



NZTR AND RIU RACE MEETING ABANDONMENT PROTOCOLS

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NZTR AND RIU MANAGEMENT HAVE DEVELOPED STANDARD ABANDONMENT PROTOCOLS THAT MUST BE FOLLOWED WHEN:

- A race meeting is threatened with being abandoned prior to raceday; or
- The state of the racing surface or venue facility (as defined below) becomes an issue prior to racing starting on raceday or during a race meeting and the race meeting either continues or is abandoned.

1.0 Race Meeting Abandonment Protocols

If a race meeting is at risk of being abandoned, the appropriate Situation Protocol set out on pages 5-9 must be followed. In all situations, the question of whether a race meeting should be abandoned due to concerns about the condition of the racing surface or other aspects of the venue must be approached as a health and safety issue (taking into account the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work Act). The prime consideration in reaching a decision to abandon is whether the condition of the racing surface is such that it is not reasonably practicable to eliminate or minimise risks to the health and safety of riders or other aspects of the venue pose a health and safety risk to other people attending the race meeting.

2.0 RIU Race Meeting Incident Reports

If an incident has occurred or a hazard has been identified at a race meeting, the Chairman of Stewards must, on the day of the meeting, complete the RIU Race Meeting Incident Report (in the form attached to these Abandonment Protocols) and forward a copy to nominated staff within NZTR, the RIU and the Club.

3.0 NZTR Race Meeting Abandonment Report

If a race meeting is abandoned, the NZTR Racing Operations Manager must contact the venue's General Manager/Chief Executive and obtain a detailed report or explanation on the work that was carried out on the racing surface in the [two] weeks leading up to the race meeting.

After receiving the report from the venue's General Manager/Chief Executive, the NZTR Racing Operations Manager must produce a summary report (based on information received from the Stipendiary Stewards' raceday inquiry (if one was held), the report from the venue's General Manager/Chief Executive and any input provided by the NZTR National Venue Inspector) setting out the reason(s) for the abandonment and any remedial work required to be undertaken at the venue. Based on the recommendations (if any) in this report, NZTR will instruct the Club to take such steps as may be reasonably necessary and practicable to ensure that the circumstances giving rise to the abandonment are not repeated in the future.

Any press release concerning race meeting abandonments will be co-ordinated between NZTR, the RIU and the Club.

4.0 Subsequent Remedial Work

If any remedial work to the racing surface of a venue is carried out by a Club subsequent to the abandonment of a race meeting, the remedial work must be inspected by the NZTR National Venue Inspector and, where appropriate, the local Stipendiary Steward before the next race meeting is held at the venue so as to ensure that the racing surface is suitable for racing to be conducted on it. The NZTR Venue Inspector may require the club to use the racing surface for track work/gallops before any race meeting is conducted at the venue after any such remediation work has been completed.

5.0 Venue facilities are defined as including:

The racecourse/racing surface;

The stabling area;

The float park;

The birdcage and/or assembly saddling area;

The access and egress between any of the above areas;

The working areas utilised by the Stipendiary Stewards/JCA;

Rider Rooms.

The "venue facilities" as defined in these Abandonment Protocols do not include other public/members, or club administrative, areas on the racecourse.

6.o Application to trial meetings

These Abandonment Protocols are to apply (with such amendments as may be necessary) to trial meetings as if each trial meeting were a race meeting.

SITUATION ONE: PRE-RACE DAY

If, before the scheduled day of a race meeting, any concerns arise (whether due to the state of the racing surface at the venue, the weather conditions/forecast, or otherwise) regarding:

- a) the safety of the racing surface; or
- b) whether (due to health and safety concerns or otherwise) the meeting will be able to be held on the scheduled day,

the Club must contact the local Stipendiary Steward, the NZTR National Venue Inspector and the NZTR Racing Operations Manager so that:

- c) the racing surface can be inspected and the relevant concerns can be fully evaluated; and
- d) any action that could be taken to eliminate or minimise the identified risk to health and safety, or other concerns, can be considered and carried out by the club.

NZTR [or the local Stipendiary Steward] can instigate an inspection of the racing surface of a venue if they have concerns regarding the safety of the racing surface or whether a meeting will be able to be held on the scheduled day, and the Club has not arranged the necessary inspection itself.

Irrespective of whether any safety or other concerns have arisen, if a race meeting is scheduled to be held at a venue which holds less than three race or trial meetings, in total, each season then, no later than eight weeks before the scheduled day of the meeting, the NZTR National Venue Inspector [and the local Stipendiary Steward] must (if reasonably possible) inspect the venue with the venue's Racecourse Manager and Club representatives (if available) and determine whether any action needs to be taken by the Club to ensure (to the extent possible) that the race meeting can be held. This action could include, for example, where practicable having some horses gallop a prescribed number of times on the racing surface in the period leading up to the race meeting. This number is to be determined by the RIU or NZTR. For venues that race only once a year, the inspection by the NZTR National Venue Inspector should occur not less than two months before the scheduled day of the meeting if reasonably possible.

The NZTR National Venue Inspector must report the outcome of each pre race day inspection (including the nature of any action required to be carried out by the relevant Club and all other proposed further steps) to the NZTR Racing Operations Manager as soon as is reasonably practicable after the inspection so that the Racing Operations Manager is aware of the situation and [the status of the meeting] OR [in particular, whether the meeting is likely to proceed on the scheduled day].

Once any required action has been carried out by the Club, the local Stipendiary Steward must determine, after consulting with the NZTR National Venue Inspector, Club representatives (including the Racecourse Manager) and, where applicable, local trainers and riders, whether the identified risks to health and safety or other concerns have, so far as is reasonably practicable, been eliminated or minimised and, therefore, whether the race meeting can proceed on the scheduled day.

1.0 Decision to Abandon or Continue

From a practical point of view, the decision whether to abandon or continue with a race meeting on the scheduled day (including whether any remedial work should be carried out or any other action should be taken prior to making that decision) rests with the local Stipendiary Steward in consultation with the NZTR National Venue Inspector and Club representatives, including the venue's Racecourse Manager, and local trainers and riders (where applicable).

1. If the Stipendiary Steward determines that the race meeting can take place on the scheduled day, then the Stipendiary Steward must, in liaison with the NZTR National Venue Inspector, continue to monitor the safety of the racing surface/venue in the days leading up to the race meeting.
2. If the Stipendiary Steward determines that the race meeting is to be abandoned, the Stipendiary Steward must immediately notify the Club and the NZTR Racing Operations Manager, who will arrange for an appropriate industry and media announcement to be made.
3. If the race meeting is to be transferred to another day/venue, the Club must seek permission from NZTR (which must consult with the chairperson of the relevant Regional Programming Committee) and the NZRB before a final decision is made as to the new day/venue.

SITUATION TWO: BEFORE RACING COMMENCES ON A RACE DAY

If, on the day of a race meeting but before racing has commenced, concerns arise (whether due to the state of the racing surface at the venue, the weather conditions/forecast or otherwise) regarding the safety of the racing surface or whether the meeting will be able to be held on that day, the Stipendiary Stewards must (after consulting with the venue's Racecourse Manager and taking into account any advice or recommendations from him or her) consider whether any action could be taken to eliminate or minimise any risk to health and safety that has been identified so as to allow the race meeting to go ahead.

If any such action is taken, the Stipendiary Stewards must determine (after consulting with the other parties identified below in paragraph 2 of the Process Section) whether the risks to health and safety have, so far as is reasonably practicable, been eliminated or minimised by that action and, therefore, whether the race meeting can proceed.

1.0 Decision to Abandon or Proceed

The decision whether to abandon or proceed with a race meeting on the day of the race meeting but before racing has commenced on that day, including whether any remedial work should be carried out or any other action taken prior to making that decision, rests ultimately with the Stipendiary Stewards under Rule 602 (1) (b) and is to be dealt with as a Stipendiary Stewards' Inquiry. In making their decision, the Stipendiary Stewards must comply with the Process set out below [unless it is not possible or [reasonably] practicable to do so].

2.0 Process

1. Immediately any safety concerns become known to a Club on a race day but before racing has commenced on that day, the Club must advise the Chairman of Stewards for the race meeting. If concerns are raised directly with a Stipendiary Steward on a race day but before racing has commenced on that day, the Stipendiary Steward must immediately advise the Chairman of Stewards, the Club and the NZTR National Venue Inspector. In each case, the Chairman of Stewards must open a Stipendiary Stewards' Inquiry into whether racing is to proceed or the meeting is to be abandoned.
2. In running the Inquiry, the Chairman of Stewards must:
 - i. gather all relevant information relating to the safety concerns that have been raised;
 - ii. consider input from the venue's Racecourse Manager;
 - iii. consider input from the Club's General Manager/Chief Executive or their nominee;
 - iv. consider input from available trainers;
 - v. consider input from available riders;
 - vi. inspect the racing surface with the venue's Racecourse Manager and the Club's General Manager/Chief Executive or their nominee and, if they are available, riders and trainers; and
 - vii. take into account such other information he or she considers relevant (e.g., weather forecasts and local weather patterns, and previous track performance).
3. The Chairman of Stewards must, in particular, consider the views of the venue's Racecourse Manager, the Club's General Manager/Chief Executive and available trainers and riders regarding the practicalities of eliminating or minimising the risks to health and safety that has been identified as far as is 'reasonably practicable'. This may include but is not limited to:
 - delaying the race meeting;
 - applying appropriate machinery to the area of the racing surface to eliminate or minimise the hazard;
 - shifting the running rail; and/or
 - carrying out any other remedial work or taking any other action.
4. Having considered the views of the venue's Racecourse Manager, the Club's General Manager/Chief Executive or their nominee, and available trainers and riders, the Chairman of Stewards is to decide whether any recommended remedial work should be carried out, or other recommended action taken, to enable the identified risks to health and safety to be eliminated or minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.

5. Following the completion of any such remedial work or other action (if considered appropriate), the Chairman of Stewards must inspect the affected area of the racing surface with the venue's Racecourse Manager, the Club's General Manager/Chief Executive or their nominee, and available trainers and riders, to determine whether the identified risks to health and safety have been eliminated or minimised as far as is reasonably practicable. In reaching this decision, the Chairman of Stewards must seek and take into account the views of all involved parties.
6. If the Chairman of Stewards determines that the race meeting can take place, he or she must continue to monitor the safety of the racing surface throughout the meeting.
7. If the race meeting is abandoned, the Chairman of Stewards must notify:
 - the Club and (if applicable) arrange with the Club to make an appropriate on-course announcement;
 - the NZTR Racing Operations Manager;
 - Trackside (in the case of race meetings); and
 - NZRB Raceday Control (in the case of race meetings).
8. Where the start of the race meeting is delayed for any reason, the Club must advise NZRB Raceday Control and agree amended start times for the races. The NZTR Racing Operations Manager must also be made aware of the delay and the amended start times.
9. If the race meeting is to be transferred to another day/venue, the Club must seek permission from NZTR (which must consult with the Chairperson of the relevant Regional Programming Committee) and the NZRB before a final decision is made as to the new day/venue.
10. The Chairman of Stewards must (irrespective of whether or not the meeting is abandoned or proceeds) complete the Checklist for Situation Two attached to these Abandonment Protocols.

Note: The above process may be influenced by availability of the relevant people on-course at the time the safety concerns are raised or arise.

SITUATION THREE: ONCE RACING HAS COMMENCED

If, during a race meeting, concerns arise (whether due to the state of the racing surface at the venue, the weather conditions/forecast or otherwise) regarding the safety of the racing surface or whether the meeting can continue, the Stipendiary Stewards must consider (after consulting with the venue's Racecourse Manager and taking into account any advice or recommendations from him or her) whether any action could be taken to eliminate or minimise the identified risk to health and safety so as to allow the race meeting to continue.

If any such action is taken, the Chairman of Stewards must determine (after consulting with the parties identified below in paragraph 2 of the Process Section) whether the risks to health and safety have, so far as is reasonably practicable, have been eliminated or minimised and, therefore, whether the race meeting can continue.

1.0 Decision to Abandon or Continue

The decision whether to abandon or continue with a race meeting, including whether any remedial work should be carried out or any other action taken prior to making that decision, rests ultimately with the Stipendiary Stewards under Rule 602 (1) (b) and is to be dealt with as a Stipendiary Stewards' Inquiry. In making their decision, the Stipendiary Stewards are to comply with the process set out below [unless it is not possible or [reasonably] practicable to do so].

2.0 Process

1. Immediately any safety concerns are raised, the Chairman of Stewards for the race meeting must open a Stewards Inquiry into whether racing is to continue or the meeting is to be abandoned.
2. In running the Inquiry, the Chairman of Stewards must:
 - i. gather all relevant information relating to the safety concerns that have been raised;
 - ii. consider input from the venue's Racecourse Manager;
 - iii. consider input from the Club's General Manager/Chief Executive or nominee;
 - iv. consider input from the Trainers Association's nominated trainer representatives;
 - v. undertake an inspection of the site of any incident with representatives of the riders riding at the race meeting, the Racecourse Manager, the Club General Manager/ Chief Executive or nominee, and the Trainers Association's nominated trainer representatives, unless the Chairman of Stewards and all other involved parties agree otherwise;
 - vi. endeavor to ask the farrier to check the horse's racing plates were fit for racing and to determine the make, model and who fitted them for trending/recording purposes. Consideration should also be given to whether the horse's galloping action may have caused it to slip or contributed to it slipping.
 - vii. where relevant or necessary, photograph and record any issues identified with the racing surface during the inspection process; and
 - viii. once all the relevant information has been collected from the various parties, meet with the riders riding at the race meeting in private to discuss that information and the options available to continue the race meeting.
3. The Chairman of Stewards may gather additional information relating to the safety concerns that have arisen including but not limited to:
 - reviewing television coverage of the incident; and/or
 - any other information considered relevant (e.g. weather forecasts and local weather patterns and previous track performance).

4. The Chairman of Stewards must consider the views of the venue's Racecourse Manager, the Club's General Manager/Chief Executive or their nominee, the Trainers Association's nominated trainers representatives and rider representatives regarding the practicalities of eliminating or minimising the identified hazard as far as is 'reasonably practicable' by, for example:
 - delaying the race meeting to allow areas of the racing surface to dry;
 - delaying the race meeting for such other reasons as may be identified to allow it to proceed safely;
 - applying appropriate machinery to the affected area of the racing surface to eliminate or minimise the hazard;
 - shifting of the running rail; and/ or
 - carrying out any other remedial work or taking any other action.
5. Having considered the views of the venue's Racecourse Manager, the Club's General Manager/Chief Executive or their nominee, the Trainers Association's nominated trainer representatives and rider representatives, the Chairman of Stewards will decide whether any recommended remedial work should be carried out, or other action taken, to enable the identified risks to health and safety to be eliminated or minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.
6. Following the completion of any remedial work or other action (if considered appropriate), the Chairman of Stewards must inspect the affected area of the racing surface together with the venue's Racecourse Manager, the Club's General Manager/Chief Executive or their nominee, the Trainers Association's nominated trainer representatives and rider representatives, to determine whether the identified risks to health and safety have been eliminated or minimised as far as is 'reasonably practicable'. In reaching this decision, the Chairman of Stewards must seek and take into account the views of all of the involved parties.
7. If the Chairman of Stewards determines that the race meeting is to continue, he or she must continue to monitor the safety of the racing surface throughout the remainder of the race meeting.
8. If the race meeting is abandoned, the Chairman of Stewards or Stipendiary Steward must notify:
 - the Club and arrange for the Club to make an appropriate on-course announcement;
 - the NZTR Racing Operations Manager;
 - Trackside (in the case of race meetings)
 - NZRB Raceday Control (in the case of race meetings)
9. Where a race meeting is delayed for any reason, the Club must advise NZRB Raceday Control and agree amended start times for the remainder of the races at the race meeting. The NZTR Racing Operations Manager must also be made aware of the delay and the amended start times.
10. If the race meeting is to be transferred to another day/venue, the Club must seek permission from NZTR (which must consult with the Chairperson of the relevant Regional Programming Committee) and the NZRB before a final decision is made as to the new day/venue.
11. The Chairman of Stewards must (irrespective of whether or not the meeting is abandoned or continues) complete the checklist for Situation Three attached to these Abandonment Protocols.

NOMINATED TRAINER REPRESENTATIVES TO BE USED DURING ABANDONMENT PROTOCOLS PROCESS

The RIU will select two trainer representatives from the trainers listed:

NORTHERN	CENTRAL	CANTERBURY	SOUTHERN
Nigel Tiley	John Wheeler	Andrew Carston	Kelvin Tyler
Lee Somervell	Allan Sharrock	Michael Pitman	Terry Kennedy
Stephen McKee	Gary Vile	John Parsons	Shane Anderton
Tony Pike	Roydon Bergerson	Kevin Hughes	Sally McKay
Andrew Forsman	John Bary	Terri Rae	
Stephen Autridge	Lisa Latta	Neill Ridley	
Stephen Marsh	Guy Lowry		

SITUATION TWO CHECKLIST

RACEMEETING:

DATE OF RACE MEETING:

Action Required

1. Was a Stipendiary Stewards' Inquiry held? [Yes/No]

2. Was input obtained during the Stipendiary Stewards' Inquiry from:
 - (a) the venue's Racecourse Manager? [Yes/No]
 - (b) the Club's General Manager/Chief Executive Officer? [Yes/No]
 - (c) available trainers [Yes/No]
 - (d) available riders? [Yes/No]

3. Was the racing surface inspected? [Yes/No]

4. Were means of eliminating or minimising the identified safety risk(s) (including carrying out remedial work or any other action) considered? [Yes/No]

5. Was any remedial work or other action carried out? [Yes/No]

6. If yes, was the affected part of the racing surface inspected after the work/action was completed? [Yes/No]

7. If the meeting was abandoned, did the Chairman of Stewards notify:
 - (a) the Club? [Yes/No]
 - (b) the NZTR Racing Operations Manager? [Yes/No]
 - (c) Trackside (for race meetings)? [Yes/No]
 - (d) NZRB Personnel on course (for race meetings)? [Yes/No]

Notes/other relevant information:

RIU Representative: _____

Dated: _____

SITUATION THREE CHECKLIST

RACEMEETING:

DATE OF RACE MEETING:

Action Required

1. Was a Stipendiary Stewards' Inquiry held? [Yes/No]
2. Was input obtained during the Stipendiary Stewards' Inquiry from:
 - (a) the venue's Racecourse Manager? [Yes/No]
 - (b) the Club's General Manager/Chief Executive Officer? [Yes/No]
 - (c) the Trainers Association's nominated trainer representatives? [Yes/No]
 - (d) the riders riding at the meeting? [Yes/No]
3. Was the racing surface inspected? [Yes/No]
4. Was all relevant information relating to the safety concerns gathered and considered? [Yes/No]
5. Were means of eliminating or minimising the identified hazard (including carrying out remedial work or any other action) considered? [Yes/No]
6. Was any remedial work or other action carried out? [Yes/No]
7. If yes, was the affected part of the racing surface inspected after the work/action was completed? [Yes/No]
8. If the meeting was abandoned, did the Chairman of Stewards notify:
 - (a) the Club? [Yes/No]
 - (b) the NZTR National Racing Operation Manager? [Yes/No]
 - (c) Trackside (for race meetings)? [Yes/No]
 - (d) NZRB Personnel on course (for race meetings)? [Yes/No]

Notes/other relevant information:

RIU Representative: _____

Dated: _____