NSW Country Highway Races

Terms and Conditions

Eligibility

To contest NSW Country Highway races, horses must legitimately be under the care of a NSW country or Australian Capital Territory (ACT) trainer.

The trainer must be licensed and operate from one of the eight designated country racing regions in NSW or the ACT.

For the avoidance of doubt, horses trained in country regions outside of NSW/ACT in accordance with the definition of country area in the Racing NSW Local Rules of Racing, are not eligible to compete.

Country Trainer

Horses being nominated for a Highway Race must legitimately be under the care of a NSW country or ACT trainer.

Horses trained by a trainer that is the holder of a metropolitan or provincial licence are not eligible to compete.

To be eligible to nominate horses, trainers must be licensed as a country trainer with Racing NSW or the ACT and legitimately operate from a country racecourse, Canberra racecourse or other approved country location. Further, trainers who are holders of a metropolitan or provincial licence or operate from a metropolitan or provincial track are ineligible to nominate horses for Highway races.

Trainers relocating to a country racecourse from a metropolitan or provincial track or relicensing as a country trainer from a metropolitan or provincial licence will not be recognised as a country trainer until they have been at that location for a minimum of six months.

Country Horses

Unraced horses that have their initial stable return lodged under the name of a country trainer will be eligible.

Otherwise, eligibility will be determined by the conditions outlined below, under Horses Transferring to a Country Trainer.

Horses Transferring to a Country Trainer

In order to be eligible to be nominated for a Highway race, horses transferred to a country stable from a Metropolitan, Provincial, Interstate or International trainer following a legitimate and full change of ownership must either:

- must have contested a minimum of three (3) races for that NSW Country Trainer; or
- be under the care of the NSW Country Trainer for a period of at least 270 days.

Otherwise, where a horse is transferred to a country stable from a Metropolitan, Provincial, Interstate or International trainer other than by way of a legitimate change of ownership must either:

- contest a minimum of three (3) races for that NSW Country Trainer; or
- be under the care of the NSW Country Trainer and for a period of at least 360 days.

Horses transferred to a country trainer and contesting Highway races, must remain in the care of a country domiciled trainer for the next five race starts following their final Highway race.

Horses that have always been trained by a qualified NSW Country or ACT trainer are not subject to the minimum start clause.

Conditions May be Changed at Any Time

The conditions of Highway Races may be changed at the discretion of Racing NSW at any time.

Racing NSW the Sole Judge of Eligibility

Racing NSW is the sole judge as to the eligibility of horses in Highway races and can reject or accept a nomination at its absolute discretion.

Weight Conditions (if a Set Weight race)

Some Highway races will be run as Class 3 Plates under Set Weight conditions and will be run under the following weight scale:

59.0kg	Class 3
57.5kg	Class 2
56.0kg	Class 1 & Maiden

Fillies and mares will receive an allowance of 2kg from the above scale. 3yos will receive an allowance in accordance with the time of the year, provided that no horse will be allotted less than 53kgs

The 3yo allowance scale is:
Aug-Oct is -2.5kgs
Nov-Jan is -1.5kgs
Feb-Apr is -0.5kgs
May-Jul is 0kgs

3yo Allowance in Highway Handicaps

3yos will receive an allowance in accordance with the time of the year, provided that no horse will be allotted less than 53kgs

The 3yo allowance scale is:
August-October is -2.5kgs
November-January is -1.5kgs
February-April is -0.5kgs
May-July is 0kgs

Ballot Conditions

In the event of a ballot being required for a Highway race, the order shall be as follows:

1. First eliminated are any horses benchmarked at 50 or lower.
   If benchmarks are equal, then by lot.
2. Next eliminated are the third and subsequent lowest benchmarked horses trained in the ACT commencing with the lowest benchmark, if equal then by lot.
3. No ballot exemptions into or from Highway races are applicable unless specified in race conditions. If further ballots are required it will done in benchmark order, if equal then by lot.

Apprentice Claims - Apprentices can claim.

Alteration of Conditions
Racing NSW may at its absolute discretion alter any conditions or other elements of NSW Country Highway races at any time.

Horse Location
Horses are permitted to be stabled away from their country stable in a Provincial or Metropolitan area after acceptances have been declared for the Highway Handicap. If a horse is racing in a Highway Handicap with a 7-day back-up, it will be permitted to remain in a metropolitan or provincial area during that 7-day period, whilst in the care of the trainer or his or her authorised staff member.

If a horse is racing in a Highway Handicap two weeks apart, it must return to the country stable between races but can be travelled back to the metropolitan or provincial area after acceptances in accordance with condition 1.

Trainers should note that if a horse is to be away from its stable overnight, an Active-Non Stable Training stable return must be lodged, with the location of the horse disclosed.