



INTERNATIONAL TROTTING ASSOCIATION RULES GOVERNING THE 2025 WORLD DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIP

Final 25 September 2025

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 Islands of New Zealand:

Date: November 2025	Racetrack	Number of Races
<i>Friday 31 October drivers and guests arrive in Christchurch</i>		
<i>Saturday 1 November: welcome and NZ Rules briefing in Christchurch, New Zealand, travel to Kaikoura after lunch (3 hours by bus)</i>		
Sunday 2 and Monday 3 November	Kaikoura Raceway, Kaikoura	Five (5)
Wednesday 5 November	Cambridge Raceway, Cambridge	Five (5)
Friday 7 November	Addington Raceway, Christchurch	Five (5)
Sunday 9 November	Central Southland Raceway, Winton	Four (4)
Tuesday 11 November	NZ Cup Day, Addington Raceway, Christchurch	One (1)
<i>Note: depending on entries the races at Cambridge and Winton may be split 5:4 or 4:5</i>		

3. The International Trotting Association invitation only in-person Interconference for the World Trotting Conference will be held in Christchurch New Zealand at 1400 hrs Thursday 6th November 2025 with a follow-up Zoom meeting for all member states on Friday 7 November at 0800 hrs (NZDT) being:
 - 1900 hrs, GMT, Thursday 6 November
 - 2000 hrs, CET Paris Thursday 6 November
 - 1400 hrs, EST Mississauga, Canada Thursday 6 November
 - 0600 hrs, DST Melbourne, Australia Friday 7 November.
4. Information about the racing venues can be viewed here:

Track	Racing	Raceway Web Page
Kaikoura	bit.ly/4hPy9xL	https://kaikouraraces.co.nz/
Christchurch (Addington)	bit.ly/46hW5ab	https://www.addington.co.nz/
Cambridge	http://bit.ly/4gzedQi	https://www.cambridgeraceway.co.nz/
Winton, Central Southland Raceway	bit.ly/3EHBQ_qU	https://southernharness.co.nz/club/s/winton-harness-racing-club



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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 no 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 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 shall 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 shall 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.



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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:
 - a. 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)
 - b. Number of Starters – 9:
16 (1); 11 (2); 8 (3); 6 (4); 5 (5); 4 (6); 3 (7); 2 (8) and 1 (9)
 - c. 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; and
 - c. a horse and driver failing to complete the course, 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 Harness Racing New Zealand.
22. All drivers must compete in all the races in the Championship, unless 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 zero points notwithstanding the placing of the substitute driver, the other drivers shall be credited with the points for their finishing position.
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.



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25. Procedures after a positive doping test:

In case a horse is disqualified after the end of a championship under the rules of the organising association where the championship was conducted (e.g. because of a positive doping test):

- a. the driver concerned will lose the points received in that race and will be awarded one point (for the disqualified horse).
- b. the points score of all other drivers in this race will be adjusted accordingly. If this procedure changes the final result of the championship all drivers having received honorary prizes for their final ranking will have to give back to the organizing country their prizes, if they do not match with the new ranking,
- c. The prizes will then be distributed to the drivers according to the new result. Prizemoney for all drivers will be paid after receiving all results of all doping samples taken in WDC races.

Racing

26. No driving fees are to be paid by the owners or trainers of the competing horses to the drivers.
27. All races shall be started using a mobile barrier and will have ten (10) starters.
28. 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.
29. One representative from 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.
30. 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.
31. 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:
 - a. relevant rules regarding driving in races;
 - b. relevant information pertaining to the tracks where races are being conducted;
 - c. assembly and conduct of the race;
 - d. recalls and reformation of the race;
 - e. breaking stride;
 - f. permissible uses of the whip;
 - g. holding one rein in each hand;
 - h. going inside the pylons;
 - i. fallen horses and other accidents;

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- j. how to file post-race objections / protests; and
 - k. no talking on the track.
32. The organisation association shall arrange for the Championship website to have on it:
- a. Descriptions of the tracks being used in the Championship.
 - b. Links to races at the tracks being used in the Championship.
 - c. Details of the races and events.
 - d. Profiles of the drivers.
 - e. All relevant briefing documents including the driver's licence application.
33. No electrical devices of any kind (including stop watches or similar) may be used by drivers. Only driving equipment and attire permitted in the host jurisdictions may be used or worn.
34. 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.

Prizemoney

35. 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