

SA General Racing Information

2015 / 2016 Season



Harness Racing SA Ltd

ABN 68 094 559 930

1 Globe Derby Drive, Globe Derby Park SA 5110

Telephone: (08) 8285 2899 Facsimile: Admin (08) 8285 2961; Stewards (08) 8250 5692

Internet: www.saharnessracing.com Email: saharness@saharness.org.au

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1. HORSE QUALIFICATION STANDARDS

1.1 All unraced horses or horses under a ban must meet a qualification standard before being eligible to race.

1.2 Horses may only be qualified by a qualifying Supervisor or a Harness Racing SA Ltd (HRSA) Steward.

1.3 HRSA will determine venues where a horse may qualify.

1.4 To qualify a horse must compete in a field of at least 3 horses, unless otherwise approved by the Chairman of Stewards, and meet the following criteria:

- Be tractable throughout the starting procedure and not delay the start or cause any inconvenience to any starter
- Be in position at the start
- Not break gait or be wayward or erratic
- Be competitive
- Run the qualifying times as stipulated in the 'HRSA Official Trials Policy'

1.5 A horse which qualifies to race at one method of starting must qualify at the other method by at least competing in a Qualifying Trial. A horse cannot compete in 2 trials on the same day for the purpose of Qualifying.

1.6 Horses must be identified off their Registration Assessment Certificate by a HRSA Steward or qualifying Supervisor before competing in a qualifying or barrier trial.

2. QUALIFYING TO RACE

2.1 To be eligible for a mobile start race, a horse must qualify in a Mobile Start Official Trial.

2.2 To be eligible for a standing start race, a horse must qualify in a Standing Start Official Trial;

3. RE-INCLUSION IN BARRIER DRAW

3.1 A trainer may have a horse re-included in the barrier draw at a barrier or official trial or in a race start by completing the respective starting procedure satisfactorily.

3.2 To be re-included in the draw a horse needs to complete either two race starts or one official trial and one race start. These must be consecutive. Stewards will take into account the overall record of the horse before re-including it in the draw.

3.3 A horse cannot compete in two trials or a trial and race on the one day for the purpose of re-inclusion in the barrier draw.

3.4 To be deemed a satisfactory start, a horse must complete the required starting procedure without delay or causing interference to another horse and negotiate the next 100 metres without losing gait or rhythm.

3.5 The onus is on the Trainer to notify stewards prior to the horse trialling or racing, if they wish the horse to be assessed for re-inclusion in the barrier draw.

4. UN-NAMED HORSES

4.1 An un-named horse cannot contest an official trial.

5. CHANGE OF GAIT

5.1 To change the gait of a horse, the owner must make application in writing to the Chairman of Stewards.

5.2 The horse will then be required to trial to the satisfaction of the Stewards, at the new gait, on at least two (2) consecutive occasions.

6. CONCESSION DRIVER

6.1 A concession driver is defined as a licensed driver who has held a licence for a period of less than five years from the date the licence was first granted.

6.2 A concession driver may, with the approval of the Controlling Body, claim a concession (subject to the exceptions hereinafter set out) in each of the first five years from the date of first being granted a licence, provided the driver has not in that year, driven 40 winners. Concession drivers may apply for an extension if they haven't driven 50 winners; the initial extension will be 12 months or until they have driven 50 winners.

6.3 Drivers under the age of 23 are eligible to claim a concession until August 31 in the season in which they turn 23 provided that the five year maximum concession of 200 career penalty winners and 50 metropolitan penalty winners has not been utilised. (subject to clause 6.2)

6.4 The Controlling Body may at any time withdraw its approval for a concession driver to claim a concession.

6.5 A dead-heat for first place will not count as a win.

6.6 A horse driven by a concession driver claiming a concession will have its classification reduced by one class for that race.

6.7 A concession may NOT be claimed in the following type of race:

- A discretionary handicap
- A mobile race combining 3 or more classes. (where a horse is eligible to start in one of these races, a concession can be used to improve barrier draw)
- A 2YO age race
- A 3YO age race
- A Claiming race
- A race with a front of M0, TM0, C0. Or in a T0, R0 or TR0 mobile start.

(In a T0 or TRO Standing Start a concession can be claimed, but cannot be claimed to allow a horse to start off the front mark.)

6.8 A concession claim cannot be claimed after the close of nominations.

6.9 When a concession driver wins his/her final concession claim race at a meeting, the driver will be permitted to claim the relevant concession for the remainder of such meeting and any other meeting for which the declaration of driver time has passed.

6.10 If a concession driver claiming a concession is engaged to drive a horse in a race thereby reducing its class for that race, and is subsequently unable to fulfill that driving engagement and there is not a concession driver available to take the drive, the Steward In Charge of the meeting may allow a driver of similar status to take the drive.

7. YOUNG DRIVER

A young driver is defined as a licensed driver who has not attained the age of 25 years at the commencement of the season.

8. MARES ALLOWANCE

8.1 A mare nominated for a race not already restricted to mares, shall be automatically granted a mares allowance and will have its classification reduced by one class for that race, (unless noted otherwise).

8.2 A concession driver claim may not be utilized on a mare which has already benefited from a mares allowance.

8.3 An allowance may not be claimed in the following races:

- A Discretionary Handicap
- A 2YO age race
- A 3YO age race
- A Claiming race
- A race with a front of M0, TM0, C0, T0, R0 or TR0

(In a T0 or TR0 Standing Start a concession can be claimed, but cannot be claimed to allow a horse to start off the front mark.)

9. LODGING NOMINATIONS

All nominations should be on an official Nomination Form or via harnessweb.

A Nomination Form should include the race code, horse name, driver name (if driver's name is not known, insert "USD" (Unspecified Driver), and where applicable, claiming price.

When claiming a driver's concession, the nomination must include "CDC" (Concession Driver Claim), or tick the appropriate box.

Nominations may be faxed to HRSA on (08) 8285 2961 or (08) 8250 5692.

All nominations close with HRSA at the time as advertised in the Harness Racer or at any time as extended by HRSA.

Nominations may be lodged with the Stewards during the conduct of a race meeting.

Trainers who nominate by facsimile should ensure that the fax machine is programmed with the correct time, date and machine ID so that any subsequent confirmation may be traceable.

NOTE: As changes are sometimes made to race programs, you should always refer to the latest edition of the Harness Racer or to the harness racing website.

10. CLAIMING RACES

10.1 Owners and trainers wishing to nominate a horse for a Claiming race must have the correct Claiming Authority form lodged with HRSA prior to close of nominations.

10.2 The claiming price of a horse may be increased by the trainer on the nomination form; however, the claiming price can only be decreased by the owner with lodgement of a "new" Claiming Authority form.

10.3 A horse owned by a syndicate or otherwise jointly owned may, where the syndicate or joint ownership agreement is being dissolved, be claimed by a member or members of the syndicate or joint ownership provided that HRSA is in receipt of written notification signed by all members of the syndicate or joint ownership that the syndicate or partnership is being dissolved.

10.4 A trainer or driver of a horse engaged in a Claiming race that is not the owner of the horse, may enter a claim for the horse if the owner/s notifies HRSA in writing prior to the meeting at which the horse is engaged, that there is no objection to such a claim.

10.5 When nominations for claiming races are to be publicly displayed and the barrier draw is dependent upon the claiming prices; then the Racing Office will remove the listed claiming price and only reinstate it after the close of Acceptances.

10.6 The minimum claiming price a horse can be entered for is \$1,000. Horses can be nominated in claiming races in multiples of \$500.

11. ELIGIBILITY FOR RACE

11.1 Horses will be declared eligible or ineligible for a race at acceptance time. If a horse wins a race after acceptance time, it will remain eligible for the race in which it is an acceptor.

11.2 In the case of standing start races, the horse will retain its original handicap mark except in a discretionary handicap race the horse may be re-handicapped.

11.3 If a horse incurs a ban after acceptance time, it will be ineligible to start in the race.

12. RACES FOR SA TRAINED HORSES

Events restricted to South Australian trained horses only:

To be eligible as SA trained a stable return needs to be lodged a minimum of 14 days before the date of the race. Also trainers that have raced horses at Mount Gambier in at least 50% of race meetings in the preceding 12 months and have lodged a stable return 28 days before the date of the race.

13. TRANSFER OF CLASS

If a horse wins a race prior to acceptance time for a meeting thereby making it ineligible for a race for which it was nominated for at the meeting, the trainer may, before acceptance time, request the HRSA Racing Office to transfer the horse to a race for which it is eligible.

14. UNPAID FORFEITS LIST

Any horse owned, part-owned or trained by a person on the Unpaid Forfeits List of any Controlling Body will not be eligible to be nominated for a race or compete in a race until the outstanding debt is paid in full and the name is removed from the List.

15. PENALTIES

A horse which wins a race programmed on stakeonies won, will take one (1) Harness Racing Australia Handicapping Penalty based on:

\$2,000 or less – No penalty

\$2,001 - \$3,500 – RP (Graduation Penalty) or RAP (Graduation Age Penalty)

\$3,501 - \$14,999 – CP (Career Penalty) or AP (Age Penalty)

\$15,000 plus – MP (Metropolitan Penalty)

See clause 38 for Local Handicapping exception.

16. AUTOMATIC FIELD SELECTION

HRSA use the automatic Field Selection System for any race of total prizemoney \$5,000 or under.

The process provides owners and trainers with a clear indication as to where their horses will obtain a start.

Fields for races with prizemoney \$5,000 or under covered by the SA TAB will be selected in accordance with the automatic field selection criteria, using the descending points score order, unless otherwise indicated. Non-TAB meetings will be selected using the ascending points score order.

Example of Points Calculation

A horse qualifies and earns 24 points. The following is an example of how the horse's points alter after each race performance.

	Start	Placing	Points	Score	Calculation
1.	(Qual.)		24	24	6, 6, 6, 6 (4 gifted starts)
2.	TAB	9 th	1	24	6, 6, 6, 6, 1 (1 discarded)
3.	TAB	7 th	3	21	6, 6, 6, 1, 3 (1 discarded)
4.	TAB	1 st	10	25	6, 6, 1, 3, 10 (1 discarded)
5.	TAB	6 th	4	23	6, 1, 3, 10, 4 (1 discarded)
6.	TAB	12 th	0	18	1, 3, 10, 4, 0 (0 discarded)
7.	Non-TAB	2nd	7	24	3, 10, 4, 0, 7 (0 discarded)

Points will be allocated in accordance with the following table:

Finishing Position	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
TAB	10	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Non-TAB	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	0

17. INTERFERENCE COMPENSATION

Horses will be eligible for interference compensation if, in the opinion of the Stewards Panel at the meeting, significant interference caused by another runner has occurred. Compensation points will be allocated accordingly.

18. UNRACED HORSES

When a horse initially qualifies to race it will be allotted a points score of 24 points (4 “gifted” starts x 6 points).

The points score of a newly qualified horse will then be calculated in the same manner as for a horse with a racing history, that is, by considering the horse’s last 5 performances and disregarding the least points earning effort so that the total of the remaining 4 performances becomes the points score used in the automatic field selection system.

19. EQUAL POINTS

In the event of 2 horses being equal with the same points score, a countback will determine which horse gains a start, with preference given to the horse which earned the highest points at the last start.

If both/all horses earned the same points, the procedure will be repeated through each previous start.

If both/all horses cannot be separated, the computer will implement a random ballot to determine which horse/s gain a start.

20. FIELD SELECTION PREFERENCE

When nominations for a race are extended, preference in field selection will be given to original nominations.

The order or preference for field selection for horses with an unfulfilled engagement or by late nomination is as follows:

- (1) Unfulfilled engagement
- (2) Late Nomination

Trainers Preference Policy

The process available for trainers is that where a horse is entered into multiple events, the trainer may give the Racing Office a preference for a race. Where possible the Racing Office will honour the preference. However trainers should be aware that on some occasions the Racing Office may leave a horse in a non-preferred race to ensure the standard of the meeting. A Trainers other option is to scratch the horse from the non-preferred race.

21. UNFULFILLED ENGAGEMENT

A horse that has an engagement as a starter in a registered race (not emergency) at acceptance time for a given meeting will be deemed as having an unfulfilled engagement.

22. MINIMUM NUMBER OF ACCEPTORS

TAB Meetings:

For a race where the number of final acceptors is less than 8 in number, the race may be deleted unless the quality of the acceptors is even and it is considered by HRSA that by conducting the race it will be of benefit to the conducting club and the industry.

NON TAB Meetings:

For a race where the number of final acceptors is less than 6 in number, the race may be deleted unless the quality of the acceptors is even and it is considered by HRSA that by conducting the race it will be of benefit to the conducting club and the industry.

23. DIVISION OF RACES

23.1 If a race is to be divided, the fields will be selected to provide divisions, taking into account, owner and trainer splits.

23.2 If a race is selected on a field selection points basis, then owner and trainer splits are not taken into account. In the case of points selection event a trainer with multiple runners in a division can elect to transfer a horse/s with the highest points into a higher points division.

24. MANUAL FIELD SELECTION

Fields for races with total prizemoney in excess of \$5,000, country clubs' major cup races or other races determined by HRSA will be selected by the HRSA Field Selection Panel.

These fields will be selected on the last 10 race start performances. The automatic field selection system and the unfulfilled engagement rule will not be applicable.

25. EMERGENCIES

One emergency may be declared for any TAB event.

26. EMERGENCIES

26.1 When a horse is listed as an emergency for a race for which it has qualified, or was selected for, and it is also selected to race in another race, the race in which it is an emergency takes preference.

26.2 If a horse is withdrawn from the race in which it is listed as emergency scratching penalties will apply, and it will not be eligible to compete in the other race at the meeting.

26.3 A horse that is listed as an emergency for a race can be nominated at a subsequent meeting in the next 72 hours and if it gains a start as emergency, it may be scratched from the subsequent race penalty free.

26.4 It is the responsibility of the trainer to contact the Racing Office of HRSA (08 8285 0732) immediately after final scratching time (9.00am on the day of the race) to ascertain as to whether the horse is required for the race.

TRACK	FIELD LIMITS START METHOD	STARTERS
Globe Derby Park	S – 7 Across	12
	M – 7 Across	11
Port Pirie	S – 6 Across	12
	M – 6 Across	11
Kapunda	S – 6 Across	12
	M – 6 Across	10
Mt Gambier	S – 6 Across	12
	M – 6 Across	10
Victor Harbor	S – 6 Across	12
	M – 6 Across	11

27. HEATS AND FINALS

27.1 Horses selected in heats of a race are deemed to be final acceptors in all rounds of heats (if applicable) and the final.

27.2 When a horse is scratched from a heat of a race the scratching penalty will apply from midnight of the day of the heat.

27.3 When a horse is scratched from the final of a race the scratching penalty will apply from midnight of the day of the final.

27.4 Horses may contest more than one heat; however, preference in the selection of fields will be given to horses that have not contested a heat.

27.5 If a horse has already qualified for the final contests another heat, and again finishes in a qualifying position, the next placed horse in the latter heat will be declared the qualifier.

27.6 If any qualified horse is unable to take its place in the final, the next placed horse in the heat, or if the final field is selected on a point system, the next listed horse, will be declared the qualifier.

27.7 Horses which qualify for a final will not be permitted to start in any other race on the day the final is scheduled.

27.8 The number of horses which qualify from each heat will depend on the field limit of the final set by HRSA and how many heats are run.

27.9 In the event of there being insufficient numbers to conduct more than one heat, the heat will be conducted as a prelude to the final, and the field for the final will be selected from the horses which competed in the Prelude and nominations received for the final, with preference given to the horses which competed in the Prelude. For the purposes of this policy a Prelude is considered a “heat” and Heats and Final conditions apply.

27.10 In the event of a heat being abandoned after the declaration of acceptances the HRSA Field Selection panel will select the highest point/s scorer in accordance with the Automatic Field Selection Criteria from the heat as qualifier/s for the final.

27.11 The type of barrier draw applies to the heats will apply to the final.

27.12 A horse that wins a heat will retain its handicap class for all races throughout the series.

27.13 A horse that wins outside of the series of races remains eligible and retains its handicap/class for any remaining heats and final.

Rule 195A shall apply to heats and finals.

28. NOTIFICATION OF DRIVER

28.1 Changes to the original nominated driver or confirmation of an “USD” or “CDC” must be notified in accordance of the published time for driver changes.

28.2 It is the **trainer’s responsibility** to notify the HRSA Racing Office of their driver change by the published times. Driving changes effected after the published times must be authorized by the Stewards and may attract a penalty.

28.3 Driving changes after 9.00 a.m. on the day of the meeting will only be allowed by the Stewards if the driver holds the same grade of licence and is of similar experience and status.

29. SCRATCHING NOTIFICATION

29.1 Scratchings can be made with Harness Racing SA staff, either in person (at the HRSA office) or by phone, during normal office hours. Normal office hours are 8.30am to 4.45pm, Monday to Friday.

29.2 Phone numbers to be used are (08) 8285 2899 (select 1.racing) or (08) 8285 0732 (direct racing ext.).

29.3 For after hour’s scratchings (Saturday’s, Sunday’s & Public Holidays); the above numbers can be used between 8.00am and 9.00am on the day of the meeting.

- *Please note that driver changes or scratchings are **NOT** to be left on the HRSA Office after Hours Message Service or sent by FAX.*

29.4 Notification of late scratchings or driving changes for meetings conducted on Saturday, Sunday or Public Holidays may be notified on Mobile Phone Numbers **0425 836 910** or **0438 946 952** OR to the Stewards at the track (Stewards are in attendance at the track 1 hour prior to the advertised time of the first race).

NOTE: *The mobile numbers are **NOT** a general inquiry or information service.*

30. SCRATCHING PENALTIES

30.1 Unless otherwise approved by the Chairman of Stewards, horses withdrawn after acceptance time (refer to Program Section of the Harness Racer Magazine) will be stood down from racing for 10 days from midnight of the day of the meeting and a \$33 scratching fee is charged (see clause 31).

30.2 A horse withdrawn after 9.00 a.m. (SA time) on the day of the meeting will be stood down from racing for 28 days from midnight of the day of the meeting. And a \$33 scratching fee is charged (see clause 31).

30.3 When a Veterinary Certificate is received by HRSA in relation to a horse's scratching, it must detail the condition which caused the withdrawal, the time and date the Veterinarian inspected the horse and when the horse will be fit to resume racing. Where these requirements are met and the veterinary inspection is completed prior to or on the day of the race, the stand down period may be reduced to the time the Veterinarian certifies the horse will be unable to race but, unless otherwise approved by Stewards, to not less than 6 days pursuant to Rule 31.

30.4 For a horse that is withdrawn after 9.00 a.m. (SA time) on the day of the race for reasons other than Veterinary advice, HRSA Stewards may require any such documents or declaration **within 48 hours of the withdrawal** of the horse to verify the reason for withdrawal.

30.5 When a horse is sold or a change of trainer is notified after acceptance time the owner may, with the approval of the Stewards, withdraw the horse without penalty.

31. SCRATCHING FEE

When a horse is withdrawn after acceptances close, without a Veterinary Certificate detailing the condition causing the withdrawal or the provision of any other document or declaration required by the Stewards, a scratching fee of \$33 (inc GST) will be charged to the owner.

32. WARM WEATHER POLICY

At race meetings where the Bureau of Meteorology has forecast, within 24 hours of the meeting, that the temperature at the venue where the meeting is to be held will exceed 38°C; a trainer may, before 9.00 a.m. on the day of the meeting, seek permission from the Stewards to withdraw the horse from its engagement without a scratching penalty applied.

33. PARTICIPATING DRIVER

Participating drivers are advised that at all tracks, facilities are provided for both male and female drivers (drivers change rooms).

These facilities include seating, circulating cool air, cool drinking water, showers and access to first aid and rest areas.

Drivers are advised to avail themselves to the provided facilities during the warmer weather.

34. CHECK IN TIME

A trainer or his/her representative must declare the presence of a horse at a meeting to the Secretary no later than 60 minutes prior to the advertised starting time of the race.

A driver engaged to drive a horse in a race shall report his attendance at the racecourse to the Stewards or the person authorised by the Stewards no later than 30 minutes prior to the official start time of the race.

35. ACCEPTANCE FEES

An Acceptance Fee of 1.0% shall apply to all races of \$30,000 or more.

36. DRIVERS FEE CHARGE

A first charge will be deducted from the advertised stake money to provide for drivers fees.

Driver's fees are paid accordingly:

Globe Derby Park Major meetings	\$40
Other TAB meetings	\$30
Non-TAB meetings	\$25

37. STABLE RETURNS

37.1 A Stable Return, with all sections completed, must be lodged with HRSA Ltd, or such notification made via HarnessWeb, immediately a horse comes under the control of a trainer with the intention of preparing the horse to participate in racing.

37.2 Any trainer relinquishing the training of a horse shall notify HRSA Ltd in writing, or via HarnessWeb, immediately upon the horse leaving his/her care.

The above requirements are mandatory and particularly important where such horse is engaged to race so as to enable the stable change to be publicly announced.

38. LOCAL HANDICAPPING

Horses in SA are handicapped as per the Australian Handicapping Rules, except for the following:

38.1 The winner of a standard Career or Age Penalty event will incur one Career or Age Penalty (2C,3C or C) and one Graduation or Graduation Age Penalty (2R,3R or R), except that if such horses' Graduation classification exceeds the equivalent Career or Age classification on the handicapping scale (Clauses 7 or 12 under AHR) it shall incur only one Career or Age Penalty but shall not incur a Graduation or Age Graduation Penalty.

This supersedes Australian Handicapping Rules 3.2 & 3.3.

39. STARTING BARRIER POSITION CHANGES DUE TO SCRATCHINGS

Under AHR Rule 131, barrier positions shall be filled at the time and in the manner determined by the Controlling Body. HRSA policy on changes to barrier positions due to scratchings is:

39.1 Barrier lines do not change with scratchings ie no horse drawn the second row shall be promoted to the front row.

39.2 Barrier positions move down the respective line with scratchings prior to the official scratching time.

39.3 In the event of a late scratching on the front row, the outside horses shall move in to fill the vacant position.

39.4 In the event of a late scratching on the 2nd row, there shall be no change from allotted positions.

40. NO RACES – ABANDONED MEETINGS

40.1 If a race is declared a no race by the Stewards, all horses that started in the event will be eligible for a rebate of \$100. Drivers fees are to be paid.

40.2 Should a race meeting be abandoned up to one hour prior to starting time or later, including after the meeting has started, a \$100 rebate payment will be paid to each trainer with horses entered at that meeting who had a horse which had not started in a race.