

Policy: 631.10
Effective: 1 November 2018
Revised: October 2018
Reference: *Harness Racing Act 2009*
HRNSW Board Meeting - 28 September 2010
HRCC Meeting - 2 August 2011
Australian Handicapping Rules – 2 June 2014
HRNSW Board Meeting – 31 March 2015
HRNSW Board Meeting – 28 February 2017
HRNSW Board Meeting – 30 October 2018

NSW Penalty Exempt Drivers Series

BACKGROUND

1. Under the amended Australian Handicapping Rules, each state may conduct three (3) Penalty Exempt Drivers' series per season comprising up to six (6) races per Series plus one (1) or more Drivers Series for Concession Drivers but limited in total to no more than twenty four (24) races per season.
2. Under the amended Australian Handicapping Rules the NSW Rising Stars can now be scheduled as one of the Concession Drivers Series' and therefore it provides an opportunity for another six (6) race Series to be conducted.

DRIVERS SERIES'

Three Penalty Exempt Drivers Series'

1. A Metropolitan/Provincial Drivers and a Country Drivers Series will continue to be conducted by Clubs as set out in the Schedule below as two (2) of the three (3) series permissible under the Australian Handicapping Rules.
2. All Clubs wishing to conduct a race within the appropriate Series must make application to HRNSW by mid August, prior to the season that the Series' are to be conducted.
3. Upon application, a Club that ran a race the previous season will automatically be granted the race the next season.
4. If a Club does not seek to conduct a race the next season the opportunity to conduct a race within the appropriate Series will be offered, on merit, to another Club that has made application.

Due to the rule changes the Western Districts Junior Drivers event at Dubbo and the Junior Driver Invitational at Orange will be considered within the Concession Driver Series'.

5. The Indigenous Drivers Series is to form the third Drivers Series permissible under the Australian Handicapping Rules. The NSWHR is to program up to five (5) heats around the State with the Final to be conducted at Tabcorp Park Menangle annually at the Fishers Ghost Meeting.

Concession Drivers Series

1. The NSW Rising Starts Series is to comprise ten (10) races of the Concession Drivers Series'.
2. Clubs will be able to tender annually for the additional fourteen (14) available races.
3. Clubs wishing to conduct a race within the Concession Drivers Series must make application to HRNSW by mid August, prior to the season that the Series' are to be conducted.
4. HRNSW will allocate the Concession Drivers Series races annually on merit.

DRIVERS SERIES SCHEDULE

Drivers Invitation Series			Drivers Challenge Invitation Series		
Club	Event	Date	Club	Event	Date
Blayney	Invitational Drivers	November	Junee	City v Country Drivers Ht 1	January
Leeton	Lady Drivers	January	Junee	City v Country Drivers Ht 2	January
NSWHRC	Lady Drivers International	February	Junee	City v Country Drivers Ht 3	January
Bathurst	Lady Drivers	March	Available		
Orange	Invitational Drivers	March	Available		
Peak Hill	Invitational Drivers	June	Available		

POLICY

ALL DRIVERS INVITATION SERIES' (excluding NSW Rising Stars)

1. Any driver that has been found guilty of any 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. Clubs are to advise the HRNSW Racing Office which Drivers are participating in the Drivers Invitation event one (1) month prior to acceptance time.
3. Once a Club has notified the Drivers, HRNSW will advise stakeholders via an Official Notice.
4. An invited driver shall not drive a horse such driver normally drives or works.
5. A horse trained by an invited driver is ineligible to compete.
6. A horse owned by an invited driver is ineligible to compete.
7. Drivers are to be allocated their drives by manual ballot.
8. Any variations to points 4, 5, 6, and 7 must be written into the individual race conditions.
9. HRNSW has the right to amend/vary the conditions of any individual race within any Penalty Exempt Drivers Series.