

HIF – MEETING SUMMARY
Thursday, 9th July 2020
The Grange, Campbell Town
Meeting commenced at 11:07am

- A proposal regarding Harness Qualifying Trials was tabled and discussed. Further discussions to be held offline with clubs to provide proposed dates for a reduced number of trials. Teleconference to be held early August.
- Discussion around the recent HRA extension of racing season and whether this was to become a permanent change was still being discussed at a national level. Tasracing and HIF both supported the permanent change to better suit our industry.
- An update was given on Harness Wagering Performance since the recommencement of racing in mid-June. Whilst well behind on the annual budget, the meetings individually saw positive wagering turnover in comparison to the same period in previous years.
- An update was given on Assets and Facilities.
- An update was provided on Marketing activity during the suspension of Racing.
- An update was provided on TAB retail and potential impacts relating to on course operators at Tasmanian race meetings.
- An update was provided on Animal Welfare, specifically around the new classifieds website to assist with rehoming retired racehorse and the new OTT clinics program which will be released shortly.
- The group discussed the draft Programming Guidelines which were provided to HIF. Feedback was requested from the group by 21 August. Guidelines to be implement from 1 Jan 2021.
- Harness race dates for 20/21 were tabled noting these were yet to receive final SKY approval so some minor changes may occur.
- The 20/21 Harness Feature Race calendar was drafted and tabled with feedback requested from Clubs / Associations by end of July.
- Discussion wase held around the permanent move of the Sire Stakes to October / November regardless of the HRA decision around the season extension. This was supported by the group.
- It was requested that ORI better utilise social media for race day updates to industry. ORI committed to review and improve as required.
- Tasracing committed to reviewing the conditions for the yearling sale bonus. Changes will be introduced for yearlings sold at the 2020 sale onwards
- Tasracing committed to investigate the possibility of joining an interstate race series as part of the yearling sale.
- ORI raised concern around the possibility of scratching horses to allow other horses (emergencies) the ability to gain a start from a more desirable barrier. This will be monitored closely and perhaps require a vet certificate in the near future.
- Tasracing committed to review the procedure for the medical provider on raceday.
- Discussion took place around the recent issue of young children in and around the race day stalls. Tasracing will be restricting persons under the age of 14 in these areas and will work with industry to ensure the impact on those with young children and their families is minimal.