



HARNESS RACING VICTORIA – GUIDE TO CONDUCTING TRIALS

The following guide is aimed at providing Harness Racing clubs with an overview of the minimum standards expected when conducting trials to ensure safe conduct and consistent industry standards are implemented.

The guide is also aimed to assist clubs in the transition of staff to enable consistent transfer of information and understanding of trial requirements.

STAFF

Minimum Requirements

First Aid officers / First Aid Standards

The minimum requirement is 2 x Level 2 accredited First Aid officers. Please refer to HRV approved Minimum First Aid standards for Trials.

Clerks Of Course

The minimum requirement is for 1 x HRV accredited Clerk of Course. Please contact HRV for a list of currently accredited Clerks Of Course.

Club Steward

The minimum requirement is for 1 x Club steward who is HRV approved. The steward is responsible for ensuring the qualification standards for horses and requirements of drivers that are detailed in this document are implemented and adhered to.

Veterinarian

The club should have in place an agreement with a local veterinary practice for a veterinarian to attend at short notice should a horse or horses be injured. The emergency contact details of the veterinary practice should be readily available to the officiating Club Steward.

Starter / Mobile Barrier Driver

The minimum requirement is for 1 x Club official who is HRV approved.

Judge

The minimum requirement is for 1 x Club official who is HRV approved.

Other Staff

- Race caller
- Track attendant/s
- Timer (this can be done by the same person who does the judging)

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

Trial Results

All clubs are required to submit trial results in the prescribed electronic format. This will enable Club results to be displayed on the internet in a consistent format. HRV have developed a program that assists in the compilation of trial fields, results and a results spreadsheet. For either file please contact the HRV Racing Office.

Replays

Clubs are responsible for the recording and broadcasting of trial replays on YouTube. This service is invaluable for participants, owners and punters and helps the industry meet these important stakeholders expectations. Should your club require assistance setting up this service please contact the HRV operations department.

Sulky Fund Claims

As per the State-wide Sulky Fund Guidelines, Trainers will be covered for sulky damage that occurs whilst competing in races, all trials at Category One clubs and all Qualifying trials at Category Two trials (*approved 1 April 2009*) that are under the control of a HRV approved and authorised steward. For more details please see the Statewide Sulky Fund guidelines.

Official / Club Trials

Clubs conducting Official-Club trials must comply with the minimum staffing standards set out in this document as well as supply trial results in the prescribed electronic format. Horse and driver qualification is not permitted at these fixtures.

Close of Nominations

No nominations are to be accepted once the deadline for nominations has closed, unless a horse has been stood down to trial, placed out of the draw or was previously nominated at a trial meeting which had been cancelled subsequent to nominations closing. Permission must be granted by the HRV Stewards or the HRV Racing Office prior to such horse trialling.

Deceased Horse

Where a horse is found to have deceased at qualifying or official trials for unknown reasons, the trial supervisor is to contact the HRV Stewards immediately so that a decision can be made in relation to blood and urine samples being collected by a Veterinary Surgeon. Should it be decided that samples are to be collected this cost will be covered by Harness Racing Victoria.

Cancelled Trials

From time to time trials may need to be cancelled as a result of insufficient nominations, venue availability etc. In these instances HRV approval is required prior to cancellation. Please contact the HRV Racing Office as early as possible if your Club needs to cancel a trial meeting.

CONDUCT OF QUALIFYING TRIALS

The following procedures must be adhered to at all qualifying trials.

Horses Qualifying / Stood Down Horses

Pre-Trial Checks

- Registration Assessment Certificate (RAC – ‘ID Papers’) received from trainer.
- Horse Bar Record sheet to be signed for SD (stood down) horses prior to trial.
- No Certificate – Horse WILL NOT qualify.
- Horse to be inspected thoroughly.
- Yellow ‘Stewards Inspection’ form filled out if any changes need to be made to the RAC.
- Horses freezebrand checked as it enters the parade ring (This requirement relates to ALL horses trialling, not only those qualifying or re-qualifying).
- As per 8.2.3 of *Victorian Racing Information* – For such qualifications to be valid, a minimum of four horses must contest the trial, unless otherwise approved by Stewards.
- The horse qualifying should have a horse drawn each side of it at the start.
- A horse must not participate in a barrier practice education on trial day PRIOR to qualifying **.

**** Note:** A qualifying horse is permitted to participate in a barrier practice education after the completion of the trials.

A horse is permitted to participate in barrier practice education prior to trialling, however this horse CAN NOT be considered for qualifying at such trial program.

Post-Trial Check

- A horse that has been stood down from racing for having bled in accordance with the provisions of AHRR 101, shall be inspected after the completion of such re-qualifying trial, to identify any presence of blood from the relevant horses’ nostrils.

Mobile Starts (Qualifiers and Stood Down Horses)

- The horse must maintain the correct gait for the entire score-up and be within one (1) metre of the mobile barrier from the candy pole to the start.
- Horse must behave in a tractable manner and maintain their correct gait for the entire trial.

Mobile Starts (Qualifiers and Stood Down Horses) Cont’d.

- Horse must complete the trial in a competitive manner to the satisfaction of the supervisor.

Standing Starts (Qualifiers & Stood Down Horses)

- The horse must not delay the start; walk straight in when called by the starter and stand within one (1) metre of the barrier strand.
- Horse must behave in a tractable manner and maintain their correct gait for the entire trial.
- Horse must complete the trial in a competitive manner to the satisfaction of the supervisor.

Horses getting back into the draw (ODM/ODS)

Pre-Trial Checks

- Horse Bar Record sheet to be signed for ODM/ODS horses prior to trial.
- Horses freezebrand checked as it enters the parade ring.
- The ODM/ODS horse should have a horse drawn each side of it at the start.
- ODM/ODS horse MUST NOT participate in a barrier practice education prior to trial.

ODM Horses

- The horse must maintain the correct gait for the entire score-up and be within one (1) metre of the mobile barrier from the candy pole to the start.
- Horse must behave in a tractable manner and remain in their correct gait for 100 metres after the start.
- Horse must complete the trial.

ODS Horses

- The horse must not delay the start; walk straight in when called by the starter and stand within one (1) metre of the barrier strand.
- Horse must behave in a tractable manner and remain in their correct gait for 100 metres after the start.
- Horse must complete the trial.

All Horses

- It is a requirement that when horses are presented to trial, they are identified by the freezebrand, to ensure that the correct horse has been presented to trial.

Monte Trials

- Horses completing monte trials for qualification or to have an embargo (such as SD1T) lifted, are required to complete the trial within the following mile rate:

Track Circumference	Mobile	Stand
900m-1000m+	2.08.0	2.10.0
800m or Less	2.11.0	2.13.0

Drivers

All Drivers

- Drivers **MUST** be wearing correct footwear, helmets, vests, colours and white pants. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- Drivers are not permitted to carry a stop-watch.
- Drivers are not to carry anything but an approved regular race whip.
- Drivers must be fit to carry out their driving duties and if not, they must not be allowed to drive.

Assessing Trial Drivers (Yellow Card)

- The same expectations are placed on a driver in a trial as they are in a race.
- Must complete the trial safely, without causing interference to any runner.
- Horse is to complete the trial in a competitive manner.
- Trial must contain at least four (4) runners for driver to receive a satisfactory drive.



HARNESS RACING VICTORIA

CRITERIA FOR C GRADE DRIVERS TO OBTAIN B GRADE LICENCE

Whilst adhering to the conditions outlined in the *Victorian Harness Racing Licensing Policy*, the following requirements are also to be completed prior to a “C” Grade driver being eligible to obtain a “B” Grade driver licence:

1. A minimum of thirty (30) satisfactory trial drives shall be completed in a period of no less than six (6) months;
2. For a driver to obtain a satisfactory drive, there shall be a minimum of four (4) horses in such trial;
3. A minimum of five (5) satisfactory trial drives are to be completed in a standing start trial*;
4. At least five (5) of the satisfactory trial drives are to be completed under the supervision of a Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) Steward at Tabcorp Park Melton or unless an otherwise prior arrangement has been made with HRV Stewards;
5. Trial drives shall be completed at the following venues:

Ballarat, Bendigo, Cranbourne, Geelong, Kilmore, Mildura, Maryborough, Shepparton, Tabcorp Park Melton, Terang or Swan Hill;

6. Once the above requirements have been met to the satisfaction of the HRV Stewards, the driver will be required to attend an interview with the HRV Stewards prior to being granted a B Grade drivers licence.

**** The criteria and requirements as outlined above can be varied at any time at the discretion of, or as so determined by HRV Stewards.***

This criteria is effective for licensees that have obtained a licence after 29 February 2016.