



NATIONAL MINI TROT RULES

- Est. 1 September 2016 -

Introduction

The National Mini Trotting Rules is a consensus approach to the minimum standards and rules required by associations to be licensed to conduct mini trotting in Australia, which have been agreed by all State Controlling Bodies.

Developed in 2015/16, with input from all recognised State based mini trot associations and State Controlling Body Chief Executives, these Rules have been designed to provide uniform rules for the conduct of official mini trotting events across Australia.

This framework will be reviewed at least annually and sanctioned by the Integrity Departments of State Controlling Bodies.

Licensing

Associations

Associations require either approval or licensing by the State Controlling Body.

State Controlling Bodies will determine the licensing criteria an association will require in order to be licensed; which may include a requirement for Associations to be Incorporated.

State Controlling Bodies will determine the number of Association licenses granted in that State.

Participants

Participation requires a Mini Trotting License.

Mini Trotting Licenses are attained after successfully completing competency based practical activities to the satisfaction of an accredited representative appointed by a Mini Trotting Association which has been sanctioned by a State Controlling Body.

License holders must not only attain the competency standards, but also have reached a minimum age of five (5).

License holders must not be older than seventeen (17) years of age to participate in mini trotting events.

License holders must not have driven/competed in a harness race for prizemoney.

For the avoidance of doubt, a licensee can compete until the last day of being 17 years of age or when they have driven in a sanctioned race (TAB or Non TAB) - whichever comes first. For the sake of clarity, this does not include trials.

The age, height and weight of individual licensees need to be balanced against the breed, size, age and their control of the pony they wish to drive before approving participation in competitions.

Licenses are reciprocal across all States.

Seasons

The Mini Trotting season mirrors that of the harness racing season - running from 1 September to 31 August each year.

Whip

Whips are not permitted to be used or carried in mini trotting events.

Reins must not be used in a manner which resembles a whip.

Betting

It is prohibited to make either directly or indirectly a monetary investment on the outcome of a mini trotting race or series.

Alcohol and Drug Testing

Mini Trotting Associations are committed to providing a safe environment for every person involved in events and associated activities.

Alcohol and Drugs of abuse in ponies, and or people, risk the welfare of themselves, the ponies and fellow participants.

There is no place for alcohol or drugs of abuse of any kind in or around mini trotting. Any such activity or behaviour will not be tolerated and will result in sanctions which may include suspension or disqualification from competing in Mini Trot competitions or warning off from licensed race tracks.

Drug testing of ponies and people may occur at anytime. Failure to offer a sample upon request will be viewed as an admission of guilt, with appropriate sanctions imposed.

Ponies

Mini Trotting ponies and their connections, including licensees, parents, owners and veterinarians are bound by Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHRR) and subject to AHRR 188, 188A, 189 - 194, 195, 195A, 196, 196A and 196B.

People

Mini Trotting participants, including licensees, parents, owners, volunteers and administrators are bound by Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHRR) and subject to AHRR 250, 251, 252 and 252A-F.

Gear and Equipment

All gear and equipment must be of a suitable quality, well maintained and used appropriately in competitions.

Colors and Pants

A driver's dress shall be clean and tidy.

A licensees jacket/colors shall be of approved material and trousers shall be white and made of suitable material. Brown or black boots are to be worn.

Trousers may be varied in color for special events, after first obtaining written approval from the State Controlling Body - eg. Teal for ovarian cancer awareness.

Vests

An approved body protector (vest) to the equestrian standard Beta 1, Beta2 and or Beta3 must be worn as of 1 September 2017.

Licensees shall at all times wear a properly fitted and approved body protector (vest) when driving and or riding a pony.

Helmets

An approved helmet to the equestrian standard AU/NZ3838 or VG1 must be worn.

It is recommended to update helmets every 3-years, or earlier in the event of an accident, incident or increased wear and tear.

Any helmet worn in a fall or incident where there has been an impact to the helmet, must surrender the helmet to the competition organisers.

Licensees shall at all times when driving a pony keep their helmet correctly fastened on their head.

Footwear

A driver shall wear boots (no laces) which may be black or tan and which entirely cover feet and ankles and afford reasonable protection.

In certain climatic conditions, the gumboots may be worn with the permission of the competition organisers.

Sulky's & Wheel's

Sulky Standard

- No less than 900mm and no wider than 1200mm
- No longer than 2750mm
- The sulky shafts, frame and undercarriage shall be manufactured from steel or another material if approved by HRA. Accepted steels are mild steel, low carbon alloy steel, low alloy steel (including chrome-molybdenum alloys, chrome-manganese alloys, etc) and structural stainless steel alloys with a minimum tensile strength of 350MPa and a minimum elongation at break of 20%.
- All edges must be rounded, including shaft tips
- Wooden sulkies, including shafts are not permitted (as of 1 July 2017)
- The sulky shall contain:
 - Two wheels,
 - Undercarriage,

- Two shafts for attachment to the horse,
- A driver's seat, and
- Driver's footrests.

Wheel Standard

The wheel diameter shall be in the range of 508mm (20") to 660.4mm (26") for Ponies and no smaller than 406.4mm (16") for Shetlands - but to be viewed in the context of what is appropriate given the height of the pony.

The wheel shall be:

- attached to the sulky via a conventional T-bar axle or other approved axles
- if spoked, be covered on both sides by a disc of approved brand.

The tyres shall be an approved type and be no more than 50mm in width.

Wheels shall be manufactured from approved materials only. Wooden wheels are not permitted.

Other

At all times whilst in the sulky, licensees shall wear an approved helmet, wear an approved body protector, keep both feet in the sulky footrests and sit on the end of the reins.

No competitor will be permitted to have a passenger on the side of the sulky at any time.

Licensees must keep their bodies within the confines of the sulky at all times.

Pony Age

Pony's must have reached the age of two (2) prior to being eligible to compete in sanctioned races. Proof of age may be required – failure to provide proof when requested may cause the pony to be stood-down until such time as the proof is provided.

Handicapping

Feature Races and National Championships will all be conducted via the preferred handicapping method.

It is preferred, that where possible, ponies should race in classes according to height, and be handicapped by distance, based on metres per second - with the aim of all ponies reaching the finishing line simultaneously.

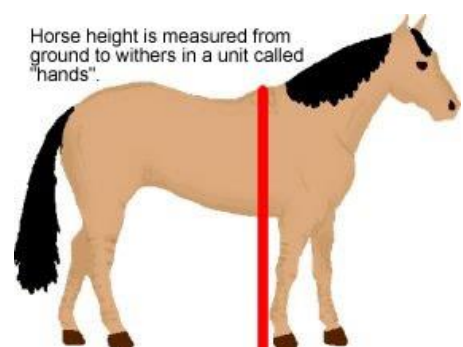
States and Clubs that choose to determine their own handicapping methods and starting positions, including any penalties, should make sure the method is transparent, well communicated and widely understood by all participants.

Pony Sizing

Pony's will be classed into three categories:

1. Miniatures - sized 9.0HH and below
2. Shetlands - sized 9.1HH to 10.2HH
3. Pony's - sized 10.3HH to a maximum of 13.0HH

Measurements are taken from the ground to the highest point of the withers.



Inter Dominion Championship Selection

The rules and regulations regarding the conduct of the Inter Dominion series for mini trotting remain the responsibility of the conducting Mini Trotting Association.

However, the selection of ponies shall be made using the following criteria:

1. Invitations to two (2) ponies from each state to compete in each of the three (3) height categories.
2. The selection of these ponies is at the discretion of each individual State Mini Trotting Association.
3. If, for any reason, a State is unable to fill their available positions, then the conducting Mini Trotting Association can fill these vacancies at their discretion.

Pony Welfare

Competitors, officials and administrators acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the pony must be paramount in turn they will determine if a pony is competent and fit to compete.

The following code must be read in conjunction with State Control Bodies equine welfare policies and adhered to as a minimum:

General Pony Welfare

a) Good Horse Management

Stabling and feeding must be compatible with the best pony management practices. Clean, good quality hay, feed and water must always be available.

b) Training Methods

Ponies must only undergo training that matches their physical capabilities and level of maturity. They must not be subjected to methods which are abusive or cause fear.

c) Farriery and Gear

Foot care and shoeing must be of a high standard. Gear must be designed and fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury.

d) Transport

During transportation, ponies must be fully protected against injuries and other health risks. Vehicles must be safe, well ventilated, maintained to a high standard, disinfected regularly and driven by competent personnel. Competent handlers must always be available to manage the pony.

e) Transit

All journeys must be planned carefully, and Horses allowed regular rest periods with access to food and water.

Fitness to Compete

a) Fitness and competence

Participation in Competition must be restricted to fit pony's and participants of proven competence. Ponies must be allowed suitable rest period between training and competitions; additional rest periods should be allowed following travelling.

b) Health status

No pony deemed unfit to compete may compete or continue to compete - veterinary advice must be sought whenever there is any doubt.

c) Doping and Medication

Any action or intent of doping and illicit use of medication constitute a serious welfare issue and will not be tolerated. After any veterinary treatment, sufficient time must be allowed for full recovery before Competition.

d) Pregnant/recently foaled mares

In accord with Australian Harness Racing Rule; 103B, a mare or filly shall not race or perform track work after day 120 of its pregnancy or with foal at foot.

Prior to 120 days if the club/event organiser is concerned about the ability of a pregnant mare/filly to compete a vet check can be requested.

e) Misuse of Gear or Equipment

Abuse of a pony, including by the use of approved gear and equipment will not be tolerated.

Events Must not Prejudice Pony Welfare

a) Competition Areas

Ponies must be trained and compete on suitable and safe surfaces. All competition conditions must be designed with the safety of the pony in mind.

b) Ground Surfaces

All ground surfaces on which ponies walk, train or compete must be designed and maintained to reduce factors that could lead to injury.

c) Extreme Weather

Competitions must not take place in extreme weather conditions that may compromise welfare or safety of the pony. Provision must be made for cooling conditions for ponies after competing.

d) Stabling at Events

Stables or tie up areas must be safe, hygienic, comfortable, well ventilated and of sufficient size for the type of pony. Washing-down areas and water must always be available.

Humane Treatment of Horses

a) Veterinary Treatment

Veterinary expertise must always be available at an event. This can include an on-call local veterinarian. If a pony is injured or exhausted during a competition, the pony must stop competing and a veterinary evaluation performed.

b) Competition Injuries

The incidence and cause of all injuries sustained in competition should be closely monitored, with risk factors examined carefully to identify ways to minimise future injuries.

c) Euthanasia

If injuries are sufficiently severe a pony may need to be euthanised on humane grounds by a veterinarian as soon as possible, with the sole aim of minimising suffering.

d) Retirement

The Association must be notified of the pony's retirement from Mini Trots, including what is happening with the pony (family pet, sold etc...).

Ponies must be treated sympathetically and humanely when retired from competition.

e) Sale

Ponies that are sold must be notified to relevant authorities and details updated in registries to comply with State Government Legislation.

Education

Harness Racing Australia (HRA) and Mini Trotting Associations urge all those involved in Mini Trots to undertake any and all available education in order to improve themselves and the care and management of their ponies.

Mini Trotting Associations Code of Conduct

Responsibility to individuals

Mini Trotting Association administrators, volunteers and officials should:

- Provide their services conscientiously and competently.
- Not breach public trust, or the specific trust of the participants, competitors, or other administrators, volunteers and officials.

- Ensure that advice and directions provided give full and proper cognisance to personal safety, pony welfare and fair outcomes.
- Not undertake activities they are not competent to perform and, when in doubt, obtain appropriate advice and assistance that will allow these activities to be competently carried out.
- Obtain a Working With Children certificate applicable in their home State.

Behaviour

Mini Trotting Association administrators, volunteers and officials should:

- Maintain a high standard of integrity, and apply honesty and fair dealing in all aspects of their responsibilities.
- Place the safety and welfare of the participants and ponies above all else.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and ponies are appropriate to the age and ability of their drivers.
- Ensure that the time participants spend with them is a positive experience.
- Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved in mini trotting activities.
- Encourage and promote respect for all participants.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Remember that they set the example. Their behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural backgrounds or religion
- Act in ways which engender confidence regarding pony related welfare outcomes.
- Show concern and caution towards sick and injured participants. Ensure that anyone who has been involved in an incident/accident involving a pony, is not be permitted to recommence that activity until they have been assessed for possible injuries by a competent first aider. If any injuries are evident or suspected, these should be treated by a medical professional before continuing with the activities.

Smoking

Due to the dangers of passive smoking, non-smokers should be protected from tobacco smoke. Mini Trotting officials should refrain from smoking while they are acting in an official capacity.

Harassment

Harness Racing Australia is committed to encouraging industry related environments which are free from harassment and discrimination. All participants, competitors, volunteers, administrators, officials and staff have the right to be treated with respect and dignity.

Sexual harassment and various other forms of harassment are unlawful under Federal and State/Territory discrimination laws. People engaging in harassment can have legal action taken against them under these laws. In some cases, legal action can also be taken against the organisation for which they work or which they represent.

SunSmart

It is suggested that Mini Trotting Associations:

- Encourage the use of SPF 15 or higher sunscreen at all times when participants, competitors, volunteers, administrators, officials and staff are subject to the elements
- Ensure that, wherever practicable, on days of extreme heat, outdoor activities take place before 11am or after 2pm
- Allow participants, competitors, volunteers, administrators, officials and staff to wear sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard (AS 1067) if it is safe to do so.

Cyber-Bullying

Bullying and harassment in all forms as unacceptable in our sport. Bullying has the potential to cause great anxiety and distress to the person targeted by hurtful or derogatory comments or statements.

New technologies and communication tools, such as smart phones and social networking websites (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) have greatly increased the potential for people to be bullied through unwanted and inappropriate comments.

Mini Trots will not tolerate abusive, discriminatory, intimidating or offensive statements being made online.

Frustration at an event organiser, driver, steward or sporting body should never be communicated on social networking websites. These issues should instead be addressed – in a written or verbal statement or a complaint – to the relevant controlling club.

Social Networking Websites Policy

We expect all people bound by this policy to conduct themselves appropriately when using social networking sites to share information related to our sport. Social media postings, blogs, status updates and tweets:

- must not use offensive, provocative or hateful language
- must not be misleading, false or injure the reputation of another person
- should respect and maintain the privacy of others
- should promote the sport in a positive way

Acknowledgements to Pony Club Australia member protection policy.

Marketing

All states agree to have a common goal to market the mini trotting product under the promotional themes of:

- equine,
- family orientated,
- outdoor activity,
- sportsmanship,
- responsibility, and care.