a Final shall be deemed acceptors for such Final and shall be liable for any penalties if scratched.
- 6.5 In the event of Heats and/or Semi-Finals being conducted the HRNSW Handicappers will draw up the Final or Consolation if required.
- 6.6 All Finals shall be conducted for prizemoney at least one Category greater than the Heats.
- 6.7 Clubs shall not be permitted to conduct a Consolation of any Final whereby the event attracts insufficient acceptors for three (3) Heats of eight (8) or more acceptors.
- 6.8 All Consolations, when conducted shall carry a minimum of 10% more prizemoney than the value of the Heat unless approved by HRNSW.
- 6.9 Heats and Finals shall be programmed to finish within 15 days of the date of the first Heat unless otherwise approved by HRNSW.
- 6.10 Futurity Series' may be exempt from these Conditions if their own Terms and Conditions apply.
- 6.11 These Conditions are exempt from time to time as approved by HRNSW. When this is the case specified Conditions will be used and such Conditions will be included in the race program.
- 6.12 These Conditions are exempt and specified Conditions will be used where the Heats are conducted in one State and the Final is conducted in another State.

### 7. ELIGIBILITY AT ACCEPTANCE TIME - MOBILE AND STANDING START EVENTS

- 7.1 Any horse that wins after acceptance time will remain eligible to fulfil its engagement.
- 7.2 Any horse that wins after acceptance will retain its Barrier or Handicap mark with the exception of Discretionary Handicap Events which shall be left at the Handicappers Discretion.

### 8. LOCAL HANDICAPPING REGULATIONS

- 8.1. The local handicapping regulations of any State shall not affect the classification of any horse under these Regulations and shall be applicable only in respect of a race programmed in such State.
- 8.2. The classification of a horse under the Local Handicapping Regulations of any State shall be kept separate from its classification under these Regulations which shall be maintained and kept current by such State.

### 9. POSITIVE SWABS

- 9.1. The provisions of Australian Harness Racing Rule 195A shall apply to any positive swab from any Heat, Semi-Final, Final or Consolation.

#### **195A.**

- (1) This Rule is to apply to any race or series of races which the Controlling Body stipulates in the Conditions of Entry that it shall apply to; such a race or races being a qualifying race for some other race.
  - (2) If in relation to a race to which this rule applies a blood, urine, saliva or other sample or specimen is taken from a horse when it is presented for such race and a certificate from a person or drug testing laboratory approved by the Controlling Body certifies the presence of a prohibited substance in such specimen or sample then the horse shall be immediately disqualified from participating in any other race for which the race in question provides or provided a qualification for participation.
  - (3) This rule is to have effect and to be conclusive irrespective of whether further testing procedures or other circumstances establish that the horse was presented for the race free of any prohibited substances.
- 9.2. Should a horse return a positive swab in a qualifying race, they shall be disqualified from that event and be deemed ineligible for subsequent races in the series, even if it is in retrospect;

For example:

- a) A horse contests a heat of a series and returns a positive swab and is disqualified from the heat. The swab result is known before the final has been conducted; the horse is ineligible to contest the final and will be withdrawn.
- b) A horse contests a heat of a series and returns a positive swab and is disqualified from the heat. The swab result is not known until after the final has been conducted. Due to the horse being disqualified from the heat it is not eligible to contest the final. The horse will therefore be disqualified from the final.