

Frequently asked questions NZTR mandatory trackwork accreditation

NZTR has committed to increasing the standards of professionalism in our sport and ensuring the safety of our participants is upheld. In aligning with international best practice, we have mandatory accreditation of new trackwork riders as of the 1st of February 2022.

What change has been made to the licensing of trackwork riders?

Track work riders prior to 1st of February 2022 were granted licenses with no formal assessment of competency. Having mandatory accreditation ensures we are aligning with the majority of other racing jurisdictions and industries that require a license holder to undergo assessment and accreditation before they are allowed to undertake specific roles in our industry. Anyone who has not previously held a track work riders license will be formally assessed for a slow work license before they can ride trackwork.

I have held a trackwork license or a jockey's license previously, do I need to undergo accreditation?

No if you have previously held a trackwork license or a jockey's license under NZTR and not had a prolonged absence as a license holder you will not have to partake in the accreditation process.

How do I apply for my license if I do not have to undertake the accreditation process?

You need to fill out a C63 application for a fast work license and lodge it with the NZTR licensing department.

Why do track riders need to be accredited?

Safety. Horse racing is a high-risk sport and having all our trackwork license holders display a minimum standard of competency reduced the likelihood of incidents and accidents.

Why do we need two categories of track work riders license?

Safety. Being able to easily identify who can ride at what level, ensures that riders are not over phased and can progress through the competency scale safely.

How do I upgrade to a fast work license?

The accreditation process ensures that you have the minimum standard of competency to ride a thoroughbred horse at a registered or private training venue. As your confidence and ability increases your employer can undertake on job training to upskill you to a fast work license. Your level of competency will have to be endorsed by a trainer and a senior trackwork rider or jockey who regularly rides alongside you.

How do I train to ride fast work if I do not have a license to do so?

Having a slow work license allows you to ride a registered thoroughbred at a public or private training venue. Trainers are expected to undertake due diligence when training their staff to upskill to a fast work license by ensuring they match them with suitable mounts and that riders are well informed of their expectations. Track managers should be informed of the training that is taking place and your trainer should keep a workplace record of your training.

I'm a trainer who rides my own work, do I need to get a track rider accreditation myself?

The current Licensing Policy updates only apply to Stable Employees that ride trackwork. There are not any changes being made to the Trainers Licensing Policy at this time that will require Trainers that ride their own trackwork to complete this course. The Trainers Licensing Policy will remain the subject of ongoing discussions.

What official recognition do the trackwork rider accreditation get me?

There are two NZQA units that are embedded in the trackwork rider accreditation program that have been designed to meet the NZ thoroughbred industry standards. Both units make up the limited credit program (LCP) in trackwork riding and safety skills. This ensures that our participants are receiving formal recognition for their skill sets.

I am not great at reading and writing, is there someone that can assist me?

Yes the regional NZTR training advisor will be able to assist you with the reading and writing elements of this course.

Are there any further training options?

NZTR offers a free level 3 course for trackwork riders and stable hands. Riders can be signed up to this free course at any time and having completed the LCP they will have already gained two of the units that make up the level 3 course.

If my employer cannot provide training to get me up to accreditation standards, what options have I got?

You or your employer can pay for private trackwork riding lessons to get you up skilled. There are a number of people who hold sufficient experience as license holders who are offering private trackwork riding lessons. You can find their details in the NZTR Mandatory trackwork riding accreditation document on the Love racing website.

I am wanting to get into the industry and do not yet have employment as a trackwork rider, how do I get accredited?

Same as above, you can pay privately for trackwork riding lessons to get yourself upskilled and competent to hold a trackwork rider's license. Job vacancies are advertised through the NZ trainer's association website and at NZ racing jobs.

How long does the process take?

This depends on how experienced a rider you are and how quickly you are willing to complete the paperwork.

Who is involved in the practical accreditation?

The NZTR regional track rider assessors will be joined by the local riding mentors to ensure a robust system of fairness and testing of the candidate's competency

What if I fail?

If you fail, you will be given feedback on the areas in which you need to work and can re sit the assessment when you are ready at no extra cost.

Do I go straight to the regional assessment center to get my license?

No, you start the process by lodging the application form with the NZTR licensing department and paying the fee. The NZTR training advisor will be in touch with you to complete your paperwork. Once you have completed the required elements of the paperwork you can then book in with your regional assessment center. If you have passed the NZTR licensing department will be notified, and you will be issued with a slow work license.

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Do I need to be reaccredited ever year?

No, your accreditation does not expire.

Can I still work as a stable hand when I am awaiting accreditation?

Yes, you can still carry out your stable hand duties while you are working through the process of accreditation.

If my employer does not have an unregistered horse in which I can learn to ride what are my options?

If your employer has a registered thoroughbred that is suitable for teaching novice riders how to ride in a safe manner at a registered or private training track, they may nominate that horse as a training horse. This requires the horse to be assessed by two knowledgeable license holders as to their suitability to be ridden by a novice rider. This form can be found on the NZTR website under forms/nominated training horse.