

STARTING PROCEDURE FOR SPORTING HORSE RACES

This starting procedure has been designed to cater for all horse types, those that stand and those who don't.

The starting procedure works like this: all horses in the upcoming race must be in the 'marshalling box', the judge will call the horses forward to commence the race. Horses that stand, can start at standing start line, horses that don't stand, will position themselves at the starting box entry line and approach the walk up start line (see diagram on the following page).

Rules:

1). Horses for the upcoming race must all be in the 'marshalling box' at the conclusion of the prior race (conclusion is defined as the last horse crossing the finish line). Horses that are not, will not be allowed to compete in their heat/semi-final/final. Once the course is clear, the judge will call the horses forward to the starting line.

No pardons (for riders & horses not being in the 'marshalling box') will be granted by the judge unless it is deemed a safety issue (i.e. horse has a loose shoe, stirrup leather broken etc. If it is a safety issue with gear, this must be shown to the judge immediately before rectifying).

2). Riders may elect to start at standing start line (standing start only) or at the starting box entry line and approach the walk up start line. If you elect the walk up start, the rider must raise their hand so the judge is aware of your intention.

3). Horses do not have to stand in the starting box, they can be moving forward (at walking pace only) towards the walk up start line. The distance between the standing start line and the walk up start line has been calculated based on the advantage that a moving horse has over a standing horse. This in turn, will help everybody because we will not have to wait for horses to stand that have trouble standing.

4). If a horse won't stand at the standing start line the judge will allow one more attempt to stand. If this is unsuccessful, the judge will order that the horse to move back to the starting box entry line and approach the walk up start line (if multiple horses have been requested to move back, those riders must to walk in together).

5). If, in the opinion of the judge, the horse has been given sufficient time to approach the walk up start line without success, he/she can commence the race, however rule 6 must be adhered too.

6). The judge must ensure that horses are facing in a forward direction.

7). If, in the opinion of the judge, the rider is deliberately making their horse do more than walking pace (once inside the starting box), they will be disqualified from the event.

8). On the judge's call up, all horses must approach their starting position immediately or risk being left behind.

See example on following page.

Example

In this example the horses in lane 1 & 4 have had two attempts to start at the standing start line, therefore the judge has request these two horses move back to the starting box entry line and approach the walk up start line together. Once these two horses are at the walk up start line (and the horses in lanes 2 & 3 are still in the correct standing start position), the judge will commence the race.

