



INTERNATIONAL TROTTING ASSOCIATION RULES GOVERNING THE 2025 WORLD DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIP

1. The 2025 World Driving Championship ("the Championship") will be hosted in New Zealand ("host country") by Harness Racing New Zealand ("the organising association").
2. The Championship will be held in both the North and South Island of the host country at:

Date: November 2025	Racetrack	Number of Races
<i>Friday 3rd October drivers and guests arrive in Christchurch</i>		
<i>Saturday 1st November: welcome and NZ Rules briefing in Christchurch, New Zealand, travel to Kaikoura after lunch (3 hours bus)</i>		
Sunday 2 nd and Monday 3 rd November	Kaikoura Raceway, Kaikoura	Five (5)
Wednesday 5 th November	Cambridge Raceway, Cambridge	Five (5)
Friday 7 th November	Addington Raceway, Christchurch	Five (5)
Sunday 9 th November	Central Southland Raceway, Winton	Four (4)
Tuesday 11 th November	NZ Cup Day, Addington Raceway, Christchurch	One (1)

3. The Interconference for the World Trotting Conference will be held in Christchurch New Zealand on **Friday 7 November 2025**.
4. Racing at these venues can be viewed here:

Race Track	Link to Track	Link to Racing	Raceway Web Page
Kaikoura,	https://bit.ly/3Ki42n2	bit.ly/4hPy9xL	https://kaikouraraces.co.nz/
Christchurch (Addington)	https://bit.ly/489EjqS	bit.ly/4ht4AT3	https://www.addington.co.nz/
Cambridge	http://bit.ly/4glPY8n	https://bit.ly/4grMjpy	https://www.cambridgeraceway.co.nz/
Winton, Central Southland Raceway	https://bit.ly/4gg0hKR	bit.ly/3EHBQqU	https://southernharness.co.nz/clubs/winton-harness-racing-club

5. The Championship will be controlled and raced under these guidelines (Rules) and under the Rules of Harness Racing in New Zealand which can be viewed at, bit.ly/40MlyVn
6. A minimum of 20 heats will be contested over short course distances.

Drivers

7. All drivers competing in the Championship shall be named and notified to the organising association not later than **April 15, 2025**.
8. The drivers will be licensed by the organising association.
9. Each driver shall lodge an application with the organising association including:
 - a. A certificate that the driver is in good current standing.
 - b. A copy of a valid current driving licence. (If requested, on arrival in the host country a driver shall produce for inspection a current driving licence from their home country.)
 - c. Details of their bank accounts including international SWIFT details to facilitate payment of the prize money won, standard driving fee and any drivers percentages.
 - d. Details of travel insurance policies.
10. In New Zealand each driver is covered by the universal Accident Compensation scheme, for information. . <https://www.acc.co.nz/im-injured/what-we-cover/if-youre-a-visitor-injured-in-new-zealand>.
(The organising association strongly recommends all drivers, and accompanying persons, buy travel insurance in their home country to cover their health and travels risks while travelling to and from the host country including cover for illness, treatment after leaving the host country etc.)
11. Each driver should wear his or her country's national driving silks. The silks shall be free from any commercial sponsorship other than that approved by the organising association.
12. Each driver should wear a helmet approved by the organising association. Commercial sponsoring of items related to the helmet will be allowed.
13. Air travel costs between the country of origin and the host country will be the responsibility of the controlling body in each country from which a participating driver originates.
14. To equalize the chances of each driver, the organising association select the fields for the Championship races on "like for like basis" using their standard programming and handicapping principles.
15. . The drivers will be assigned to horses by random draw.
16. A driver shall not drive a horse that he or she owns, trains or regularly works.

Points & Championship

17. Points for the Championship shall be awarded in each heat according to the final, official order of finish, 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) and 1 (10)
 Number of Starters – 9:
 16 (1); 11 (2); 8 (3); 6 (4); 5 (5); 4 (6); 3 (7); 2 (8) and 1 (9)
 Number of Starters – 8:
 15 (1); 10 (2); 7 (3); 5 (4); 4 (5); 3 (6); 2 (7) and 1 (8)
18. In the event of:
 - a. A horse being scratched, or where there is no horse available, the driver it concerns shall receive points equivalent to points for the sixth place in the race.
 - b. A horse being disqualified, the driver shall receive one (1) point.
 - c. A horse and driver failing to complete the course, the driver shall receive one (1) point; or
 - d. A driver refusing to drive the assigned horse, the driver shall receive one (1) point.
19. Points are awarded to drivers based on the official posted results for the race, on race day.
20. In the event of a dead heat for any finishing position in any heat the points normally awarded individually to the drivers finishing in those positions shall be added together and divided equally among those drivers.
21. The Championship point score will be kept by an Official Point Scorer appointed by the organising association.
22. All drivers must compete in all the races in the Championship, unless they are able to do so because of illness, injury or any exceptional circumstances. In the event a driver is unable to compete, his or her driving assignments will be handled, at the nomination of the senior officiating stipendiary steward for that meeting from, in order,
 - a. The leading available driver at that racetrack on race day selected from the HRNZ Driver's Premiership table; and
 - b. In the event of drivers having the same number of wins the person will be selected by lot; and
 - c. The indisposed driver shall be credited with any points earned by the substitute driver.
23. The driver with the most points at the end of the Championship shall be declared the 2025 World Driving Champion.
24. In the event of a tie for any position, based upon the number of points earned, the driver with the most winning drives in the Championship heats will be declared the winner. If still tied, the greater number of second place finishes, third place finishes, fourth place finishes, and so on will determine that driver's position in the standings.

Racing

25. No driving fees are to be paid by the owners or trainers of the competing horses to the drivers.
26. All races shall be started by the use of a mobile barrier and will have ten (10) starters, except one race at Kaikoura, Ashburton and Winton will be started by a standing start and will have ten (ten) starters.
27. All horses in all heats are to be graded as evenly as possible, and the organising association shall, as best as possible, attempt to achieve this.
28. One representative of each of the host country, the Official Point Scorer and the UET Supervisor shall constitute a jury for the purpose of making any necessary point adjustments or administrative decisions about the Championship.
29. When an offence occurs, it is within the power of the host country stewards to fine or suspend a driver as is appropriate under the rules, and all controlling bodies shall be notified of the details of that decision.
30. The organising association shall arrange a thorough face-to-face briefing for all drivers on the rules of racing in New Zealand. Attendance by the drivers is mandatory, and the briefing shall include explanations of the following:
 - i. Relevant rules regarding driving in races.
 - ii. Relevant information pertaining to the tracks where races are being conducted.
 - iii. Assembly and conduct of the race.
 - iv. Recalls and reformation of the race.
 - v. Breaking stride.
 - vi. Permissible uses of the whip.
 - vii. Holding one rein in each hand.
 - viii. Going inside the pylons.
 - ix. Fallen horses and other accidents.
 - x. How to file post-race objections / protests; and
 - xi. No talking on the track.
31. The organisation association shall arrange for the Championship website to have on it:
 - a. Explanation of all the matters covered in clause 29 above.
 - b. Descriptions of the tracks being used in the Championship
 - c. Links to races at the tracks being used in the Championship.
 - d. Details of the races and events
 - e. Profiles of the drivers
 - f. All relevant briefing documents including the driver's licence application.
32. No electrical devices of any kind may be used by drivers, and only driving equipment and attire permitted in the host jurisdictions may be used or worn.
33. All drivers may be required to submit to drug and alcohol testing as applied in New Zealand. Drivers exceeding the limit will not be permitted to participate further in the Championship and will be subject to fine and/or suspension.

Prize money

34. The total purse to be paid to the participating drivers will be US\$55,000. The distribution of the prize money shall be as follows:

First Place – \$25,000, Second Place – \$12,500, Third Place – \$6,000, Fourth Place – \$4,000,

Fifth Place – \$2,500 & Sixth through Tenth Place, each – \$1,000 (Grand Total – \$55,000)