



# **Starter's Manual**

**Manual for the Management of Starting Barriers and  
the Responsibilities of Staff Employed at the Start at  
NZ Thoroughbred Race Meetings**

**(Version 1.0)**

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A NZTR policy document containing directives issued under the NZ Rules of Racing Rule 1002(1)(b).

Under the proposed new NZ Rules of Racing, Rules 106 and 802(1)(a) will apply.

*This document has being compiled in consultation with NZTR Management and staff, Stipendiary Stewards, Starters and other Starting Gate staff, Racing Club Managers, the NZ Jockeys Association and the NZ Trainers Association.*

## 1 Restrictions on Betting, Ownership and Stable Runners.

	Applies to:
<p><b>1.1 Betting Prohibited</b></p> <p>All staff employed at the starting gates/barriers shall not bet on any races at or at any racemeeting in which they are officiating or working. The policy applies to those staff at the start: the Starter, Assistant Starter, Barrier Attendants, Veterinarian at the Start, Farrier and Clerk of Course.</p> <p>The current Rules of Racing prohibit the Starter and anyone acting as their assistant from betting in races on which they are officiating or assisting. The proposed new Rules of Racing prohibit a Starter, Veterinarian or other Official carrying out duties assisting one of these positions from betting in any race they are officiating in.</p> <p><i>See Rules of Racing Appendices 9.4 and 9.5.</i></p>	Raceday
<p><b>1.2 Ownership Prohibited</b></p> <p>All staff employed at the start shall not officiate or work on those races in which horses that they have an ownership interest in are competing. This policy applies to the Starter, Assistant Starter, Barrier Attendants, Veterinarian at the Start, Farrier and Clerk of Course. These staff shall inform the Starter at the start of the day if they have a horse starting and intend to carry out their normal duties for all other races. The Starter shall inform the Stipendiary Stewards of these instances and detail what steps will be taken for the races concerned e.g the Barrier Attendant will stand down from their duties for the specific race.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Rules of Racing (both the current and proposed new Rules) prohibit a horse owned by a Starter or Veterinarian starting at a race meeting where they are employed in these roles. However, a Starter or Veterinarian may apply to the NZTR Board for permission to race horses and to fulfil their duties at the same meeting. In these circumstances, it is envisaged that permission will be granted to the Starter and Veterinarian as long as they abide by the conditions set by NZTR, which may, for example, include the stipulation that they stand down for the specific the race/s where their horses are starting.</p> <p><i>See Rules of Racing Appendices 9.4 and 9.5.</i></p>	Raceday
<p><b>1.3 Stable Runners</b></p> <p>Trainers working as Barrier Attendants shall stand down from working in those races with a stable runner. Trainers working as a Clerk of Course may work in all races but shall endeavour to avoid direct contact with their horses, except in circumstances where jockey or horse safety and welfare would otherwise be put at risk or with the approval of the Stipendiary Stewards. The Starter shall inform Stipendiary Stewards of instances where staff are also trainers of horses starting at the meeting.</p> <p>Where practical, Stablehands and Trackwork riders working as Barrier Attendants shall endeavour not to attend upon a stable runner or a horse they have had a direct association with, apart from in circumstances where jockey or horse safety and welfare would otherwise be put at risk or with the approval of the Stipendiary Stewards.</p>	Raceday

## 2 Before Meeting

	Applies to:
<p><b>2.1 Starter to obtain at the start of the day.</b></p> <p>The Starter shall obtain the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Official racebook</li> <li>- Starters Card. The Starters Card is to include the following details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name of the horse,</li> <li>• Number of horse</li> <li>• Name of jockey,</li> <li>• Draw of horse taking into account scratchings at official scratching time</li> <li>• Abbreviated comments on horse's pre-race behaviour/barrier manners/specific requirements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Scratchings/rider changes received after printing of the Starters Card. The Starters Report must be updated upon receipt of these changes.</li> <li>- The official race time. The Starter's watch (and those of all other relevant staff) should be synchronised with the time shown on the on-course Teletext racing system.</li> <li>- A two-way radio or walkie talkie allowing direct contact with the Stipendiary Stewards and club staff. The Starter shall ensure they have a cell-phone available as a back-up.</li> <li>- Brands and Marking Report, if the Starter carries out these duties.</li> </ul>	Raceday
<p><b>2.2 Report to the Stipendiary Stewards</b></p> <p>The Starter shall report to the Stipendiary Stewards for any other updates prior to commencing their duties at the start. Stipendiary Stewards are to advise Starters of any other issues affecting the starting operation – barrier positioning, exhibition gallops, track conditions etc.</p>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>2.3 Liaise with staff</b></p> <p>The Starter shall liaise with the Racecourse Manager, Veterinarian, Farrier, Clerk of Course and Ambulance prior to the first race or heat, review any relevant issues and ensure that each are aware of their responsibilities at the start.</p>	Raceday and Trials

### 3 Barrier Attendants/Gate Staff

	Applies to:
<p><b>3.1 Attendance On-course</b></p> <p>It is the responsibility of the Starter to ensure that each of the Barrier Attendants are organised to attend on the day. The Starter may delegate such responsibility to the Assistant Starter or other Starting Gate staff, but will remain responsible for confirming attendance of the Attendants to the Stipendiary Stewards.</p>	Raceday
<p><b>3.2 Starter, Assistant Starter and Gate Staff</b></p> <p>The Starter shall liaise with the Barrier Attendants and Assistant Starter and go over responsibilities prior to the running of the first race or heat.</p> <p>At the discretion of the Starter and/or the Stipendiary Stewards, the Assistant Starter may start one or two races at a race meeting, with the Starter taking the role of Assistant Starter for these races.</p>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>3.3 Minimum Number of Attendants</b></p> <p>A minimum of eight Barrier Attendants shall work every race meeting in New Zealand unless authorised by the Stipendiary Stewards. This number can include the designated Assistant Starter and official Starter. The club is responsible for ensuring that the minimum number of attendants are in employment at any given meeting. The Starter shall advise the Stipendiary Stewards if the minimum required number of attendants are not available, including situations where attendants are required to stand down because of ownership interests or due to injury.</p> <p>Note that no required minimum exists at trial meetings but an ideal number of four or more attendants are to operate in each heat.</p>	Raceday
<p><b>3.4 Safety Vest and Helmet</b></p> <p>All Barrier Attendants shall wear an industry approved safety vest and helmet. The Starter shall check all Barrier Attendants and ensure that relevant clothing, vests and helmets are being worn. The Starter shall stand down any staff that do not meet these minimum standards and report any such issues to the Stipendiary Stewards.</p>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>3.5 Staff Must be Approved</b></p> <p>All Barrier Attendants shall be directly approved by Stipendiary Stewards to work on the Starting Gates at NZ thoroughbred race meetings. The Starter shall submit a list of Barrier Attendants employed at a meeting to the Stipendiary Stewards and at subsequent meetings advise any additions to this list for Stipendiary Steward approval. The Stipendiary Stewards may turn down any application from a staff member to work as a Barrier Attendant either for the meeting at which such application is considered or for any subsequent meeting.</p>	Raceday and Trials

## 4 Set up of Starting Gates/Barriers

	Applies to:
<p><b>4.1 Starting Gate Operation</b></p> <p>The Starter shall ensure that all facets of the starting gate operation are in place and in working order. All necessary and required equipment, including the siren, shall be available and in working order. The Starter shall request advice from the Racecourse Manager or Starting Gates Manager that the Gates have been recently and regularly serviced and that the Gates are in full working order two hours before the start of the race meeting.</p> <p>A Sample of Starting Gate Maintenance Procedures is attached which provides a suggested maintenance and testing regime for Starting Gates.</p> <p><i>See Appendix 9.3 Sample Starting Gate Maintenance Procedures.</i></p>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>4.2 Starting Gates Test</b></p> <p>The Starting Gates shall be tested before the first race or heat, and retested every time they are moved. The Starter shall advise the Stipendiary Stewards in the event of a malfunction or any other issue arising from a test of the gates. The Stipendiary Stewards may require the Starting Gates to be retested multiple times following any malfunction or other issue.</p>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>4.3 Hazards</b></p> <p>The Starter shall identify all hazards close to the operation of the Starting Gates and shall arrange for the removal or minimisation of these hazards as applicable. The Starter shall additionally ensure that no unauthorised persons are at the start or in a position that could be in breach of the Rules, the proper operation of the starting stalls or detrimental to safety.</p>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>4.4 Positioning of Starting Gates</b></p> <p>The Starter is responsible for the correct positioning of the gates in consultation with Racecourse Manager. The Starter shall ensure that they receive advice on the relevant distance markers, the impact of rail movements and shall utilise the Starters Report as their sole reference for the distance of the race. The Barriers shall be positioned so that the inside horse is at least two horses from the inside fence and the outside horse is at least two horses from outside fence. The Starting Gates can be moved wider to improve angles or avoid track conditions as long as the Stipendiary Stewards are advised. The Starting Gates shall be positioned to allow space for uncontrolled horses to get past the gates.</p>	Raceday and Trials

<p><b>4.5 Policy For Raceday Starting Gate Failure</b></p> <p>Summary of Policy (see Appendix 9.2 for the full policy):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If all of the starting gates fail or become unusable on a race day the meeting shall be abandoned or postponed. Jumping races may still be started by a flag start.</li> <li>- If a number of stalls fail and the useable amount is less than eight then the meeting shall be abandoned or postponed.</li> <li>- If the horses are at the start when some stalls fail and there is a delay to find new stalls or in fixing the problem, then the horses drawn in those unusable stalls shall be scratched.</li> <li>- If during a meeting some stalls fail and cannot be replaced or repaired, the field size of the remaining races shall be reduced to the number of working stalls. The field numbers are to be reduced starting with volunteers and then with the bottom rated horses.</li> <li>- Should the starting gates become unmovable, consideration could be given to changing the distances of the remaining races to the distance at which the starting gates are positioned at time if such changes result in a change in distance of a race of 200m or less.</li> <li>- All relevant factors, including the possibility of obtaining replacement gates or repairing the starting gates on the day, the hours of daylight remaining, the number of horses disadvantaged, options around postponement of the meeting, the status of the meeting, and the size of the on-course crowd shall be taken into account.</li> </ul>	<p>Raceday</p>
<p><b>4.6 Non-use of Starting Gates</b></p> <p>A flag start shall not be permitted for any <b>flat races</b>, particularly taking into account the principals of fairness with respect to both owners and punters and the manner in which such a race may be perceived internationally, given most races are now exported. For <b>jumping races</b>, and bearing in mind the distance of the race, the size of the field the use of non-regularly used starting positions and the accessibility of such by the Starting Gates, such permission may be granted. In the event of failure or unavailability of the starting barriers, flag starts may be used for <b>trial heats</b>, if approved by the Stipendiary Stewards.</p> <p><i>NOTE – The current and proposed new Rules of Racing permit the Stipendiary Stewards to approve a race being started without use of the approved starting stalls. However this document reflects the view that that such approval will only be given for jumping races.</i></p> <p><i>See Rules of Racing Appendices 9.4 and 9.5.</i></p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>
<p><b>4.7 Starting Gate Equipment</b></p> <p>Overhead Starting Gates stalls may have <b>Head Dividers</b> installed. <b>Barrier Extenders</b> may be used on barriers as part of a horse's official gear. The Stipendiary Stewards shall approve Barrier Extenders or the use of other Starting Gate equipment.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>



<p><b>4.8 False Start Set-up</b></p> <p>A Clerk of Course (or other person specifically employed) with communication to the Starter shall be positioned no less than 100m forward of the start and provided with a flag to signal to riders a false start. The Starter shall ensure that the Flag Person and Starter both have flags and that the Flag Person is in an appropriate position at each start and is fully aware of relevant signals and role.</p> <p><i>Note – Consideration to be given to implementation of a False Start flashing light which would be transported with the Starting Gates, set up 100m-200m from the barriers and activated by remote control by the Starter.</i></p>	<p>Raceday</p>
<p><b>4.9 Ambulance</b></p> <p>The Starter shall check for the presence of ambulance and races or heats may not start without an ambulance. The Starter shall receive advice from the Racecourse Manager on the position of ambulance before the start and its planned route to follow the field and the Starter shall notify the ambulance driver of such. Where practical, the ambulance and other vehicles shall remain off the course proper and, if not, the Starter shall ensure they are located in the safest place. The ambulance shall be positioned to attend to persons at the start.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>
<p><b>4.10 Veterinarian</b></p> <p>A Veterinarian shall be present behind the starting gates for all races and heats to assist in the safety, health and welfare of horse and rider. All Veterinarians employed on raceday shall be provided with a copy of the NZEVA document 'A Code of Practice for the Official Veterinarian at Thoroughbred and Harness Race Meetings'.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>
<p><b>4.11 Farrier</b></p> <p>A Farrier shall be present behind the starting gates for all races and heats and available to reshoe horses as required and/or directed by the Starter or Veterinarian.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>

## 5 Gear

	Applies to:
<p><b>5.1 Starters Gear Bag</b></p> <p>The Starters Gear Bag shall be located at start and to contain: towels, leads, flags, long rope, blinkers, pacifiers, blindfold, tongue-tie, nose roll, winkers, bridle (ring-bit), barrier blanket, breastplate, martingale, girth, surcingle, goggles, jockeys whip and spare coloured jockeys caps (in standard colours such as red, white and blue). Chilled water in hot weather. If the Starter also performs the role of Brands and Marking Inspector then a microchip reader should also be in the bag. The Starters Gear Bag may be supplied by the Starter, Assistant Starter or other Starting Gate staff.</p>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>5.2 Banned Gear</b></p> <p>The following gear shall be prohibited from use on a horse at the start or by any of the staff employed in starting duties: Stockwhips, Twitches, any electronic device or an Oogly Boogly stick.</p>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>5.3 Buggy Whip</b></p> <p>A Buggy Whip may be used for the purposes of persuading horses into the barriers at the Starter's discretion as a method of last resort. The Starter shall communicate to the Stipendiary Stewards and/or the Trackside Director on-course to ensure that they are informed about intended use of the Buggy Whip. Trackside shall adopt the policy of not showing close up shots of use of the Buggy Whip or of the loading area of the Starting Gates whilst the Buggy Whip is in use.</p>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>5.4 Barrier Blankets</b></p> <p>Use of barrier blankets at the start may be permitted on a limited basis, subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Using industry approved design approved by Stipendiary Stewards.</li><li>- The barrier blanket being listed as an approved gear change.</li><li>- Trainers are to ensure they bring their own barrier blanket for use on the raceday.</li><li>- If trainers have not supplied their own barrier blankets and where there are more horses requiring blankets than those available, the Stipendiary Stewards shall determine which horses shall have use of the barrier blanket/s.</li><li>- Use of the barrier blanket is at discretion of Starter and removal can only be approved by Starter.</li></ul>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>5.5 Gear Adjustments</b></p> <p>No alteration to the gear of a horse shall take place at the start without approval of Stipendiary Stewards and supervision of Starter. The Starter shall contact the Stipendiary Stewards and seek their approval for any gear changes.</p>	Raceday

## 6 Loading Horses

	Applies to:
<p><b>6.1 Horses Arriving at the Start</b></p> <p>Barrier Attendants shall assist the Starter in control of all riders and horses immediately on their arriving at the area behind the starting gates and shall ensure that no horse shall thereafter leave the post without their consent.</p>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>6.2 Riders Dismounting at the Start</b></p> <p>Riders shall only dismount behind the barriers upon receiving permission from the Starter for a gear adjustment, a fractious horse or for loading a riderless horse and in all cases provided a lead is attached to the horse.</p>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>6.3 Roll Call</b></p> <p>The Starter shall conduct a roll call to establish all horses are behind the barrier. The Starter shall not commence loading until all horses are behind barrier, except when cleared by the Stipendiary Stewards.</p>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>6.4 Horses Loading Early</b></p> <p>Horses with Stipendiary Stewards' permission to load early shall not do so earlier than four minutes before advertised start time.</p>	Raceday
<p><b>6.5 Calling in by Barrier Order</b></p> <p>The Starter shall announce the barrier order to riders and attendants from the order on their Starter's Card and taking into account late scratchings. The Starter shall perform the role of calling the horses to be loaded into the Starting Gates in tandem with the Assistant Starter.</p> <p>It will be at the discretion of the Starter and Assistant Starter what order horses are loaded in. However, the preference is for a model similar to the following, as long as the Starter and Starting Gate staff determine that this is the most practical for the specific track and starting gate structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The field to be divided in half, with the Starter taking responsibility for the inside half of the field, the Assistant Starter the outside half of the field.</li> <li>- Loading to commence from the inside of each half, working outwards. For example in a field of 12 runners, the horses in barriers 1 and 7 would be the first to simultaneously load and those in barriers 6 and 12 would be the last to load.</li> </ul>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>6.6 Loading by Barrier Attendants</b></p> <p>The Barrier Attendants shall handle horses in preparation for loading, assist jockeys and other staff to re-saddle and change gear as required and lead horses into the starting gates, whilst being mindful of the safety of the themselves, the rider and the horse.</p>	Raceday and Trials

<p><b>6.7 Horses Loading Early or Late.</b></p> <p>Horses shall have approval from Stipendiary Stewards to either load early or late, based on evidence of previous loading difficulty. This permission will be recorded on the Starters Card. Normal practice for horses with permission to load late would be to load them “towards the rear” of the loading order, but not last. In consultation with the Stipendiary Stewards, these horses at subsequent meetings would be loaded slightly earlier each time until they were loading in their normal order.</p> <p>If no permission to load horses early or late is recorded on the Starters Card, the Starter shall attempt to load the horse into the Starting Gates in the normal order as determined. After attempting to load a horse in the order as prescribed, the Starter may then make a determination on loading any unruly or fractious horses out of order, if the Starter believes this will assist in successfully loading the horse.</p>	<p>Raceday</p>
<p><b>6.8 Loading Techniques</b></p> <p>The practice of loading horses with the front gate open at meetings shall not be permitted. The practice of reversing horses into the barriers at meetings shall not be permitted.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>
<p><b>6.9 Barrier Position</b></p> <p>If a rider queries or objects to the position of a horse in a barrier, such objection shall be referred immediately to the Stipendiary Stewards by the Starter.</p>	<p>Raceday</p>
<p><b>6.10 Barrier Attendants with Horses</b></p> <p>Barrier Attendants may be called upon to assist in pacifying a fractious horse and aiding the safety of a rider in the barrier stalls. In such instances, the Barrier Attendants shall get up into the stalls quickly and attempt to calmly restrain and pacify any unruly horses.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>
<p><b>6.11 Delay to Start</b></p> <p>The Starter shall report any possible delay in race start time immediately to the Stipendiary Stewards.</p>	<p>Raceday</p>
<p><b>6.12 Attempts to Load Horses</b></p> <p>It shall be at the discretion of the Starter how many attempts are to be made to load a horse and what length of time the Barrier Attendants should persevere with loading a horse before declaring it a late scratching. As a general rule, the Starter should make no more than three separate attempts to load an individual horse. It should be noted, however, that in some situations the number of attempts to load a horse may be less, particularly where a horse refuses to move and only one attempt is able to be made to load it. In other circumstances, more than three attempts may be able to be made, when, for example a horse moves forward and back a number of times in quick succession.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>

<p><b>6.13 Veterinary Examination</b></p> <p>The Starter shall alert the Stipendiary Stewards at the earliest opportunity should a veterinary examination of a horse be required at the start. The Stipendiary Stewards may talk directly to the Veterinarian to ascertain the need for a late scratching of a horse, or the recommendation will be made by the Starter to Stipendiary Stewards.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>
<p><b>6.14 Horses Scratched at the Barrier</b></p> <p>The Starter shall ensure that any late scratched horse is properly secured before the race or heat is started. It is recommended that a jockey remain mounted on the horse where possible, or where a jockey is off a horse and unable to remount, that a Clerk of Course remains with the horse. Where it is possible, a withdrawn or late scratched horse should be taken off the Course Proper or positioned a distance behind and away from the barriers so as to minimise disturbance to the horse as the race or heat jumps. The Starter shall wait to receive Stipendiary Steward approval to start any race after a horse has been scratched at the barrier, in order to ensure that the betting public has the opportunity to be informed about the scratching.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>
<p><b>6.15 Starter's Position.</b></p> <p>Starters retain discretion as to where to position themselves: behind, beside or in front of the barriers with an elevated view. The Starter shall be at least at the base of their stand when the last horse is being loaded, with the preference that they are on their stand at this stage. Only in exceptional circumstances should they not be in the vicinity of their stand.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>
<p><b>6.16 Starter to Check.</b></p> <p>The Starter shall ensure prior to starting the race or heat that all lead ropes are off, all riders are on horses, all personnel are clear of the front of the starting stalls and that no action is taken that could place any person in any danger. The Starter shall pay particular attention to the safety and welfare of riders, their mounts and racing officials in ensuring safe, efficient and fair starts.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>
<p><b>6.17 Barrier Attendants Prior to the Jump</b></p> <p>The Barrier Attendants shall advise the Starter and Assistant Starter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If any jockeys are not securely on their mounts immediately prior to the start.</li> <li>- If any horse is fractious or not in a position to get a fair start and then to subsequently advise once this horse has settled and is ready to start.</li> <li>- That they are clear of the front of starting stalls.</li> </ul>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>
<p><b>6.18 Assistant Starter Prior to the Jump</b></p> <p>The Assistant Starter shall signal to the Starter that the final runner has been loaded, all gates are closed and a start may be effected.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>

<p><b>6.19 Race Start Time</b></p> <p>The Starter shall ensure as much as is practicable that races start on or within one minute after the official start time of the race. No race shall be started earlier than official start time, except in extraordinary circumstances and with the express permission of the Stipendiary Stewards.</p>	<p>Raceday</p>
<p><b>6.20 Start of the Race</b></p> <p>The Starter shall undertake the start of the race or heat so that, as much as practicable, all horses receive an opportunity for a fair start and risk to jockeys, their mounts and racing officials is minimised.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>
<p><b>6.21 Barrier Attendants at the Jump</b></p> <p>If still in the starting gates or alongside horses, Barrier Attendants shall immediately release any hold they may have of a horse as the gates commence to open. Barrier Attendants shall not hit a horse as it leaves the barriers or in any way attempt to provide additional assistance to a horse as it jumps.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>

## 7 After the Start of a Race or Heat

	Applies to:
<p><b>7.1 False Start</b></p> <p>The Starter may signal a false start where in their opinion runners were not afforded a fair start due to mechanical failure of the barrier stalls, such as gates opening prematurely, slowly, or not at all.</p> <p>As a guide, false starts <b>should be</b> declared when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One or more gates open prematurely in any race.</li> <li>- More than two gates are slow to open or fail to open in any race.</li> <li>- Two gates are slow to open or fail to open in races with 6 or less starters.</li> <li>- One or more gates are slow to open or fail to open in any race run over more than one full circuit of the track. (Given both that such gates and horses may impede horses racing into the straight on a second occasion and staying horses are more likely to be able to be restrained when a false start is called).</li> </ul> <p>In the event of a false start being declared, the Starter is to ensure that the False Start operational plan is put into effect and that immediate communication is made with the relevant officials to inform them of this decision.</p> <p>As a guide, races <b>should be allowed to proceed</b> when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One gate is slow to open or fails to open in any race not started in the home straight</li> <li>- Two gates are slow to open or fail to open in any race (except run over more than one full circuit of the track) and with 7 or more starters.</li> </ul> <p>Where the race has been allowed to proceed, but horse/s have been affected at the start, the Starter shall immediately contact the Stipendiary Stewards and recommend that the affected horse/s be declared non starter/s.</p>	<p>Raceday</p>
<p><b>7.2 Removal of Starting Gates</b></p> <p>When the barriers are in a position so as to impede horses during or immediately after the race or heat that has just started, they shall be removed from this position as soon as is possible. The Barrier Attendants shall assist in packing up and moving the Starting Gates. The Starter shall ensure that the tractor or other appropriate vehicle is running and connected to the barriers and no obstacles prevent them from being removed. When the barriers are moved off the Course Proper, the Starter and staff shall ensure that the running rail is repositioned. The Starter shall inform Stipendiary Stewards and Clerk of the Course immediately if difficulty is encountered in removing barrier stalls.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>

<p><b>7.3 Injured or Fallen Horses</b></p> <p>The Barrier Attendants shall help the Veterinarian or other staff in attending to injured or fallen horses during a race or heat, including restraining or calming the horse, erecting a screen and otherwise assisting the Veterinarian, Stipendiary Stewards, Starter and other staff with any practical help.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>
<p><b>7.4 Check for Damage</b></p> <p>The Starter shall check the barrier and starting equipment for any damage and/or maintenance requirements after each race or heat and report any repair or maintenance requirements to the club and/or Starting Gate Management by the end of the meeting.</p> <p>A sample form for recording such requirements is included in this Manual.</p> <p><i>See Appendix 9.3 Sample Starting Gate Maintenance Procedures</i></p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>
<p><b>7.5 Amendments/Additions to Starter's Card</b></p> <p>The Starter shall record notes on any issues/amendments to comments or loading procedures/recommended gear changes alongside each horse on the Starters' Card as appropriate. A copy of the Starter's Card with notes shall be submitted to the Stipendiary Stewards, with explanation on these provided as required. For trial heats, the Starter is to provide any comments to the Stipendiary Stewards during or at the conclusion of the trial meeting.</p>	<p>Raceday and Trials</p>
<p><b>7.6 Judicial Inquiry</b></p> <p>All staff connected with the start may be required to attend any investigation by Stipendiary Stewards or Judicial Inquiry in connection with any matter connected with Racing. A Starter may be called upon to give evidence at a subsequent inquiry where a horse has been unruly or is late scratched. The Starter and relevant Barrier Attendants may be required where the connections of the horse apply to have a horse declared a non-runner.</p>	<p>Raceday</p>



## 8 Other Requirements of Starting Staff

	Applies to:
<p><b>8.1 Professional Conduct</b></p> <p>All staff involved in the start shall present and conduct themselves at all times to the standard and integrity required. Staff shall be dressed in tidy work clothes, any uniforms provided to them and all safety equipment required to be worn. Staff shall remain aware that their actions may be covered on television, will be seen by the on-course audience and the need, consequently, for professional conduct.</p>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>8.2 Compliance with Law, Rules and Policies</b></p> <p>All staff at the start shall ensure their duties are carried out in accordance with any relevant statutory law of New Zealand, the NZ Rules of Racing, Health and Safety Policies, their individual employment contracts and all other official instructions and directives. All staff shall remain free from the influence of drugs and alcohol whilst undertaking their duties.</p>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>8.3 Report to Stipendiary Stewards</b></p> <p>Prior to leaving the course at conclusion of the meeting, the Starter shall report to the Stipendiary Steward for clearance to leave and advise them of any matter connected with the start and the duties of the Starter that requires reporting.</p>	Raceday and Trials
<p><b>8.4 Brands and Marking inspection</b></p> <p>The Starter, Assistant Starter, Stipendiary Stewards or other club official may be employed to inspect the brands and markings of horses. Horses are to be identified in Parade Ring using the microchip scanner and/or the brands and markings of horses as compared to those in the Brands and Markings Report. The Brands and Marking Report includes race name, horse number, name, colour, sex, age, trainer, barcode number, brand and numerals, facial markings, gear (date approved).</p>	Raceday

## 9 Appendices

### 9.1 APPENDIX ONE: Starters Card

#### 9.1.1 Current Starter's Card (Sample)

Time: 12:20 p.m., MARLBOROUGH EXPRESS 1000, \$8750.00  
 1 MDN 2YO&UP 1000 metres

1	D G Bradley	3	BEUCOUP
2	J C Bates	11	STREEMLINE
3	A M Mundy	12	ISHTAR
4	C W Johnson	1	SKARZ
5	K Williams	10	LA MERSONET
6	J R Todd	9	CALLYSTAR
7	L J Allpress	4	LUVYAWORK
8	K A Myers (A)	7	ELDY
9	C L Spittles (A)	13	ALPINE HEIGHTS
10	J L Morris (A)	14	TEQUILLA KISS
11	B R Lammas (A)	8	GEORGE
12	M Carston (A)	5	WOODY HULA
13	D J Walker	6	C'EST LE JEU

#### 9.1.2 Current Starter's Information (Sample)

RACE	HORSE	COMMENT	DATE	TRACK
		Barred after rearing over backwards in stall-cleared to race after 2 trials.	15/04/2007	
2	Hurricane Jack (NZ) 2003		2/10/2008	WODV
3	Justahula (NZ) 2004	Man up	14/10/2008	MOTU
3	Reliance Lass (NZ) 2005	Slow to load-load early.	15/12/2008	SOUT
3	Anissina (NZ) 2003	Reluctant to load-difficult in gates-man up.	20/01/2009	TIMU
3	Colonel Bill (NZ) 2005	Man up.	16/09/2007	
4	New Yorker (NZ) 2003	Difficult to load- held up start-straps up.	8/11/2008	CANT
4	Ooblix (NZ) 2003	Early-led to start-load early, slow to load.	17/02/2009	TIMU
4	Missdaflight (NZ) 2004	Blindfold to load-remove just prior to jump-Barrier blanket.	20/01/2009	TIMU
6	Colliseum (NZ) 2002	Trainer to supply bum rope to load.	15/05/2008	
6	Colliseum (NZ) 2002	Oamaru-Refused to load-late scratched-to trial.	27/04/2008	
6	Colliseum (NZ) 2002	Barrier manners-slow to load -held up start-warning-SC.	1/01/2008	
6	Nobel (NZ) 2002	Early to start.	1/01/2009	AUCK
6	Van Der Merwe (NZ) 2004	Rug	17/02/2009	TIMU
6	Missdaflight (NZ) 2004	Blindfold to load-remove just prior to jump-Barrier blanket.	5/05/2007	
6	Adelariva (NZ) 2002	Kicks-Birdcage and start area.	28/12/2008	TIMU
6	Josie Rules (NZ) 2004	Fractious in gates-man up.	10/12/2008	CANT
7	Lagerfeld (NZ) 2003	Led to start.	10/12/2008	CANT
8	Le Thunder (NZ) 2003	Led to start.	4/10/2008	
9	Lady Classique (NZ) 2003	Led to start.	9/05/2008	CANT
9	Tenshi (NZ) 2002	Man up-fractious in gates.	21/06/2008	
10	Lil' Monster (NZ) 2001	Led to start.	8/11/2008	CANT
10	Ooblix (NZ) 2003	Early-led to start-load early, slow to load.		

### 9.1.3 Current NSW Starters' Report (Sample)

Effectively a combination of the Starter's Card and Starter's Information as above. NZTR is currently working on development of a combined version similar to the below to be used by Starters in the future.

**For Meeting: 10.01.2009 Rosehill Gardens  
Race 8 - 05:03PM - 1300 M**

Barrier	Barrier Draw	Rider	Cloth No	Horse	Starter Report
	1	Chris Munce	2	Thunderbirdsarego	-
	2	Tim Clark	7	Triple Down	Lead, chase up.;
	3	Kathy O'Hara	8	Druid	-
	4	Jamie Quinnell	5	Miraculist	-
	5	Kerrin McEvoy	3	Dynamite Dancer	-
	6	Jay Ford	12	Follows Me	-
	7	Nathan Berry	10	Hemony	Tail, Stay up; Lead on;
	8	Rod Quinn	4	Wing Forward	-
	9	Carissa Lambert	14	Cape Pallister (NZ)	Head - rears; Stay up, Tail.;
	10	Mitchell Beadman	1	Intermac	-
	11	-	6	Rapauric	stay;
	12	Jeff Lloyd	11	Madibagold	Stay up;
	13	Daniel Edmonds	9	Delightful One	-
	14	Daniel Ganderton	13	Encosta Fortune	Stay (REARS).;

## 9.2 APPENDIX TWO: Policy for Raceday Starting Gate Failure

### **Procedures for a starting gate malfunction on race day that may require horse/s to be scratched as a result or for a meeting to be abandoned or postponed.**

1. If all of the starting gates fail or become unusable on a race day and it is impossible to fix the problem or get a replacement set quickly, the meeting shall be abandoned or postponed. Jumping races may still be started by a flag start, however consideration has to be given to the reason for these to continue whilst the flat races would not (particularly if the meeting is likely to be rescheduled).
2. If a number of stalls fail and the useable amount is less than eight, and if replacements are not available or the problem not able to be fixed quickly, then the meeting shall also be abandoned or postponed until sufficient working stalls become available, except in circumstances where the size of the remaining fields are the same or less than the number of barriers still available.
3. If the horses are at the start when some stalls fail and there is a delay to find new stalls or in fixing the problem, then the horses drawn in those unusable stalls shall be scratched. Consideration may be given to delaying the start time to assist the betting public with information on late scratchings. As noted above, at least eight stalls must still be available for use (except in instances where the field size is the same or less than the number of barriers still available).
4. If during a meeting some stalls fail and cannot be replaced or repaired, the field size of the remaining races shall be reduced to the number of working stalls. The field numbers shall be reduced in the following manner:
  - Horses with owners or trainers willing to volunteer their removal from the field shall be scratched first.
  - The bottom rated horses are then to be scratched. If horses have the same ratings then a ballot system would take place i.e. 4 horses that have a rating of 52 points with 2 to be eliminated, a draw by lot would take place. The handicapper may also be consulted on the withdrawal process.
  - For special races such as The Karaka Million, The Derby and spring WFA events the handicapper would be consulted if this rare situation arises.As noted above, at least eight stalls must still be available for use (except in instances where the field size is the same or less than the number of barriers still available).
5. Should the starting gates become unmovable, consideration could be given to changing the distances of the remaining races to the distance at which the starting gates are positioned at time. Trainers/Connections shall be given the option to scratch as a result without charge or any fees. It is recommended that such changes would only happen in circumstances where there are a limited number of races remaining on the programme and the change in distance of the race was 200m or less e.g. a 1400m race could be altered to 1200m if the gates were stuck at the 1200m position. In some instances there may be also merit in running the next scheduled race at the same distance (if within 200m of the original distance) if it was believed that the gates might afterwards be successfully moved following further attempts.
6. All situations outlined above shall take into account relevant factors such as:
  - the possibility of obtaining replacement gates or repairing the starting gates on the day
  - the hours of daylight remaining in which to run delayed races
  - the number of horses disadvantaged by the reduction in available starting gates
  - options around postponement of the meeting to an alternative date

- the number of horses disadvantaged by a postponed meeting
  - the status of the meeting, including stakes offered, Black Type races and its profile nationally and internationally
  - the size of the on-course crowd and corporate and function bookings
7. In each case the Chief Stipendiary Steward shall be informed as soon as practicable if any of the above occasions arise and before a final decision is made. The Chief Stipendiary Steward may also take advice from the Chief Executive or other NZTR Management bearing in mind the relevant factors noted above.

### **9.3 APPENDIX THREE: Sample Starting Gate Maintenance procedures**

#### **LEAD UP TO RACEDAY:**

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1. Five (5) days prior to raceday the batteries are tested by the Racecourse Manager/Starting Gates Manager/Course Foreman.
2. If necessary batteries are charged.
3. If more than four (4) weeks between racedays all batteries are charged.
4. An annual electrical warrant of fitness to be carried out.
5. Preventative maintenance carried out on electrical wiring and starting gate rubbers.

#### **DAY BEFORE RACEDAY:**

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6. Batteries are again tested by the Racecourse Manager/Starting Gates Manager/Course Foreman.
7. The day prior to raceday Racing Club staff to prepare the starting gates for raceday:
  - a. General inspection.
  - b. Ensure all components are accounted for.
  - c. Oil and grease all working parts.
  - d. Tyres are checked for correct pressure.

#### **RACEDAY:**

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8. Starter and four (4) members of the Starting Gate Crew assemble and test the starting gates at least two (2) hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the first race.
  - a. Any issues which cannot be remedied by the Starting Gate Crew are to be notified to the Racecourse Manger and/or electrician immediately.
9. Electrician to report to the starting point of the first race thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time of the first race and undertake the following:
  - a. Check all batteries are charged
  - b. Check all battery connections and leads
  - c. Check start solenoid
  - d. Check all plugs and sockets
  - e. Check all cables.
  - f. Check the operation of the Starting Gates with the Starter.
10. Starter to confirm with the Stipendiary Stewards/Racing Club staff that all is in order.
11. Electrician to remain in attendance at the start for the running of the first race
12. Starter to complete the Raceday Starting Gates report, as required, during the course of the raceday, including noting any malfunctions that may have occurred during the day.
13. Starter to undertake basic remedial work such as any oiling or greasing required during the course of the raceday.
14. Starter to sign off and file the Raceday Starting Gates report with the Club staff/Racing Club Manager at the end of raceday.

#### **POST RACEDAY**

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15. Racecourse Manager/Starting Gate Manager to receive the Raceday Starting Gates report.
16. Racecourse Manager/Starting Gate Manager inspect the Starting Gates and undertake any remedial work.
17. This process is also to be undertaken when the Starting Gates are returned from an "away" racemeeting.
18. Racecourse Manager/Starting Gate Manager to attend to any specific issues recorded in the Raceday Starting Gates reports, including issues related to any malfunction of equipment.
19. Starter returns batteries to workshop with the Starting Gate vehicle at the end of the raceday.

Amended from a document provided by Canterbury Racing

### Sample Starting Gates Racemeeting Report

Racemeeting date

Components checklist	Day before <i>"Tick"</i>	Raceday <i>"Tick"</i>
18 gates		
Leads		
Starting box		
Starters ladder		
Tool box		
Batteries charged		
Oil & Grease		
Tyre pressure		

Signed:

Date:

#### Raceday damage record

Race	All Clear <i>"Tick"</i>	Or, Damage occurred <i>"List details"</i>
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

Signed:

#### General Maintenance issues identified

*"List details"*

a	
b	
c	
d	
e	
f	

Signed:

- *Maintenance staff and Electricians are on duty every raceday.*
- *Please call imediately if any issues are identified.*

## **9.4 APPENDIX FOUR: Relevant Rules of Racing (Current)**

### **RACING HORSES**

- 403 (3) No horse owned by or by the wife or husband (or the de facto husband or wife as defined in these Rules) of a person who at or in connection with any race meeting is appointed or acts as Handicapper, Clerk of the Scales, Starter or Judge or Veterinary Surgeon shall be eligible to be entered for or to start in any race at that race meeting and any horse which is entered for or starts in any race at the race meeting shall be disqualified for that race provided however, that nothing herein shall apply in respect of the entry for any race of a yearling bred by any such person.
- (4) (a) Any person who is affected by the provisions of paragraph (c) of sub-Rule (2) or by the provisions of sub-Rule (3) of this Rule may apply to the Board for a permit to race a horse or horses notwithstanding such provisions and the Board may, if satisfied that the circumstances so warrant, grant a permit accordingly.
- (b) Any such permit shall be in writing and be expressed to be effective only during the pleasure of the Board and may be cancelled at any time by the Board.
- (c) For as long as the permit is effective the horse or horses of the person to whom it was granted shall not be subject to disqualification on the grounds set out in paragraph (c) of sub-Rule (2) and in sub-Rule (3) of this Rule nor prohibited from being trained on a racecourse or training track owned or occupied by or under the jurisdiction of a Racing Club.
- (d) A decision by the Board to grant or refuse to grant, or by the Board to cancel a permit shall be final and conclusive and subject to no appeal under these Rules.

### **BETTING BY OFFICIALS**

- 705 (1) No holder of any of the offices of Clerk of Scales, Judge or Starter nor any person appointed or acting as the assistant of the holder of any such office shall bet at any meeting where he is officiating or assisting.
- (2) Every person who bets in breach of any of the foregoing provisions of this Rule commits a breach of these Rules.

### **STARTING OF THE RACE**

#### **STARTING - GENERAL**

- 859 (1) All races shall be started by the duly appointed Starter or his duly authorised substitute.
- (2) With the permission of the Stewards, the Starter may employ assistants to act under his direction.
- 1.12.04 860 No person, other than the Starter and his assistants, a veterinary surgeon, a farrier and the riders in the race, shall be permitted to be at the start of any race except with the special permission of a Stipendiary Steward.
- 861 (1) At every meeting at which the totalisator is used all races shall, unless the Stewards or Judicial Committee otherwise determine, be started with starting stalls approved by the Stewards.
- (2) No mechanical device shall be used by the Starter or any other person at the start for the special assistance of any horse at the start but this sub-Rule shall not prevent the Starter from using a blindfold, whip, rope or other means of persuading a horse to enter the starting stalls.
- (3) In any case of emergency the Starter may start a race without using the approved starting stalls and if in so doing the race is run over a shorter distance it shall not be void.
- 862 (1) Every horse shall be in the Birdcage not later than the time fixed by the Stewards (whether in the programme or regulations for the Race Meeting or in the race book or otherwise). Every person responsible for any horse not being in the Birdcage by that time commits a breach of these Rules.



(2) No horse shall be ordered to the starting post more than fifteen minutes before the appointed starting time and every horse shall be at the post ready to start at the appointed time.

## **BEFORE THE START**

863 (1) Every horse, on leaving the Birdcage, shall before proceeding to the starting post be ridden in front of the stand save that the Stewards or a Stipendiary Steward may grant exemption from this requirement for any reason they or he deem sufficient.

(2) All horses and riders shall remain in charge of the Clerk of the Course on leaving the Birdcage until their arrival at the starting post.

(3) After leaving the Birdcage no rider shall until returning thereto, speak to or hold any communication with any person other than a Steward, a Stipendiary Steward, the Starter or his assistants or the Clerk of the Course.

## **AT THE START**

864 (1) All riders and horses shall, immediately on arriving at the starting post be under the Starter's orders and no horse shall thereafter leave the post without the consent of the Starter.

(2) Each horse shall, as far as is practicable, be paraded before the start in order of positions and shall be started from the starting gate corresponding to such position except that the Starter:

(a) in the case of any horse which refuses to enter its gate or is excessively unruly or fractious shall if the race is a Flat Race refuse to allow the horse to start in the race (in which case the horse shall be declared by the Judicial Committee to have been withdrawn from the Race) and may if the race is a Steeplechase, Hurdle Race or Brush Hurdle Race order the horse to be started outside of but behind the gates; or

(b) may in any case of emergency or with the prior permission of the Judicial Committee start a race without using the approved starting gates in which case:

(i) the horses shall be drawn up in their proper order of positions and as nearly as possible in a straight line and the race shall commence from a standing start, except that in any jumping race a standing start shall not be obligatory;

(ii) any unruly or fractious horse may be started on the outside of and behind the other starters and a hurdle may be used to separate any such horse from the other starters; or

(c) may refuse to allow to start in the race any horse which he considers to be causing undue delay or to be injured or otherwise disabled (in either of which cases such horses shall be declared by the Judicial Committee to have been withdrawn from the Race).

(3) The Stewards may provide a man mounted on a quiet horse to assist the Starter in lining up the horses.

(4) No objection or protest shall be taken or made and no information shall be filed or received under these Rules on the ground that the horses were not started in accordance with sub-Rule (2) of this Rule.

(5) Except as provided in Rule 861(3) where the horses are started in front of the starting post or the race is run over the wrong distance or where the race has been run on a wrong course or before the appointed time or where any horse or horses is prevented by mechanical failure of the starting stalls from participating in the race, the Judicial Committee shall have an absolute discretion to determine whether the race shall be deemed to have been run or to be void. Provided, however, that in exercising such discretion the Judicial Committee shall have regard to the degree of variation from the advertised length of the race and to the interests of the public who have invested on that race. In any case where the race has been declared void the horses may be started again as soon as possible. The decision of the Judicial Committee on any such matter shall be final and subject to no appeal. In all other cases the Starter's decision as to whether or not a proper start has been effected and to any other matter in connection with the start shall be final and subject to no appeal.

8.11.05 (5A) Provided that where the Starter has by his actions declared a race to be a false start, the Judicial Committee shall have no power to declare such race as being validly run.

(6) In the event of any horse running the course from a false start or a void start the Owner may, with the permission of the Judicial Committee, withdraw such horse from the race.

8.11.05 (7) In the case of any horse which has behaved in an unruly or fractious manner prior to the start of or during any race the Stipendiary Stewards may ban such horse from being entered for or started in any race until the horse or its Trainer has complied with such conditions as the Stipendiary Stewards specify.

865 (1) Every rider who disobeys the orders of the Starter or attempts to take an unfair advantage in or at the start of any race commits a breach of these Rules.

(2) Any rider who misbehaves at the start commits a breach of these Rules.

(3) A Starter or other person who acts in breach of or in any way fails to comply with any of Rules 859, 860, 861, 863 or 864 hereof commits a breach of these Rules.

1.12.06 865A If, in the opinion of the Judicial Committee, a horse which does not finish in a dividend bearing position was prevented from taking an effective part in a race owing to the mechanical failure of starting stalls, or is denied a fair start and such occurrence materially prejudiced the chances of that horse (but not where the horse is slow away by its own accord), the Judicial Committee may declare such horse to be a non-starter and may make such order regarding betting as provided for in the NZRB Betting Rules.

### **BREACHES OF THE RULES**

1002 (1) Every person commits a breach of these Rules who:

(b) acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any provision of these Rules or any Regulations made thereunder, or any notice, direction, instruction, restriction, requirement or condition given, made or imposed under these Rules;

## **9.5 APPENDIX FIVE: Relevant Rules of Racing (Proposed)**

### **OFFICIALS**

**Official** means a person appointed or employed by NZTR or a Club to carry out official duties in accordance with these Rules either at a Race Meeting or in any matter which relates to Races or racing.

### **REGULATIONS AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

106 NZTR may make or issue the following under these Rules:

- (a) regulations;
- (b) directives;
- (c) policies;
- (d) guidelines;
- (e) practices,

all of which must be followed by those bound by the Rules.

### **ELIGIBILITY OF HORSES FOR RACES**

- 525 (3) A horse owned by a person who at or in connection with a Race Meeting is appointed or acts as Handicapper, Clerk of the Scales, Starter, Judge or Veterinarian shall not be eligible to be entered for or to start in a Race at that Race Meeting and a horse which is entered for or starts in a Race at the Race Meeting shall be, in addition to any other penalty which may be imposed, disqualified for that Race provided however, that nothing herein shall apply in respect of the entry for a Race of a yearling bred by such person.
- (4) (a) Any person who is affected by the provisions of paragraph (c) of sub-Rule (2) or by the provisions of sub-Rule (3) of this Rule may apply to NZTR for a permit to race a horse or horses notwithstanding such provisions and NZTR may, if satisfied that the circumstances so warrant, grant a permit accordingly.
- (b) Any such permit shall be in writing and be expressed to be effective only during the pleasure of NZTR and may be cancelled at any time by NZTR.
- (c) For as long as the permit is effective, the horse or horses of the person to whom it was granted shall not be subject to disqualification on the grounds set out in paragraph (c) of sub-Rule (2) and in sub-Rule (3) of this Rule nor prohibited from being trained on a Racecourse or Training Facility.

### **STARTING BARRIERS**

- 627 (1) Subject to sub-Rule (2), the order of stall positions at the starting post from which horses shall start shall be determined by NZTR either conducting a draw for such stall positions or using a random number selection facility.
- (2) Where the order of stall positions is to be determined by a manual draw for promotional purposes, the draw shall be conducted by a Stipendiary Steward.
- 628 (1) At a Race Meeting all Races shall, unless a Stipendiary Steward otherwise determines, be started with starting stalls approved by the Stipendiary Stewards.
- (2) A blindfold, rope or other means of persuading a horse to enter the starting stalls, may be used at the start with the prior permission of a Stipendiary Steward.

## AT THE START

629 All Races shall be started by the Starter and, if applicable, Starter's assistant, or a person approved by the Stipendiary Stewards to carry out the role of Starter or Starter's assistant.

630 Only the Starter and his assistants, a Veterinarian, a farrier and the Riders in the Race, are permitted to be at the start of a Race, unless a Stipendiary Steward provides otherwise.

631 (1) A Rider and his horse shall, immediately on arriving at the starting post, be under the Starter's orders and a horse and/or its Rider shall thereafter not leave such starting post without the consent of the Starter.

(2) Each horse shall, as far as is practicable, be started from the starting stalls corresponding to such stall position determined by NZTR in accordance with Rule 627.

(3) Subject to sub-Rule (4), a Stipendiary Steward in consultation with the Starter may refuse to allow to start in the Race a horse which:

- (a) refuses to enter its starting stall or is excessively unruly or fractious; or
- (b) is considered by the Stipendiary Steward to be causing undue delay or to be injured or otherwise disabled,

in which case such horse shall be declared by such Stipendiary Steward to have been scratched from the Race.

(4) If the Race is a Jumping Race then, a Stipendiary Steward in consultation with the Starter may in any case of emergency or with the prior permission of the Judicial Committee start a Race without using the approved starting stalls in which case the horses shall be drawn up in their proper order of stall positions and as nearly as possible in a straight line and the Race shall commence from a standing start, if possible, although this is not obligatory. If in so doing the Race is run over a shorter distance it shall not be void. An objection or protest shall not be taken or made, and an information shall not be filed or received, under these Rules on the ground that the horses were not started in accordance this Rule.

(5) The Starter's decision as to whether or not a proper start has been effected and to any other matter in connection with the start shall be final and shall not be subject to appeal, including where the Starter has by his actions declared a Race to be a false start.

(6) Except as provided in Rules 628(1) and 631(4), where:

- (a) the horses are started in front of the starting post;
- (b) the Race is run over the wrong distance, on a wrong course or before the appointed time; or
- (c) any horse or horses is prevented by mechanical failure of the starting stalls from participating in the Race,

the Judicial Committee shall have an absolute discretion to determine whether the Race shall be deemed to have been run or to be void, provided, however, that in exercising such discretion the Judicial Committee shall have regard to:

- (d) the degree of variation from the advertised length of the Race; and
- (e) the interests of the public who have invested on that Race.

In any case where the Race has been declared void the horses may be started again as soon as practicable. The decision of the Judicial Committee on any such matter shall be final and shall not be subject to appeal.

- (7) In the case of a horse which has behaved in an unruly or fractious manner prior to the start of or during a Race the Stipendiary Stewards may ban such horse from being entered for or started in a Race until the horse or its Trainer has complied with such conditions as the Stipendiary Stewards specify.
- 632 If, in the opinion of the Judicial Committee, a horse which does not finish in a dividend-bearing position was prevented from taking an effective part in a Race owing to the mechanical failure of starting stalls, or is denied a fair start and such occurrence materially prejudiced the chances of that horse (but not where the horse is slow away by its own accord), the Judicial Committee may declare such horse to be a non-starter and may make such order regarding betting as provided for in the NZRB Betting Rules.

### **BETTING BY OFFICIALS**

- 707 An Official shall not bet on a Race at any Race Meeting where he is officiating in, or assisting, one of the following positions:

- (a) Stipendiary Steward;
- (b) Investigator;
- (c) Judge;
- (d) Starter;
- (e) Clerk of the Scales;
- (f) Veterinarian; or
- (g) swabbing official.

A breach of this Rule may be deemed by a Judicial Committee to constitute a Serious Racing Offence.

### **BREACHES OF THE RULES**

- 802 (1) A person commits a breach of these Rules who:
- (a) acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any provision of these Rules or any Regulations made thereunder, or any policy, notice, direction, instruction, restriction, requirement or condition given, made or imposed under these Rules;