

**Policy:** 626.11  
**Effective:** 1 August 2023  
**Revised:** 28 November 2024  
**Subject:** Official Trials Policy  
**Reference:** *Harness Racing Act, 2009*  
*Regulatory Review Panel Meeting – 17 February 2010*  
*Regulatory Review Panel Meeting – 5 May 2010*  
*Regulatory Review Panel Meeting – 12 May 2010*  
*Regulatory Review Panel Meeting – 7 July 2010*  
*Regulatory Review Panel Meeting – 24 November 2010*  
*Regulatory Review Panel Meeting – 15 December 2010*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 26 October 2011*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 31 January 2012*  
*Industry Official Trial Review – Jun-Aug 2015*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 25 August 2015*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 29 June 2023*  
*HRNSW Board Meeting – 28 November 2024*

## **OFFICIAL TRIALS POLICY**

### **1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 HRNSW has an obligation to ensure that Official Trials are conducted in a safe and consistent manner across the State.
- 1.2 HRNSW has an obligation to provide complete and accurate trial results to stimulate wagering turnover and meet the minimum standard of professionalism expected from the industry.
- 1.3 HRNSW has an obligation to ensure that Official Trials are conducted in accord with the Rules and compliance with the policies of HRNSW.
- 1.4 Some trial results are not being submitted to HRNSW.
- 1.5 Some trial results have been submitted containing inaccurate and/or incomplete data.
- 1.6 Unnamed horses have been allowed to contest Official Trials.
- 1.7 Unlicensed persons have been permitted to participate in Official Trials.
- 1.8 Horses are qualifying and requalifying in official or unofficial trials that are not made known to the public.
- 1.9 The need for a revision of minimum qualifying and requalifying standards.
- 1.10 It has not been compulsory for drivers to wear white driving pants in trials.

- 1.11 A nomination based system for trials was initially introduced at Tabcorp Park Menangle and Penrith whereby the HRNSW Racing Office assembles the trial fields. This process has proven to be a success and has been expanded over time to include numerous Clubs.
- 1.12 Following a horse being entered into a trial under the incorrect name, all horses must be presented to Official Trials with their Registration Certificate.
- 1.13 Following a review in April 2013, unless explicitly approved by the Chairman of Stewards, horses can only requalify to race one clear day after being barred and the first ODM/ODS can now be lifted at Official Trials an HRNSW authorised Trial Supervisor.
- 1.14 Official trials are not used for handicapping or balloting purposes.

## **2 POLICY**

### 2.1 Definitions:

#### Official Trials Means a Trial:

- a) That is approved and scheduled by HRNSW;
- b) Which is conducted in accordance with the HRNSW Official Trials Policy and the Rules of Harness Racing New South Wales (“the Rules”);
- c) That is Supervised by an HRNSW authorised Trial Supervisor, or a Steward;
- d) For which official entries are taken by HRNSW and results are recorded;
- e) Which permits a horse or horses to:
  - i. Qualify
  - ii. Re-Qualify
  - iii. Have an embargo lifted
  - iv. Trial having been imported and having not raced for 60 days.

#### Training & Education/Green Trials Means:

- a) Trials other than Official Trials, may be organised, supervised and controlled by a Club or the management of a recognised training track. No horses can be qualified, re-qualified or passed for resuming to race in such trials.
- 2.2 A First Aid Officer and a Clerk of the Course shall be required for Training and or Education/Green trials where a Club is involved in any aspect.
- 2.3 Education and Green Trials are only for horses which have had no more than two registered race starts or subject to the approval of HRNSW Stewards, horses that have a history of intractability and are currently subject to a stand down of two or more official trials or continued out of the mobile barrier draw (CODM), in which case they may complete no more than two additional educational/green trials for re-education purposes only.

**Note:** Training and or Education/Green Trials may be conducted in conjunction with Official Trials.

### **3 DATE OF EFFECT**

This Official Trials Policy shall take effect from the first day of August 2023 and hereby overrules any pre-existing Guidelines, Policy or Protocol previously adopted by HRNSW.

### **4 NOMINATIONS FOR TRIALS**

- 4.1 Trial dates must be submitted by Clubs to HRNSW at least two months in advance for inclusion on the harnessmediacentre.com.au website.
- 4.2 A schedule of dates for approved Official Trials will be published by HRNSW.
- 4.3 All nominations for Official Trials shall be submitted via HarnessWeb or by what other method HRNSW deems necessary. Nominations close 10am on the weekday prior to the day of the trial being conducted or as specified by HRNSW. **No late nominations unless approved by HRNSW.**
- 4.4 With the permission of HRNSW, any horse stood down from competition after the closing time of nominations may be added to the Official Trials fields.
- 4.5 In exceptional circumstances, including where Official Trials are cancelled due to weather conditions, HRNSW may authorise amendments to impending trials.
- 4.6 Where horses are attempting to qualify, requalify or to have an embargo lifted this must be notified at the time of nomination.
- 4.7 Any horse which has been stood down under veterinary reasons, for a period of time requiring a veterinary clearance, specialised certificates and/or other reasons determined by the controlling body will not be eligible to nominate for an official trial unless all restrictions are lifted by close of nomination.

### **5 TRIALS FEE**

- 5.1 Trial fees are at the discretion of the conducting Club.
- 5.2 This fee at the discretion of the Club may be charged upon nomination of the horse, and can be enforceable even if the horse is scratched.

### **6 CONDUCT OF TRIALS**

- 6.1 A HRNSW authorised Trial Supervisor **MUST** be present for Official Trials to take place. In addition, a Judge/Timekeeper (separate to Trial Supervisor) is also required to be present for Official Trials to take place. At no time should the officials drive in any Official Trials in which they are officiating.

- 6.2 An Ambulance or as a minimum a currently qualified First Aid officer (Known as "Provide First Aid") **MUST** be present for all trials to take place.
- 6.3 A Clerk of the Course **MUST** be present for all trials to take place.
- 6.4 All horses competing in any Official Trials **MUST** have their freeze brand checked by HRNSW authorised Trial Supervisor, against their Registration Certificate or official records provided by HRNSW.
- 6.5 Any horse that is presented to an Official Trial should have the Registration Certificate available upon request.
- 6.6 Any horse whose identification cannot be confirmed shall be withdrawn from an Official Trial.
- 6.7 All horses **MUST** be named before being allowed to contest Official Trials, except unnamed horses may be permitted to contest Education/Green Trials.
- 6.8 Only participants holding a current Harness Racing Driver's Licence are permitted to participate in Official Trials, however, a suspended driver is eligible to contest official trials.
- 6.9 Drivers are required to wear full race attire including safety equipment and white driving pants. Jeans and tracksuit pants shall not be permitted.
- 6.10 Drivers in ALL Official Trials are required to wear registered race colours.
- 6.11 All horses competing in any Official Trial are required to display saddlecloths.
- 6.12 Upon written Application from a Club, HRNSW may alter or amend any of the Conditions above for the Nominations or Conduct of Official Trials. Any variations should be provided by HRNSW in writing to the applicant.

## **7 TRIAL RESULTS**

- 7.1 Clubs must submit Official Trial results on the approved electronic form within 24 hours of the trials being conducted. Trial results must be accurate and complete. These results shall include all horses that competed in the Official Trial/s. Where facilities exist, Clubs must also upload a photo finish for each trial.
- 7.2 HRNSW will provide support, where possible, to help clubs achieve this objective.
- 7.3 Any Club that does not submit their trial results within 24 hours of them being conducted in accordance with this Policy Statement may not be allowed to conduct Official Trials and/or face sanction from the Controlling Body as per Clause 30 of the Harness Racing Act, 2009.

**8 QUALIFYING/REQUALIFYING TRIALS – PACERS**

- 8.1 A horse which has been barred and must requalify to race, unless explicitly approved by HRNSW, may only requalify in an Official Trial which is conducted one clear day of being stood down (i.e. A horse that is barred on a Tuesday cannot requalify until Thursday).
- 8.2 A horse may only qualify or requalify in an Official Trial, and until the full details of that trial are made available to HRNSW for inclusion in the trial results, the horse shall not be permitted to contest a race.
- 8.3 Unless otherwise approved by HRNSW, in order for a pacer to qualify or requalify, a minimum of **four (4)** horses must contest an Official Trial. HRNSW may permit less than 4 horses upon application.
- 8.4 In order to qualify or requalify for mobile or standing start events, a horse must have at least one horse drawn to its inside and one horse to its outside during the score-up and for a reasonable distance after the start is affected.
- 8.5 **Note for Standing Starts:** Horses drawn alongside a horse seeking to qualify or requalify is under no obligation to finish the Official Trial.
- 8.6 Outside Draw (OD) and Right Outside Draw (ROD) horses shall be allowed to requalify for “in running” offences from OD and ROD positions.
- 8.7 On tracks where there are two (2) rows of runners in an Official Trial, horses that are qualifying or requalifying should be drawn on the front row.
- 8.8 The following minimum mile rates **for each individual horse** will be observed in order to qualify or requalify in Official Trials:

**MINIMUM MILE RATE STANDARDS - PACERS:**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Gait</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Group A</b>	<b>Group B</b>	<b>Group C</b>	<b>Group D</b>
2YO	1609m	Pacer	Stand	2:08.00	2:10.00	2:11.00	2:11.00 *
2YO	1609m	Pacer	Mobile	2:02.00	2:04.00	2:06.00	2:07.00 *
3YO+	1609m+	Pacer	Stand	2:04.00	2:06.00	2:08.00	2:09.00 *
3YO+	1609m+	Pacer	Mobile	2:00.00	2:03.00	2:04.00	2:05.00 *

**Note:** These times are a guide and Supervisors may allow for external factors, such as track conditions.

**Note:** \* Plus one (1) second at Broken Hill.

**Note:** Refer Appendix i for reference to the Groups of tracks.

## 9 QUALIFYING/REQUALIFYING TRIALS - TROTTERS

- 9.1 A horse which has been barred and must requalify to race, unless explicitly approved by HRNSW, may only requalify in an Official Trial which is conducted one clear day of being stood down (i.e. A horse that is barred on a Tuesday cannot requalify until Thursday).
- 9.2 A horse may only qualify or requalify in an Official Trial, and until the full details of that trial are made available to HRNSW for inclusion in the trial results, the horse shall not be permitted to contest a race.
- 9.3 Unless otherwise approved by HRNSW, in order for a trotter to qualify or requalify in an Official Trial, a minimum of **two (2)** horses must contest a mobile start and four (4) horses must contest a standing start.
- 9.4 In order to qualify or requalify for a standing start events, a horse must have at least one horse drawn to its inside and one horse to its outside at the start.
- 9.5 **Note for Standing Starts:** Horses drawn alongside a horse seeking to qualify or requalify are under no obligation to finish the Official Trial.
- 9.6 Outside Draw (OD) and Right Outside Draw (ROD) horses shall be allowed to requalify for "in running" offences from OD and ROD positions.
- 9.7 On tracks where there are two (2) rows of runners in an Official Trial, horses that are qualifying or requalifying should be drawn on the front row.
- 9.8 The following minimum mile rates **for each individual horse** will be observed in order to qualify or requalify in Official Trials:

### MINIMUM MILE RATE STANDARDS - TROTTERS:

Age	Distance	Gait	Start	Tracks A	Tracks B
2YO	1609m	Trotter	Stand	2:18.00	2:26.00
2YO	1609m	Trotter	Mobile	2:12.00	2:20.00
3YO+	1609m+	Trotter	Stand	2:14.00	2:20.00
3YO+	1609m+	Trotter	Mobile	2:08.00	2:14.00

**Note:** **Tracks A** – Tracks of 900 metres circumference or greater.  
**Tracks B** – Tracks of less than 900 metres circumference.

## 10 REMOVAL OF FIRST ODM/ODS

- 10.1 The first ODM/ODS can be removed at Official Trials by an HRNSW authorised Trial Supervisor.
- 10.2 It is the responsibility of the Trainer of a horse wishing to have an Out of Draw lifted at Official Trials to inform the HRNSW authorised Trial Supervisor **prior** to trialling.

10.3 The Trainer shall ensure that they have the horse's registration papers available at the trials for inspection by an HRNSW authorised Trial Supervisor or the Stewards.

## **11 LIFTING OF ODM/ODS**

11.1 The removal of the second ODM/ODS can only be lifted following the horse competing in a race.

11.2 In order for the second ODM/ODS to be lifted, the officiating Stewards must be requested by the Trainer to have the ODM/ODS lifted. Such a request must be made on the race day/night that the horse competes. Failure to do so may result in the ODM/ODS not being lifted.

## **12 HORSES NOT HAVING RACED FOR 60 DAYS**

12.1 Any horse, including a horse imported into Australia, shall be ineligible to accept for a race, where the date of the race is more than 60 (clear) days, since the horse last competed in a race or trial

**APPENDIX i:**

**Tracks for the qualifying or requalifying of pacers.**

<b>Group A</b>	<b>Group B</b>	<b>Group C</b>	<b>Group D</b>
Menangle	Bathurst	Albury	Armidale
	Goulburn	Bankstown	Blayney
	Newcastle	Canberra	Broken Hill
	Wagga	Coolamon	Cessnock
		Dubbo	Cowra
		Eugowra	Forbes
		Leeton	Griffith
		Parkes	Inverell
		Penrith	Junee
		Tamworth	Maitland
		West Wyalong	Narrabri
		Young	Peak Hill