

Purpose:

To introduce a formal assessment process for all new trackwork riders and stablehand riders [*respectively: Class A Miscellaneous (Riding), Class A Miscellaneous (Trackwork Rider)*]. The assessment will be mandatory for licensing purposes from February 2021.

Background

The lack of formal assessment procedures, within the industry for trackwork riders and stable hands that ride work, leaves trainers within the Thoroughbred Racing industry vulnerable under health and safety legislation. Tragic accidents and subsequent WorkSafe NZ investigations at two stables over the past 4 years have highlighted the need for change in our requirements for the licensing of riders to support employers in meeting their obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

NZTR requested Massey University to propose and scope an evaluation protocol using online testing and practical assessment of riding ability.

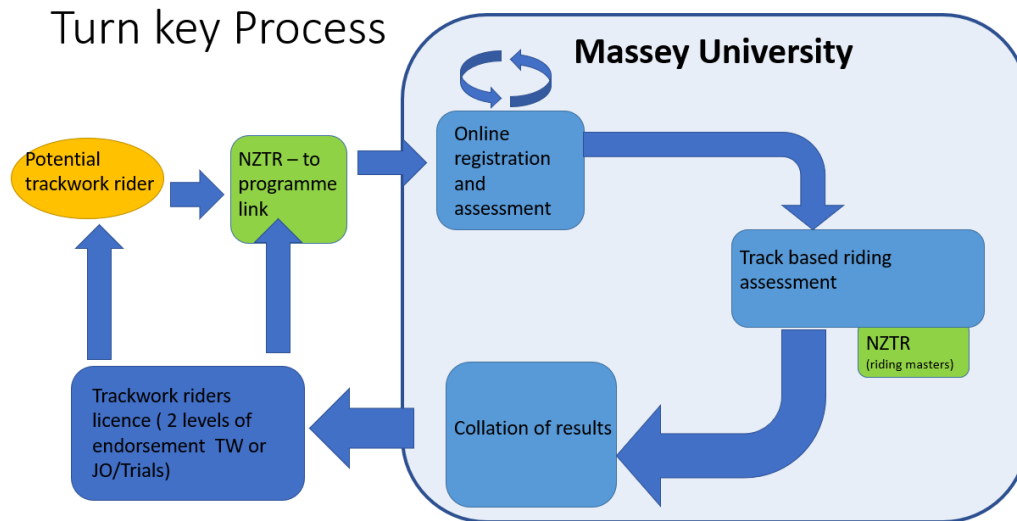
Based on a series of discussions with NZTR, Massey University has provided a broad framework for the assessment process. The evaluation will require the candidate to meet the minimum industry skills, competence, and knowledge standards to ride horses in work at training facilities in New Zealand (**see Note 1**).

The Provider:

The proposed programme would be managed by Massey University in Palmerston North and through regional accreditation centres situated throughout New Zealand.

In the 2020/21 season (from February 2021), the assessment centres will be suitable racecourses. From 2021/22 it is intended that NZTR endorsed private training venues will conduct the assessments. E.g. potentially Kamada Park, Byerley Park etc.

The Proposed Accreditation Process:



Stage 1: The Online assessment:

This process will be a requirement for all Stablehand (Riding) or Trackwork Rider applicants.

Applicants with learning difficulties, literacy or language problems will be offered a verbal assessment assisted by an NZTR training advisor or tutor.

- The online assessment will have a framework similar to that utilised for evaluating theory knowledge for a motor vehicle driver's licence.
- There will be a bank of multichoice questions from which the assessment of 20 multichoice questions will be drawn.
- A 'pass' is achieved when at least 18 of the 20 multichoice questions are correctly answered.
- 75% of questions will relate to trackwork protocols, safety standards, rules, gear and pacework timing. 25% of questions will be basic general racehorse knowledge.
- This assessment will be completed online using NZTR registration details unique to the applicant.

- f) Applicants will receive a copy of the NZTR Trackwork Policy Guideline prior to undertaking the assessment.
- g) Explanations of correct answers will be provided at the end of the assessment.
- h) If an applicant fails to correctly answer 18 of the 20 questions provided, they may re-sit the test, which will comprise another selection of 20 from the 50 possible questions.

EXAMPLE:

While riding track work at a raceclub all riders must:

- a) *Comply with the Clubs rules, instructions and safety requirements.*
- b) *Ensure the all riding gear is shown to the gap supervisor.*
- c) *Groom their horse carefully before entering the track.*
- d) *Not carry a whip.*

Explanation: While riding trackwork all riders must comply with all rules and instructions. Additionally they must comply with all health and safety requirements. Approval to ride work maybe revoked at a Club's discretion if any of the above requirements are breached

All questions have been drafted and can be provided for comment and review.

Stage 2: Practical Riding Assessment

Practical Riding Assessment Option 1: Planned commencement 1 February 2021 and ongoing

Provided that the online assessment has been passed, the applicant can book a practical riding assessment which is as described:

- a) The applicant forwards video evidence of their riding skills to NZTR. This video must be recorded following a set format including basic skills such as saddling up.
- b) NZTR Riding Mentors assess the video and endorse/not endorse the rider to attend a practical assessment session.
- c) On-track assessment via a panel potentially comprised of:
 - a. NZTR riding master,
 - b. Stipendiary Steward,
 - c. A Trackwork rider of at least 5 years' experience (who will ride alongside the applicant), and
 - d. The trainer who employs or intends to employ the applicant.

- d) As is indicated in (c), the employer/trainer will be in attendance and part of the assessment process.
- e) The sponsoring trainer will provide suitable horses for the evaluation and assist in scheduling of the examination with the panel.
- f) Two options are considered for assessments:
 - a. Monthly assessment days at 4-5 centralised venues (see Note 2), and/or
 - b. Assessment (if facilities allow) prior to a Trial meeting or jumpouts.

Practical Riding Assessment Option 2: Planned Commencement 1 August 2021 and ongoing.

- a) The applicant forwards video evidence of their riding skills to NZTR. This video must be recorded following a set format including basic skills such as saddling up.
- b) Riding Mentors assess the video and endorse/not endorse the rider to attend a practical assessment session.
- c) Practical Assessment at an Accreditation Centre* by an approved assessor using the standardised assessment sheet.
- d) The assessor must possess the skills being assessed (potentially including NZQA Assessor Unit Standard 4098).
- e) The assessment Centre will provide facilities, horses and the assessor.
- f) An additional fee for the assessment under Option 2 would be payable to the assessor/Accreditation Centre and would be met by the applicant or their employer.

***Accreditation Centres for Practical Riding Assessments**

- a) As a minimum four Accreditation Centres will be required in the North, CD, Canterbury region, and the Otago/Southland region.
- b) The NZTR and NZTA can work together in identifying suitable and safe venues that have private tracks and facilities for training racehorses, with creation of jointly determined guidelines and policies.
- c) Ideally an assessor would be a former jockey who has good communication skills.
- d) Ideally the Centres would also offer training courses in trackwork riding.
- e) NZTR would create health and safety guidelines and policies for the centres and have involvement in the initial establishment of the programme.

Process Steps to Licensing: (Introduction 1 February 2021)

We propose that, commencing 1st February 2021, all new applicants for the above licence categories must complete both practical and online theoretical assessments. An exemption for the practical test could be granted for a rider who has completed a jockey apprenticeship.

1. Applicant applies to NZTR Licensing Department for either a Trackrider Licence or a Stablehand (Riding) Licence and pays a one-off fee (cost is yet to be determined) to NZTR towards the cost of the assessment process.
2. Licensing Department notifies the applicant that they must attend the accreditation programme through Massey University (registration webpage and login instructions provided).
3. The applicant registers for the assessment on the Massey University system and enrolls in the programme.
4. The applicant completes the Stage 1 Online Assessment, then arranges and undertakes the Stage 2 Practical Riding Assessment (option 1 or 2). If they are deemed as competent, the Massey University will notify the Licensing Dept. If not competent, the applicant will be advised to undertake further training (see Note 2).

Existing Riders: (subject to consultation)

For licensing renewals in a future season, it could be made mandatory that existing riders (current and previously licensed jockeys exempted) who haven't been through the accreditation process, be required to complete the online NZTR/Massey trackrider questionnaire.

An existing rider would pay a once only assessment fee. This fee will fund the cost of Massey University maintaining and operating the online programme and database and forwarding results to NZTR. A minimal fee of approximately \$10 would be charged.

NOTES:

Note 1: Minimum Skills Assessment

The process for Accreditation and Licensing of Trackriders is designed to assess whether or not a prospective rider demonstrates a level of competence that would be safe for riding elementary pacework for the purpose of NZTR licensing.

If the applicant passes the Online and Practical assessments, the Licence issued will carry an Endorsement that the person cannot ride fastwork.

It will be the responsibility of the Trainer to provide advice and opportunities for the rider to develop his/her skills, and that the Trainer should record and retain comments of the riders' progress.

After a period (satisfactory to the Trainer) the rider may apply to NZTR to request the removal of the Endorsement. This request must be accompanied by written references from both the Trainer and a Class A rider.

IMPORTANT: Trainers will continue to have obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 to provide a safe work site for staff, and to assure themselves that staff are competent to carry out the work assigned to them. The skills assessment process is intended to **support** Trainers in making those assessments and carrying out their duties under the Act but does **not** excuse Trainers from their duties under the Act.

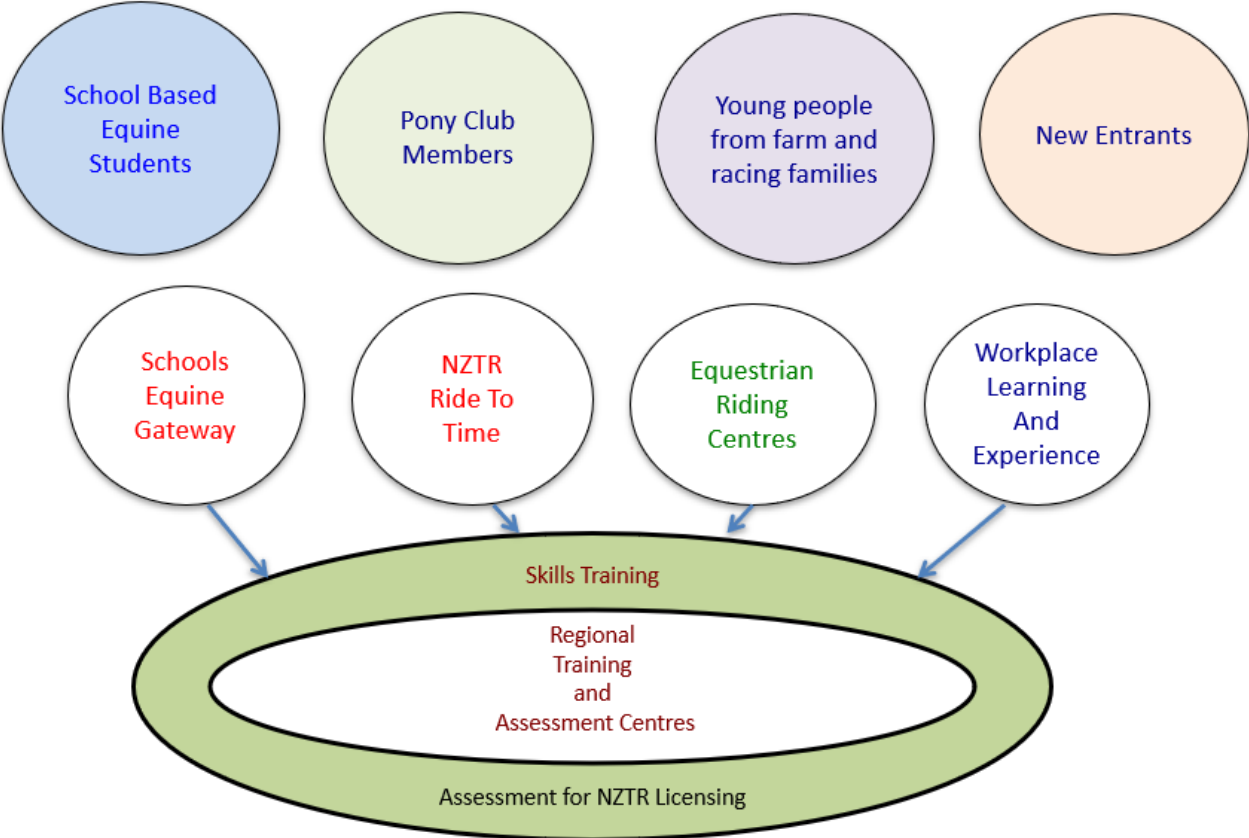
Note 2: Private Tuition

Applicant riders may require tuition in riding prior to application, or as a result of failing the Riding Assessment.

It is proposed that NZTR and NZTA agree standards of accreditation of persons for the purposes of private tuition. This would include the skills and experience of the tutor and suitability of horses and facilities. This would be jointly signed off by NZTR and a NZTA representative (e.g. Branch President).

Additional costs of private tuition would be paid by the prospective rider or employer.

Pathways to Trackriding



Proposal for the Licensing of New Trackwork Riders

