

Reminder Notice:

Contact for Race Meetings

For any issues leading into a race meeting, please contact the Chairman of Stewards for that day. This information can be found above the race fields on the HRNZ website.

Notification of Drivers

In accordance with the relevant regulations, clubs have expressed concerns regarding the timeliness of driver notifications. Compliance is essential to ensure that on-course racebooks display accurate information for investors and the public on race day.

Penalty Guide

With the onset of premier racing and several group and listed races the following is an extract from the penalty guide as a reminder for all licence holders of the penalties which may be imposed. The penalty guide has been in place for some time with any updates considered after consultation with key stakeholder's overtime. The penalty guide is freely available to all licence holders on the link below.

<https://racingintegrityboard.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Harness-Racing-Penalty-Guide-1-Oct-2024-FINAL.pdf>

The Penalty Guide provides “starting points” for penalties that may go up or down depending on aggravating and mitigating factors.

The Penalty Guide states:

- All starting point penalties assume the severity of breach is mid-range except where penalties for low and high-range breaches are stated
- Penalties can be deferred up to 10 days
- No warnings will be issued for Group and Listed races
- Where the term “Group 1” is used that also includes races with a stake of \$100,000 or more
- References to starting point penalties for “Group/Listed Race” are for Group 3 and Listed races. Starting point penalties for Group 1 and Group 2 races will be higher.

An example of the increase in penalties is provided with the whip and rein regulations below which show the increased starting points for Group and Listed races.

Rule	Description	Starting Point – 1 st breach	Starting point – 2 nd breach
Use of whip in contravention of Whip & Rein Regulations			
869(2)	More than wrist flicking motion or free of the rein or loose reining or continuous:		
	- low level	\$300 fine or 2-day suspension	3-day suspension
	- mid-level	\$500 fine or 2-day suspension	4-day suspension
	- high level	3-day suspension	5-day suspension
	More than wrist flicking motion or free of the rein or loose reining or continuous		
	Group 1 and any race with a stake of \$100,000 or more	7-day suspension	10-day suspension
	Group 2	5-day suspension	7-day suspension
	Group 3/Listed	3-day suspension	5-day suspension
	In addition, a fine equal to:		
	- low level breach – 12.5% of the driver's stake		
	- mid-level breach – 25% of the driver's stake		
	- high level breach – 50% of the driver's stake		
	Any other breach of Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Whip & Rein Regulations	\$200 fine	\$300 fine
	Any other breach of Sections 2,3 and 4 of the Whip & Rein Regulations		
	- Group 1 and any race with a stake of \$100,000 or more	\$400 fine	\$600 fine
- Group 2	\$300 fine	\$500 fine	
- Group 3/Listed	\$250 fine	\$350 fine	

Other similar provisions with increases for Group and listed races are:

- Failing to take all reasonable and permissible measures
- Failing to drive out
- Careless/Reckless/Dangerous Driving
- Interference
- Half carting etc

Nigel McIntyre

Chairman of Harness Racing.