



NZTR CIRCULAR No. 24

20 May 2026

NZTR CIRCULAR 2025/26 – No. 24

TO ALL RACING CLUBS AND RECOGNISED INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS

Final Racing Calendar 2026/2027 season

Attached is the Final Racing Calendar for the 2026/2027 season (Final Calendar), as determined by the TAB NZ Dates Committee under the Racing Industry Act 2020, following consultation with the racing codes, and consultation by each code with its racing clubs and recognised industry organisations.

The development of the Final Calendar also involved a series of meetings and discussions between Entain, TAB NZ and representatives from each of the racing codes.

As with previous seasons, NZTR acknowledges the constructive working relationship between the racing codes, Entain and TAB NZ throughout the development of the Final Calendar.

As is always the case in calendar planning, it is not possible for every code or individual club to secure all preferred dates or outcomes. For NZTR, the process involved balancing the objectives of TAB NZ and Entain as the wagering operator alongside NZTR's statutory objectives and functions.

Ultimately, continued collaboration between the racing codes, Entain and TAB NZ is essential to support the long-term progress of the industry and maximise wagering opportunities for the benefit of all codes. From NZTR's perspective, the Final Calendar achieves that balance while also meeting NZTR's statutory obligations and strategic objectives.

NZTR confirms that all submissions received from Clubs and recognised thoroughbred industry organisations as part of the consultation process on the draft racing calendar circulated in February 2026 were carefully considered.

Where appropriate, NZTR discussed matters raised in submissions, and potential date amendments, with the relevant Clubs, Entain and TAB NZ before making its formal submission on proposed calendar changes to the TAB NZ Dates Committee. NZTR will respond formally to submitters shortly.

Overall, the Final Calendar reflects NZTR's formal submission on the draft dates calendar, along with subsequent discussions with Clubs, Entain and TAB NZ. A number of changes were incorporated into the Final Calendar following feedback received through the consultation process.

The Final Calendar also reflects that Awapuni will not be available for racing during the 2026/27 racing season.

In total, 310 thoroughbred race meetings are scheduled for the 2026/2027 season, two more than were initially scheduled for the current racing season.

There is a small reduction in the number of Sunday meetings, decreasing from 68 in the current season to 63 in the 2026/2027 season, with 13 Sundays programmed for dual thoroughbred meetings compared with 18 this season. Otherwise, the distribution of meetings across the week remains broadly consistent with the current season. The calendar includes three additional Monday



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meetings, largely due to public holidays, and three additional Saturday meetings. These increases have been accommodated, in part, through a reduction of nine Thursday meetings.

While the Final Calendar provides certainty around the planned racing programme for the 2026/2027 season, final industry funding arrangements are still being worked through. As a result, NZTR may need to make adjustments to meetings or race programming once funding levels are confirmed and the industry's financial position for the season is finalised.

NZTR wishes all clubs a very successful 2026/2027 racing season.

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