Australasian Young Drivers Championship Guidelines

Preamble

The Australasian Young Drivers Championship is a Championship Series contested by nominated representatives from Australia and New Zealand. It is not "an encouragement" Series but rather an age limited Championship Series designed to seek out an Australasian Young Driving Champion through participation in competition. It is modelled on the format of the World Drivers Championship conducted by the International Trotting Association.

Championship Timing

1. The Series shall be arranged so that the Series is conducted by the Controlling Body of the Australian State or New Zealand to coincide wherever possible with a Grand Circuit or Trotting Masters event or carnival.

Rotational Basis

2. The Championship will rotate annually between Australia and New Zealand to a Conducting Controlling Body by negotiation between Harness Racing Australia (HRA) and Harness Racing New Zealand (HRNZ).

Role of Conducting Controlling Body

3. The Championship Series is controlled, arranged and organised by the Conducting Controlling Body of the Australian State or New Zealand under its Rules and these Guidelines.

4. Selection of venues and internal organisation are matters for the Conducting Controlling Body.

5. The airfares of the Championship participants shall be arranged by the home Controlling Body of the Australian State or New Zealand nominating such participants as their representative. Airfares are to be sponsored or paid on behalf of participating drivers ONLY.

6. The Conducting Controlling Body may arrange internal sponsorship(s), which may be subsidiary to a main sponsorship if able to be arranged.

7. Accommodation, meals and travelling to venues within the Conducting Controlling Body State or New Zealand are to be arranged and paid for by the Conducting Controlling Body and/or

participating venues. Drinks, entertainment, travelling etc. not provided by the participating venues or Conducting Controlling Body are to be paid personally by the participating drivers.

Nomination & Eligibility of Representatives.

8. Every effort will be made to integrate the Young Drivers Championship Racing and Social Program into concurrent events or Carnival activities, where possible. It is expected that participants will attend all required social and other functions.

9. The conducting Controlling Body in association with those Clubs participating in the Series will provide every opportunity to promote the Series and the recognition of the Young Drivers and whom they represent.

10. The participating drivers will be notified by the Conducting Controlling Body of the Guidelines and Conditions under which they will drive at least two weeks prior to the first race of the Series and of the arrangements for accommodation, travelling and personal expenses together with the logistics of travel and accommodation involved in the Series.

11. Each Australian Controlling Body shall be invited to nominate one driver.

12. In the case of New Zealand, Harness Racing New Zealand shall be invited to nominate a driver from each of the North and South Islands together with the New Zealand Young Driving Champion, if eligible, under these Guidelines.

13. The Defending Champion of the previous year's Series shall be able to compete, if eligible, independently of the Australian State or New Zealand selection process, except as provided hereafter. The Defending Champion, if eligible, will also represent their original nominating State, who will also fund his/her representation.

14. The maximum number of participating drivers in the Series shall be limited to ten (10) drivers and should there be a vacancy(ies) created for any reason, the Conducting Controlling Body will select another driver or drivers from Australia or New Zealand on further nomination to ensure each original nominating Body is represented.

15. If the Defending Champion is unavailable or ineligible, and the original nominating Body is unable to provide a further nomination to represent them, then the Conducting Controlling Body can nominate a further Young Driver to ensure that the maximum field of ten (10) drivers is achieved.

16. Each of the drivers competing shall be licensed by the nominating Body.

17. Participants are to be named by the respective Controlling Bodies and advised to the conducting Controlling Body as soon as possible.

18. An Australasian Young Driver means a licensed driver who has not attained the age of twenty five (25) years at the date of the commencement of the Australian or New Zealand racing season.

Racing Conditions & Points System

19. For the purpose of handicapping, the races on which the Series will be determined shall be penalty free to the horse winning these races.

20. Each race in the Series shall be restricted to no more than 10 starters plus 2 emergencies.

21. As far as possible the total number of races for the Series shall be no less than 6 and no more than 10 races, with 10 starters in each race and with each driver participating.

22. Driving assignments will be drawn in accordance with the attached barrier draw template (Refer Attachment 1). A driver shall not drive a horse such driver normally drives or works.

23. Should the number of races or starters vary in any State or New Zealand the principle or spirit of these regulations shall be adhered to and if for any reason some inequalities exist in any Series for any of these reasons the issue shall be decided by ballot.

24. Points for the Championship will be awarded in each race on the following basis:

    Number of starters 10: 17(1), 12(2), 9(3), 7(4), 6(5), 5(6), 4(7), 3(8), 2(9), 1(10).
    Number of starters 9: 16(1), 11(2), 8(3), 6(4), 5(5), 4(6), 3(7), 2(8), 1(9).
    Number of starters 8: 15(1), 10(2), 7(3), 5(4), 4(5), 3(6), 2(7), 1(8).

25. a. In the event of a horse being scratched or failing to complete the race as a result of a racing incident deemed by the Meeting's Stewards Panel, five (5) points shall be awarded to the driver. In all other cases where a horse and driver fail to complete the race the driver will receive one (1) point.

    b. In the event of a dead heat for any placing in any race the points for the horses involved in the dead heat will be added together and divided equally among the drivers concerned.

    c. In the event of a driver being suspended in a race in the Series points will not be awarded to the driver for that race. For the purposes of these Guidelines suspension shall only refer to a race day determination of the stewards and not to any subsequent determination emanating from another matter.

    d. In the event of a horse being disqualified from a race in the Series points will not be awarded to the driver for that race. For the purposes of these Guidelines disqualification shall only refer to a race day determination of the stewards and not to any subsequent determination emanating from another matter.

26. In the event of a driver who has been suspended in a race in the Series being suspended in a later race in the Series the driver shall not be eligible to compete in any remaining races in the Series.

27. In the event a driver cannot take his place in a race for whatever reason and a substitute driver is not available from the nominated drivers then the horse the representative was to drive will be scratched.

28. All drivers must compete in all races in the Series, unless unable to do so because of illness, injury or exceptional circumstances. In the event a driver is unable to compete, his driving assignments will be handled at the option of the Conducting Controlling Body.

29. In the event of a tie for any position, the driver with the most number of winning drives in the Championship races shall be declared winner; if still tied the greater number of second placed drives and so on until the winner is declared.

30. No driving fees are to be paid to the competing drivers.

31. The driver with the most points after "all clear" is given in the last race of the Series shall be declared the Australasian Young Drivers Champion.

Other

32. Each participating Controlling Body shall be responsible for the insuring of their nominated representatives in accordance with the normal commercial insurance arrangements currently in place in the Australian and/or New Zealand racing environment in which the Series is conducted.

33. Each participating Controlling Body shall be responsible for outfitting their respective entrants and shall at the time of nomination provide the host Controlling Body with photographs and written profiles.

34. In the event of a situation arising which is not covered by these Guidelines, then the conducting Controlling Body referred to in Clause 3 above, shall have the authority to determine the matter. These Guidelines will be reviewed after each Series and the views of all parties taken into account.

35. A gold, silver and bronze medal shall be created by the conducting Controlling Body and awarded to the first three drivers in the Series based on total points achieved in descending order.

    (Note: The Fremantle Trotting Club's Sponsorship of the Perpetual Trophy and Drivers Commemorative Medals is greatly appreciated).

Attachment 1

Australasian Young Drivers Championship Barrier Draw & Point Score

Drivers Position hereunder to be Balloted	Race One	Race Two	Race Three	Race Four	Race Five	Race Six	Race Seven	Race Eight	Race Nine	Race Ten
A	1*	10	5	6	3	8	4	7	2	9
B	2	9	3	8	5	6	1	10	4	7
C	3	8	4	7	2	9	5	6	1	10
D	4	7	2	9	1	10	3	8	5	6
E	5	6	1	10	4	7	2	9	3	8
F	6	5	10	1	7	4	9	2	8	3
G	7	4	9	2	10	1	8	3	6	5
H	8	3	7	4	9	2	6	5	10	1
I	9	2	8	3	6	5	10	1	7	4
J	10	1	6	5	8	3	7	4	9	2

* Horse drawing barrier one.

Positions:

- One draw for Drivers position as above, then normal random barrier draw for horses
- In the event of the Australian or New Zealand driver drawing a horse that they have previously trained or driven, the draw for horses will be totally redrawn until exhausted and this clause is satisfied.

Point Score for Ten Starters.

1st – 17 points; 2nd – 12 points; 3rd – 9 points; 4th – 7 points; 5th – 6 points; 6th – 5 points; 7th – 4 points; 8th – 3 points; 9th – 2 points; 10th – 1 point.

Point Score for Nine Starters.

1st – 16 points; 2nd – 11 points; 3rd – 8 points; 4th – 6 points; 5th – 5 points; 6th – 4 points; 7th – 3 points; 8th – 2 points; 9th – 1 point.

Point Score for Eight Starters.

1st – 15 points; 2nd – 10 points; 3rd – 7 points; 4th – 5 points; 5th – 4 points; 6th – 3 points; 7th – 2 points; 8th – 1 point.