

Policy on the Relocation of Group and Listed Races.

1. Purpose and interpretation

- 1.1. This policy sets out the Guiding Principles that NZTR will apply when considering the possible relocation of Group and Listed races within the racing calendar. It is intended to ensure that relocation decisions are made transparently, consistently, and with due regard to the history of, and the investment made by NZTR and the relevant club in relation to, each race.
- 1.2. In this policy, “Original Club” refers to the club who has previously hosted the race, and “New Club” refers to the club who will host the race after the relocation.
- 1.3. This policy reflects that clubs who host Group races (especially Group 1 races) are the custodians of those races for the industry. As custodians, those clubs have a responsibility to use their best endeavours to give the Group races hosted by them the best opportunity of achieving the ratings performance required to enable them to retain their Group status under the Pattern Committee’s operating policies and procedures by:
 - (a) promoting the races and the race meetings at which they are run in a way that appropriately reflects their status and importance; and
 - (b) obtaining appropriate levels of sponsorship, and strong public support, for the races and the race meetings at which they are run.
- 1.4. If a club fails to meet its obligations as the custodian of a Group race, then it may lose the privilege of hosting that race and, if a decision is made to relocate the race in an endeavour to give it the best chance of retaining its Group status, the club may also lose all or some of the financial benefits associated with hosting the race (such as nomination and acceptance fees and sponsorship monies).

2. Role of Pattern Committee

- 2.1. Under the Rules of Racing, the functions of the Pattern Committee are to:
 - (a) produce a list ranking the pre-eminent races in New Zealand into five categories (i.e. Group 1, Group 2, Group 3, Listed Stakes and Listed Jumps); and
 - (b) supply that list to NZTR, who is responsible for its publication and circulation.
- 2.2. Accordingly, the Pattern Committee is ultimately responsible for determining the Group or Listed status of races in New Zealand and for upgrading or downgrading races in accordance with its operating policies and procedures.

- 2.3. This policy does not, and is not intended to, override or otherwise limit the role and functions of the Pattern Committee. Instead, the purpose of this policy is to:
 - (a) enable NZTR to act proactively to put in place arrangements with clubs for the relocation of Group 1 or Group 2 races that are at risk of being downgraded; and
 - (b) otherwise provide for the relocation of Group and Listed races if the venue at which they are usually run is not available for any reason.
- 2.4. Any relocation of a Group or Listed race under this policy is subject to the approval of the Pattern Committee and, where relevant, the Asian Pattern Committee, before it can be implemented.

3. Decision

- 3.1. The decision to relocate any Group or Listed race rests with the NZTR Board, subject to the necessary Pattern Committee approvals. Decisions will be made in consultation with the affected clubs and in line with the Guiding Principles of this policy. The Board may, at its absolute discretion, determine whether and how this policy applies to a particular Group or Listed race.
- 3.2. Any decision to relocate a Group 1 race requires approval from the Pattern Committee and the Asian Pattern Committee. The relocation of all other Group and Listed races only requires approval from the Pattern Committee.

4. Guiding Principles

- 4.1. The Policy has been based on the following Guiding Principles:
 - (a) Preserve the structure and integrity of Group and Listed Races: The Pattern is a significant industry asset. It recognises and showcases the highest quality racing across New Zealand and is critical to the success of our thoroughbred racing and breeding sectors. Individual races form part of the structure of the Pattern and cannot be sold, relocated or otherwise dealt with by individual clubs without the approval of NZTR.
 - (b) Clubs are Custodians: The clubs that host Group and Listed races (especially Group 1 races) are the custodians of those races for the industry and as such have obligations to the industry in relation to the performance of those races and the race meetings at which they are held.
 - (c) Industry first: While Group and Listed Races may have strong historic ties to individual racing clubs and regions, decisions on the venue, date and conditions of these races must always put the good of the New Zealand racing industry first.

- (d) Respect historical connections: An Original Club's overall contribution and connection to a race is an important factor to be recognised and acknowledged.
- (e) Ensure fair economic impact: The economic effects on both Original Clubs and New Clubs, including potential loss of income and reputation for the Original Club, alongside the benefits to the New Club, must be carefully consider and appropriately recognised.

5. Custodianship of Group and Listed Races

- 5.1. Clubs that host Group and Listed races are custodians of those races on behalf of the industry. As custodians, clubs are expected to:
 - (a) Promote races appropriately: Ensure that Group and Listed races, and the race meetings at which they are run, are promoted in a manner that reflects their importance and status within the New Zealand Pattern.
 - (b) Support race quality: Take active steps to encourage strong fields, including through collaborate programming, prizemoney initiatives, and engagement with NZTR, trainers and owners.
 - (c) Deliver high-quality raceday experiences: Provide raceday presentation, facilities, and hospitality standards that enhance the prestige of the race and attract ongoing public and sponsor support.
 - (d) Engage with sponsors and stakeholders: Work collaboratively with NZTR and industry stakeholders to build and maintain commercial partnerships that strengthen the race and its associated meeting.
- 5.2. Failure by a club to meet these custodial responsibilities may be taken into account by NZTR when considering the ongoing status or location of a Group or Listed race.

6. Sponsorship

- 6.1. Sponsorship is one of the cornerstones of the racing industry. Sponsorship provides vital financial support, enhances the prestige of races, and strengthens the connections between racing clubs, their communities, and the wider industry. Group and Listed races, particularly Group 1 races, rely on strong and enduring sponsorships to maintain their prominence within the Pattern and internationally.
- 6.2. Where there is a relocation of a Group or Listed race, NZTR, the Original Club, and the New Club must work collaboratively to protect and strengthen sponsorship relationships. All parties share responsibility for ensuring that sponsors are respected, supported, and provided with the best opportunity to continue their association with the relocated race.

- 6.3. Where a sponsor wishes to continue its association with a Group or Listed race that has been relocated:
- (a) The New Club must take all reasonable steps to provide the sponsor with privileges and benefits at its venue that are equivalent in value and prominence to those previously provided by the Original Club;
 - (b) The New Club must recognise the sponsor as a valued partner, ensuring access to benefits and opportunities consistent with the race's status and the sponsor's historical contribution;
 - (c) The New Club is entitled to receive the value of the sponsorship under any existing agreement, whether directly from the sponsor or via the Original Club, subject to the sponsor's agreement;
 - (d) Where providing equivalent privileges and benefits results in a material financial shortfall to the New Club, it may apply to NZTR for reimbursement of the difference. Any application must be supported by evidence (satisfactory to NZTR) of the financial impact.
- 6.4. Where an existing sponsor's association is closely tied to the Original Club or its region, and the sponsor does not wish to move with a relocated Group or Listed race, the Original Club must use its best endeavours to transition the sponsor to another suitable race at its venue. This approach ensures the sponsor's continued engagement with the industry and ongoing recognition of its contribution.
- 6.5. Where the New Club secures a new sponsor for a relocated Group or Listed race, it must take active steps to strengthen and deepen that relationship for the long term. This requirement on the New Club includes providing meaningful engagement opportunities for the sponsor, clear communication of the race's significance, and visibility of the sponsor commensurate with the race's Group or Listed status.
- 6.6. Any disputes or uncertainty regarding sponsorship in the context of the relocation of a Group or Listed race will be resolved by NZTR, whose decision will be final, having regard to the interests of the industry, the integrity of the Pattern, and the need to sustain positive and enduring sponsor relationships.

7. Relocation of a Group 1 or Group 2 Race in an endeavour to maintain its status

- 7.1. In some circumstances, it may be necessary to relocate a Group 1 or Group 2 race to a New Club in an endeavour to enable the race to retain its Group 1 or Group 2 status in the Pattern. Given the pre-eminence of Group 1 and Group 2 races, relocations in these circumstances are undertaken to help protect the structure and integrity of the Pattern and support the ongoing reputation and value of the race within the New Zealand racing and breeding industry and internationally.

- 7.2. When a Group 1 or Group 2 race is relocated to a New Club under this section of the Policy, the following provisions will apply unless NZTR determines otherwise in its absolute discretion:
- (a) NZTR will determine, in its absolute discretion, based on its assessment of the performance by the Original Club of its obligations in respect of the relevant race under this Policy, whether the Original Club should be entitled to some or all of the nomination and acceptance income for the race if it is relocated and if so for how many years after the race is relocated to the New Club;
 - (b) Subject to (a) above, the New Club will receive all standard benefits of hosting the race, including on-course turnover, increased hospitality opportunities, and all raceday funding under the NZTR Funding Policy associated with hosting the race; and
 - (c) Sponsorship arrangements for the relocated race will be governed by section 6 of this policy.
- 7.3. Depending on the circumstances, NZTR may also:
- (a) Implement travel subsidies (at NZTR's cost) for horses from the Original Club's region who are entered in the race at the New Club following relocation;
 - (b) Provide a financial contribution to the Original Club to assist with costs of travel for the attendance of its representatives at the New Club's race day. If NZTR agrees that travel subsidies are appropriate in the circumstances, the New Club must host the Original Club representatives at an appropriate location at the racecourse on race day; and
 - (c) Require the New Club to recognise members of the Original Club on the race day and provide them with reciprocal member benefits and privileges (excluding parking).
- 7.4. If any decision of NZTR under the above (b) and (c) results in a material financial shortfall to the New Club, it may apply to NZTR for reimbursement of the difference. Any application must be supported by evidence (satisfactory to NZTR) of the financial impact.
- 7.5. If a Group 1 or Group 2 race that has been relocated is nevertheless downgraded, NZTR may, in consultation with the affected clubs, decide to return the race to the Original Club. In this situation, NZTR and the affected clubs will use their best endeavours to ensure that any sponsor of the race is:
- (a) given the opportunity to continue their association with the race at the Original Club, on terms that reflect the race's revised status; or

- (b) where that is not possible or appropriate, offered the opportunity to transfer their support to another suitable race at either the Original Club or the New Club, in order to maintain their engagement with the industry and ensure ongoing recognition of their contribution.

8. Planned temporary relocation

- 8.1. There will be times where Group and Listed races need to temporarily be run at other venues where the Original Club's venue is not available due to a planned reconstruction, or scheduled closure. The relocation of a Group or Listed race in these circumstances must be approved by the Pattern Committee and (if necessary) the Asian Pattern Committee.
- 8.2. Where a temporary relocation of a Group or Listed race is required under clause 7.1, NZTR will work with the Original Club to identify a suitable alternative venue. If agreement cannot be reached on a temporary venue, NZTR will determine the temporary venue, and its decision will be final and binding. Once a temporary venue has been confirmed, the relevant clubs must prepare a joint proposal for the relocation for NZTR's final approval. The proposal must address the following matters:
 - (a) Management of any existing sponsorship in accordance with section 6 of this policy;
 - (b) Who will receive the nomination and acceptance income from the race or whether this will be split between the affected clubs;
 - (c) The attendance of representatives from the Original Club on the race day, including to present any trophies;
 - (d) Whether the benefits and privileges of the Original Club members will be reciprocated by the New Club;
 - (e) Whether NZTR should contribute towards a travel subsidy for horses from the Original Club's region who are entered in the race at the New Club; and
 - (f) Any other matter the clubs determine as relevant.
- 8.3. The costs associated with clauses 7.2(c) and 7.2(d) are the responsibility of the clubs. The affected clubs must agree whether such costs are to be met from the nomination and acceptance income (if retained or shared by the Original Club) or otherwise funded directly by the Original Club. NZTR may, at its discretion, approve and fund a travel subsidy in accordance with clause 7.2(e).

- 8.4. If the affected clubs cannot reach agreement on any aspect of a temporary relocation proposal, the matter must be referred to NZTR for final determination. NZTR's decision will be binding on the clubs.

9. Emergency temporary relocation

- 9.1. This section applies to relocations of Group and Listed races required due to unforeseen circumstances, including the abandonment of a race meeting immediately prior to, or on the day of, the meeting. Such circumstances may include track-surface concerns, extreme weather events, vandalism, or other factors beyond the control of the Original Club.
- 9.2. In these circumstances, NZTR will determine, as promptly and clearly as possible, the venue and associated arrangements for the relocated race. NZTR will consult with the affected clubs to the extent reasonably practicable given the time available, but all final decisions will rest with NZTR in its absolute discretion, including:
- (a) How to accommodate any existing sponsor of the relocated race at the New Club, including ensuring the sponsor has the privileges and benefits at the New Club equivalent in value and prominence to those provided by the Original Club; and
 - (b) who will receive the nomination and acceptance income from the race, and whether any of the income should be used to compensate the New Club for accommodating the change in venue; and
 - (c) whether representatives or members of the Original Club should be recognised at the relocated race meeting, and how the associated costs will be managed.
- 9.3. NZTR's other policies relating to abandonments, subsidies, and payments will apply. This includes the New Club's entitlements to any additional funding from NZTR for hosting the race in accordance with NZTR's Funding Policy.
- 9.4. If an abandoned race can be rescheduled at the Original Club venue, this policy will not apply.
- 9.5. Where hosting the race at short notice results in a material financial disadvantage to the New Club, the New Club may apply to NZTR for reimbursement of the shortfall. Any application must be supported by evidence (satisfactory to NZTR) of the financial impact. NZTR will determine the extent of any reimbursement in its absolute discretion, taking into account the overall wagering and hospitality revenue earned by the New Club for the race day.

10. Relocation by Agreement between Clubs

10.1. Nothing in this Policy is intended to prevent clubs reaching an agreement between themselves regarding the relocation of a Group or Listed race provided:

- (a) the terms and conditions of the relocation agreement are approved by NZTR, in its absolute discretion; and
- (b) the relocation of the race is approved by the Pattern Committee and (if necessary) the Asian Pattern Committee.

11. Exclusions

11.1. This policy does not apply where the Original Club hosts a Group or Listed race as a tenant club at another club's venue.

11.2. This policy does not replace or override any existing agreements in place between NZTR and clubs regarding the running of a Group or Listed race at the time it was introduced.