



NZTR

TRACKWORK RIDER ASSESSMENT

AND

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Introduction

Purpose

Riding Racehorses in training is a high-risk activity. Horses are large, powerful animals which can reach speeds of more than 60 km/hour. Their behaviour can sometimes be unpredictable, particularly when they are frightened or when they are being aggressive.

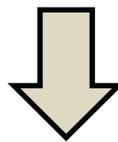
The risk of injury can be reduced to an acceptable level if riders are knowledgeable around horses and are capable riders. New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing is concerned about the welfare of all trackwork riders and for this reason it has introduced a system to assess whether a person who wants to be licensed as a trackwork rider has sufficient knowledge of Thoroughbred horses and has the experience and skills necessary to ride them competently.

Everybody who applies for a trackwork rider's licence must now show that they can conduct themselves safely around horses, that they know the rules and procedures that must be followed when riding on a training track and, most importantly, that they have the necessary skills to ride a racehorse safely.

Licensing Process

NZTR has introduced a two-step process to get a trackwork rider licence which will allow a person to ride racehorses in training at full pace. These steps are:

- **Slow Trackwork Rider Licence.** This licence allows a trackwork rider to ride racehorses up to half-pace (no faster than 18 seconds per 200m)



- **Fast Trackwork Rider Licence.** This licence allows a trackwork rider to ride a racehorse at full pace.

A. Slow Trackwork Rider Licence.

The Slow Trackwork Rider accreditation process comprises three parts:

1. The Massey University Online Assessment, and
2. The Primary ITO Assessment, and
3. A Practical Riding Assessment.

The assessment process is discussed in more detail in the following pages.

1. The Massey Online Assessment.

- Prior to sitting, the applicant should review the *NZTR Trackwork Rider Guidelines/ Study notes* (NZTR will send by email).
- The Massey University Online Assessment is an online 20 question multi choice test, with questions randomly selected from 80 possible questions.
- 75% of questions relate to trackwork protocols, safety standards, rules, gear and timing, and the remaining 25% of questions will be basic general racehorse knowledge.
- Explanations of correct answers will be provided after each question is answered, thus providing further education opportunity.
- The applicant must achieve 18 correct answers of the 20 questions (90%).
- If the applicant fails, they may re-sit the test as many times as they need to achieve a pass.

Once a pass mark has been achieved, a message is sent to the applicant and to NZTR Licensing.

2. Primary ITO Assessment.

Each applicant must enrol in the NZQA Trackwork Rider Limited Credit Programme, which involves the completion of two paper-based assessments. The applicant's employer may assist the applicant in completing these assessments.

- You will receive via email a Training Agreement that yourself and your employer must fill out, sign and send back to the NZTR Training Advisor along with a copy of your photo ID (Driver's Licence or Passport) to enrol in the programme.
- Upon receiving your completed training agreement, the NZTR training advisor will supply you with the learner guides and assessments you will need to complete the two units.
- You must complete the paper-based assessment for Unit Standard 29173 in full and bring it with you to the practical riding day.
- You must complete activity 1 (Q1-Q4) of Unit Standard 1629 and bring this to the practical riding day.
- You will be given the opportunity to finish the rest of the assessment for unit 1629 at the Practical Rider Assessment Day.

3. Practical Assessment Day

The assessment is conducted by an NZTR contracted Regional Assessment Centre.

Assessment will comprise the following elements:

- Health & Safety briefing.
- Pass a basic strength and fitness test
- Ensure riding helmet, body protector (vest) and whip meet the requirement of applicable Rules of Racing and NZTR Standards.
- Interpret and implement trackwork instructions.
- Apply gear and saddle up your horse.
- Competently and safely ride a quiet horse in an enclosed arena.
- Exercise at least two different thoroughbred horses, over a distance of approximately 1000 - 1400 metres, covering a range of paces, including trot and canter, and Half Pace. (At least one ride will be riding alongside another horse and rider).
- Use appropriate techniques to control a horse safely, in it is work, both singly and with other horses.
- Effectively and accurately report horse performance.
- Complete the remaining questions for unit 1629 and hand all work over to the NZTR training advisor.

For the purposes of completing the final stage of the practical riding assessment, the Regional Assessor will be joined by the local NZTR Riding Master. The Regional Assessor and the NZTR Riding Master must both be satisfied with the rider's demonstrated ability before the applicant will be signed off as competent to ride up to Half Pace.

NZTR Trackwork rider assessors

Northern region	Donavan Mansour Phone: 021 078 8355	Byerley Park 3 McKenzie Road Kingseat Auckland 2580
C.D	Kim Clapperton Phone: 027 221 9738	127 Shirriffs Rd Palmerston North
Canterbury	Ross Beckett Phone: 027 437 1940	445 Pound Road Christchurch Canterbury
Southern region	Barbara Verlinden Phone: 022 108 5006	200 Silverstream Valley Road RD 2 Mosgiel Otago

B. Fast Trackwork Rider Licence

1. Development of skills by the holder of a Slow Work Trackwork Rider licence

Once riding registered Thoroughbreds in training up to Half Pace (not faster than 18 seconds per 200m), the holder of a Slow Work Trackwork Rider licence is expected to gain further experience and competence under close supervision of their employer, or other person assigned that task by the employer.

The employer (and riding supervisor if delegated) must at all times adopt a 'safety first' attitude and practices that include ALL of the following:

- Careful selection of horses to ensure that the horses are suitable to the skills of the rider.
- Ensuring correctly fitted tack.
- Ensuring the rider is wearing compliant vest, helmet and other safety equipment required at the training venue.
- Pairing the rider with the best available partner rider to accompany during trackwork.
- Recording and retaining a written or digital voice recording of all training rides including observations regarding:
 - Rider ability to ride to instruction – including pace;
 - Notable comments made by the rider in relation to the ride;
 - Any observed or reported riding faults;
 - Any observed or reported incidents or 'near misses'; and
 - Areas for improvement required for subsequent rides.
- Debrief either after each ride or end of each trackwork session and provide guidance to further improve skills of the rider.

2. Application for a Fast Work Trackwork Rider licence

At a point where the employer of the holder of a Slow Work Trackwork Rider licence is satisfied with the levels of competence and confidence of the rider, then the employer can support the rider in commencing the process of application for a Fast Work Trackwork Rider licence.

To do this:

- The rider must complete the application form for a Fast Work Trackwork Rider licence
- This application must be accompanied by attestations of the rider's competence completed by:
 1. The employer; AND
 2. Either:
 - a Senior Jockey, OR
 - a person that has held a Trackwork Rider Licence for 5 years.
- The two persons who attest to the rider's competence must note and have regard to each of the following:

- Period of time that the applicant rider has held a Slow Work Trackwork Rider licence.
- Approximate number of rides per week.
- Competence to saddle and ride horses of varying fitness, strength and temperament.
- Whether or not the applicant rider's confidence is aligned to his/her competence.

There is no NZTR Licence fee to upgrade from a Slow Work Trackwork Rider licence to a Fast Work Trackwork Rider licence.