



## RACEMEETING ABANDONMENT POLICY

### Standard Operating Procedures for the Cancelling, Abandoning or Delaying a Race Meeting or Individual Races

#### Introduction

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) is the governing body for Thoroughbred horse racing in New Zealand. It oversees the sport, ensuring that races are conducted fairly and in accordance with the rules and regulations while supplying the thoroughbred product for wagering and sporting customers. The safety and welfare of horses and participants, encompassing all facets of their well-being, is a key priority for NZTR.

The Racing Integrity Board (RIB) is the statutory body responsible for promoting and ensuring compliance with high standards of integrity, animal welfare and professionalism.

#### Purpose and Scope

This document sets out the race meeting Track Safety Review ('TSR') processes to be followed when concerns are identified or raised regarding the safety of a track surface prior to or on the day of racing. These processes include the race meeting, or any individual race being delayed, cancelled or abandoned as a result of an unsafe track surface.

#### Applicable Rules of Racing

- 204 The functions of Stipendiary Stewards and Investigators are to:
- (a) maintain the integrity of Races and racing;
  - (b) regulate and oversee all Race day matters and all matters related to Races and racing;
  - (c) generally, to do all things necessary so that Races and racing are conducted efficiently and with integrity and in accordance with these Rules.
- 207 (1) During a Race Meeting Stipendiary Stewards and Investigators, in addition to all other powers conferred on them by these Rules, have the power to:
- (f) take such steps as they consider necessary for the purpose of horse and Rider welfare.
- 602 (1) From 7:30am on Race day, the Stipendiary Stewards shall:
- (a) have the control of the Race Meeting and be charged with the duty of ensuring that the provisions of these Rules are applied and enforced in respect of that Race Meeting;

- (b) determine any question as to whether that day of racing or any part thereof should be postponed, abandoned or cancelled;
- (2) A Club must follow any directives, policies, guidelines or practices of NZTR (including the National Racing Bureau) necessary for the administration and control of a Race Meeting or related to Races or racing, including any decision by NZTR to cancel a Race day, or a Race Meeting, which may be made prior to or after 7:30 am on a Race day of that Race Meeting.

#### *Commencement of a Track Safety Review*

The TSR process commences when it is considered that the track surface is or may be unsafe for racing. This may be as a result of:

- Unfavourable weather conditions including heavy or prolonged rainfall, intense rainstorms, nearby lightning, high winds, or any other circumstance posing a risk.
- Track surfaces that are compacted and lack sufficient moisture penetration or may become slippery for other reasons.
- Track surfaces that are saturated or waterlogged.
- Track damage of any nature.
- Any other factor that may compromise the safe and/or competitive running of a race.

In addition to a TSR being conducted during the conduct of a race meeting, a TSR may be conducted prior to the race meeting commencing which includes the days leading up to the race meeting so as to ensure that, wherever possible, the racing surface is safe for racing to commence on the relevant day.

#### *Conduct of a Track Safety Review Prior to Race Meeting Commencing*

In the event it is reported prior to the commencement of a race meeting, which includes the days leading up to the race meeting, that the track surface may be unsafe for racing, the race meeting Chairman of Stewards ('CoS') or his/her delegate must:

- Inspect the track and in particular any areas which gave rise to the concerns that the track may be unsafe for racing; and
- Make any inquiries considered necessary to understand any safety issues with the track and whether such issues can be remedied in a timely manner for racing to commence; and
- Meet with representatives of the Club, including the Track Manager or his/her delegate, and consider their views as to the suitability of the track for racing.
- Meet with any jockey(s) notified as riding at the meeting should they be available, prior to the meeting commencing, to consult on any potential safety concerns.
- Consider the weather forecast for any intervening period before the race meeting commencing as well as the anticipated weather conditions on the day of the race meeting.

#### *Conduct of a Track Safety Review During the Race Meeting*

If during a race meeting it is considered that the track surface may be unsafe for racing to continue the CoS or his/her delegate together with other available members of the race meeting Stewards Panel must:

- Inspect the track and in particular any areas which gave rise to the concerns that the track may be unsafe for racing; and
- Make any inquiries the CoS or his/her delegate and Stewards Panel considers necessary to understand any safety issues with the track and whether such issues can be remedied in a timely manner for racing to continue; and
- Meet with representatives of the Club, including the Track Manager or his/her delegate, and consider their views on the suitability of the track surface for racing to continue.

- Meet with a delegation of jockeys engaged to ride at the meeting to ascertain and consider the general views of the riding group as to the state of the track and any associated safety concerns.
- Consider the anticipated weather conditions during the remainder of the race meeting.

Following these requirements being satisfied the CoS and, if applicable, other members of the Stewards Panel, will consider all the information obtained and decide:

- Whether there is any safety issue with the track surface which is sufficiently serious that racing should not commence or continue; and
- If there is such a safety issue with the track surface, whether the issue(s) can be addressed in a timely manner for the meeting to proceed or continue.

Following these considerations, a determination should be made as to whether the race meeting can commence or continue and or whether the race meeting or any individual race should be abandoned, cancelled or delayed.

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# Abandonment Protocol Checklist

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## Purpose and Scope

This Checklist is to be used when the race meeting Track Safety Review ('TSR') process has been activated when concerns are identified or raised regarding the safety of a track surface during the day of racing.

## Conduct of a track safety review (Boxes to be ticked where process has been completed)

- Stewards to conduct an inspection of the track with delegation of Riders (Must include rider who raised concern or experienced issue) and Club Representative.
- Stewards to make any enquiries necessary to further understand the issue with the track and consider whether any remediation appropriate. Stewards to discuss with Jockeys and considered the following options:
  - Weather Forecast
  - Going back a race or waiting a period of time.
  - Rail Movement
  - Machinery
  - Whether the meeting could partially continue due to the localised area of concern i.e. 1600 metre chute
  - Any other considerations deemed appropriate
- Riders only to convene in a private setting to consider all options presented as a collective and focus on whether any or all safety concerns can be mitigated
- Once riders have had safety discussion the delegation to return to the Stewards room.
- Stewards to consider Jockeys view on whether the race meeting can continue.
- Stewards to make the decision to continue or abandon the race meeting.
- Decision is communicated to Club, NZTR, TAB & Trackside.

Comments on above:

Jockeys' Decision:			
Jockey Signature:		Date	
Stewards' Decision:			
Stewards Signature:		Date	