



# DARWIN RACING

## **TRACK REGULATIONS**

Approved and published by TRNT

THE FOLLOWING TRACK REGULATIONS ARE APPLICABLE  
TO THE RACECOURSE AND THE TRAINING FACILITY  
UNDER THE CONTROL OF "THE DARWIN TURF CLUB"  
AND ARE CURRENT AS OF

March 2014

Amended – May 2017

Amended – April 2018

Amended – May 2018

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### **1. TRACK REGULATIONS**

#### **1.1 Track Fees and Charges**

A Track Facility Fee is determined by the Darwin Turf Club and applies to all trainers and is charged on a per runner basis. The fee is determined by the Darwin Turf Club and is subject to review and any change will be notified in writing.

- 1.2 All horse trainers, jockeys, apprentice jockeys, trainee apprentice jockeys and track riders who utilise the Darwin Turf Club racecourse and training facilities must complete a race club induction. This involves reading the Darwin Turf Club Track Regulations and signing the accompanying Acknowledgement Form. The signed form must be given to the Track Work Supervisor or the Operations, Racing and Facilities Manager prior to using the facilities of the Darwin Turf Club for the first time. These forms are given to the TRNT Stewards to keep a record of track users.

- 1.3 The Track Work Supervisor will record the number of horses working on the track each morning.
- 1.4 The Operations, Racing and Facilities Manager, Track Work Supervisor or any other Race Club appointed representative may at any time, and at their discretion restrict the use of the race course and/or training facilities on any particular day or time and to the extent they see fit. This includes restricting access to the track due to weather conditions, visibility, physical obstructions, danger or due to the general condition of the track.
- 1.5 The Darwin Turf Club provides a safe training complex and all race course and requires training facility users and visitors to identify, report, mitigate and where practicable, rectify possible hazards. Any injury or safety issue that cannot be resolved by the Track Work Supervisor must be recorded and directed to the Operations, Racing and Facilities Manager for resolution.
- 1.6 Prior to the commencement of track work each morning, the Track Work Supervisor inspects the track/course proper. Access is permitted to the track/course proper only after this inspection and the Track Work Supervisor deems it safe to access. The Track Work Supervisor has the authority to close and open the track as they so determine. Any decision or reasonable direction of the Track Work Supervisor must be adhered to by all track users. The Track Work Supervisor must be in attendance for track work to proceed.

## **2. HORSE TRAINERS**

- 2.1 A horse must not be brought onto the property of the Darwin Turf Club unless it is under the care and supervision of:
  - a Trainer or his/her approved stable foreperson holding a current licence issued by TRNT
  - a Visiting trainer or his/her stable foreperson currently licensed by another PRA, and holding an appropriate Visiting Permit issued by TRNT
  - a Person having pre-approved permission from the Operations, Racing and Facilities Manager
- 2.2 No trainer, visiting trainer or other authorised person shall permit a horse under their charge to be on the Darwin Turf Club property unless that horse is handled by a licensed person.
- 2.3 No trainer, visiting trainer or other authorised person in charge of a horse shall occupy any wash down bay or lunging ring for longer than necessary.
- 2.4 Holders of a Stable Agreement with the Darwin Turf Club agree to comply with the terms of their Stable Agreement as a condition of using the Darwin Turf Club training facilities.

## **3. HORSES**

- 3.1 Any horse found loose or roaming on the property of the Darwin Turf Club will be impounded until further investigations can be undertaken by a DTC employee and involving the TRNT Stewards.

- 3.2 A horse being led on the Darwin Turf Club property must have a bit in it's mouth which must be attached to a lead or reins. A stallion chain is an acceptable alternative to a bit.
- 3.3 Horses suffering from any infectious diseases or any condition causing discharge from the nostrils are not permitted to work on the track.
- 3.4 Horses exercising in breaking-in or stock saddles may only work on the track after 8.00am.

#### **4. RIDERS ON THE TRACK**

- 4.1 Only persons licensed as a jockey, apprentice, trainee apprentice jockey, approved track work rider or horse trainer (with permission to ride in licence conditions) are permitted to ride on the Darwin Turf Club racecourse, tracks and grounds.
- 4.2 All riders must be able to provide evidence of holding a current license and need to report to the Track Supervisor prior to riding on the first occasion. Riders must also have submitted the signed Acknowledgement Form in accordance with clause 1.2. This requirement does not diminish the responsibility of any trainer to ensure the person riding their horses holds a current and appropriate licence and has complied with this section.
- 4.3 All riders must be mindful of safety, their surroundings and the track and weather conditions at all times. All riders have a personal duty of care for other track users and must contact the Track Work Supervisor if they have any concerns about safety.
- 4.4 No rider shall wear any apparel or use any equipment that has not been approved by the TRNT Stewards.
- 4.5 Riders are permitted to use only blunt spurs on the Darwin Turf Club property. Roller or Rowel spurs are not permitted. Shanks must be of a smooth metal and shall not be sharpened.
- 4.6 Riders must wear an approved skull cup with the chin strap fastened, approved body protector vest and approved riding boots when mounted on a horse.
- 4.7 Prior to sunrise (or such time as designated by the Track Work Supervisor) all riders must, wear apparel with high visibility reflective strips and have affixed to their skull cap a warning light or lights that are clearly visible from both the right- and left-hand sides and from across the track when mounted on a horse. As an alternative, riders' may wear a TRNT approved HI VIS vest with built in LED lights. To enhance safety the lights must be activated prior to mounting any horse and remain activated until the rider dismounts. In inclement weather conditions the Track Work Supervisor may extend the period for use of safety apparel at their absolute discretion.
- 4.8 Riders not wearing suitable safety lighting apparel will not be permitted to ride track work.
- 4.9 In the event that a rider has been granted a license to ride slow work only or is undergoing TRNT riding assessment, the Stewards or Track Work Supervisor may place conditions on such license dependant on the person's demonstrated level of experience. These riders must wear a high visibility reflective apparel at all times when mounted on a horse.

## **5. TRACKS**

5.1 The course proper may be used on the following days and times:

Monday - 4.30am to 9.00am  
Tuesday to Saturday – 4.30am to 9.00am  
Race days – 4.30am to 8.30am

During Carnival – May to August  
Monday – 4.00am to 9.00am  
Tuesday to Saturday – 4.00am to 9.30am  
Race days – 4.00am to 9.00am

If barrier trials are scheduled on any day, the track will close at 8.45am.

These times are subject to change by Darwin Turf Club and track users will be notified in advance of any variations via text message.

- 5.2 All horses must work in an anti-clockwise direction.
- 5.3 Fast work is not to be conducted in the dark. Only slow work is permitted unless the infield lights are turned on or unless the Track Work Supervisor is satisfied there is sufficient natural light.
- 5.4 If marker hats are placed on the track, all horses must work outside the marker hats and in this situation, only slow work only is permitted.
- 5.5 Horses must be taken to the point where their gallop is to commence in an anti-clockwise direction.
- 5.6 Horses being worked slowly should be ridden adjacent to the outside rail of the track and fast work is to be conducted adjacent to the inside of the track.
- 5.7 Horses may only enter the track via the 1300m or 700m access points and must exit via the 1000m point, unless otherwise notified.
- 5.8 No person who is mounted on a horse is permitted to lead a riderless horse on the Darwin Turf Club property.

## **6. TRACK CLOSURE**

### **EMERGENCY WARNING LIGHT PROTOCOL**

- 6.1 In the event of a riderless horse, fallen rider or track closure the Emergency Warning Light System (EWLS) will be activated by the Track Work Supervisor. When the system is activated, there are flashing lights located on the machinery shed, camera towers at the 400m, 1400m and 1600m positions, the 1300m access entrance, the pool shed and the Track Work Supervisor Hut. The flashing lights will remain activated whilst the track is closed.

- 6.2 Riders using the track must respond to the EWLS by being prepared to restrain and ease up their mounts to avoid a further accident and must safely proceed to the nearest entry/exit point and leave the course proper.
- 6.3 The flashing lights will remain on until such time as the track is cleared.
- 6.4 When the EWLS has been activated, riders and horses are prohibited from entering the track unless authorised by the Track Work Supervisor or their delegate.
- 6.5 During the period of a track closure all licensed persons must abide by the instructions of the Track Work Supervisor and not hinder the movement of a St John's ambulance, horse ambulance or Track Work Supervisor's vehicle.
- 6.6 Once the track has been cleared and deemed safe to resume track work, the EWLS will be turned off. This will signify that it is all clear to continue track operations.

### **TRACK CLOSURE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER**

- 6.7 In the event of an electrical storm the Track Work Supervisor will refer to the provisions of TRNT Policy 010. The track will be closed immediately until any threat of lightning strikes has passed.
- 6.8 The decision to close the track or delay its opening on the basis of faulty artificial lighting or poor visibility due to weather conditions is at the absolute discretion of the Track Work Supervisor. In the event of heavy fog or rain the Track Work Supervisor may decide to close the track or limit the number of horses working on the track at any one time to be satisfied that the track work can proceed safely.
- 6.9 During any track closure the warning lights will be activated.
- 6.10 Following any significant rainfall, the Track Work Supervisor must be satisfied that the training track is in a suitable condition to commence or recommence training activities. The Track Work Supervisor may order the closure of the track if they deem it necessary.
- 6.11 No person or horse shall enter the tracks through a closed gate.

## **7. BARRIER TRIALS**

- 7.1 Barrier Trails will be conducted as requested by trainers on Tuesday mornings. Trials will commence approximately 15 minutes after the track is closed and entries must be received by 12 noon on Friday the week prior to the trial. Trials may also take place on another day as approved by the Darwin Turf Club.
- 7.2 Trials will be conducted over 900m and a minimum of four runners is required for a trial except in special circumstances approved by the Stewards.
- 7.3 In all cases where horses are competing in a barrier trial for the purpose of being approved to race (unraced horses) the following guidelines will be applied, unless Stewards deem special circumstances warrant an alteration:
  - Horses must be ridden into the barrier stall unaided, other than being led forward
  - There must be a minimum of four (4) runners in the trial
  - Approval will not be given to horses which are:

- Lifted by attendants
- Riderless
- Assisted by ropes or straps
- Reversed in
- Placed in with the front gates opened; or
- Blindfolded
- For approval to be granted the horse must:
  - a) Be loaded in a reasonable time
  - b) Not be fractious or unruly in the barriers
  - c) Jump away in a reasonable manner
  - d) Perform tractably after jumping away

7.4 In the case of horses being reinstated to race following any embargo, the trainer or their representative must report to the Stewards before the trial if any gear is going to be used on the horse or if there is any particular method which is going to be used in the loading process.

7.5 Trainers are responsible for providing personnel for loading horses at trials. These personnel must be licensed and wear approved safety apparel.

## **8. PRACTICE BARRIERS & JUMP OUTS**

8.1 The practice barriers will be available upon prior request to the Track Work Supervisor and can only be used after 8.00am.

Before using the barriers during track work, trainers must:

- Notify the Track Work Supervisor of an intention to use them
- Advise if the purpose is for education or a jump out
- Follow any instructions given by the Track Work Supervisor
- Ensure licensed staff assisting are wearing approved safety apparel
- Be mindful of other track users when operating the barriers

## **9. SAFETY AND FIRST AID**

9.1 An accredited first aid officer, holding a Senior First Aid Qualification as a minimum, must be in attendance at all times before any training or track work can proceed.

9.2 A first aid kit and defibrillator are located in the Track Work Supervisors hut.

9.3 All accidents and injuries must be reported to the Track Work Supervisor who will provide any relevant incident report forms to be completed and returned. The Track Work Supervisor will inform the Operations, Racing and Facilities Manager and a TRNT Steward of any accidents or injuries.

9.4 The completed incident report forms will be handed to the TRNT Stewards for recording and actioning in consultation with the Operations, Racing and Facilities Manager.

9.5 The Track Work Supervisor has control of all training facilities and their directions and instructions must be followed at all times.

9.6 If a St John's ambulance attends the track, you are required to facilitate their attention to the patient as quickly and directly as possible.

## **10. RACECOURSE FACILITIES**

10.1 Lunge rings are used for the purposes of slow work only. Horses are not permitted to be galloped in the rings or left unattended for any period of time.

10.2 On leaving the lunge rings, you must close the gate behind you.

10.3 After vacating the lunge ring, ensure that manure is removed and put into the designated bins provided.

10.4 Trainers utilising the racecourse training facilities are required to ensure that all horse manure is placed in the designated bins provided and that the lids are closed after use. The placing of any other type of rubbish in the manure bins is prohibited and offenders may be charged for any costs associated with this.

## **THOROUGHBRED POOL**

10.5 The pool is open for use Monday to Saturday between 5am – 9.00am and 2.00pm – 4pm (not in the afternoon on race days). These hours extend to Sundays during the Carnival and any such additional times will be displayed at the pool noticeboard. These hours may vary from time to time and any variance will be notified by the Darwin Turf Club .

10.6 Prior to entering the pool all horses must be washed down in the hosing bays and have their feet picked and washed.

10.7 All horses entering the pool must have a bit in their mouth which is to be attached to the aluminium guide poles provided.

10.8 When the track is closed due to lightning and thunderstorm activity, the pool will also be closed. Outside of track opening hours the pool will be closed during localised thunderstorm and lightning activity at the discretion of the Equine Pool Supervisor on duty.

## **THOROUGHBRED WALKERS – installed June 2021**

10.9 Iron Gate Walker - Basic Operating Procedures

- The Walker is designed to ramp up from stopped to the selected speed and ramp down when stopped. This provides gradual increase and decrease to assist the horses
- The Walker can be used in either a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction. A regular change in direction is recommended for horse welfare.
- During normal operation turn off by using the Forward/Off/Reverse Switch
- Use the Emergency Stop button only in the event of an emergency
- Do not set the Speed Control higher than level 6
- The High-Tension Switch turns on/off the Gallagher Fence Master which electrifies the upper mesh and is used for controlling unruly horses.



- Do not turn on the this feature unless required
- It is possible to receive an electric shock while loading horses or touching the top mesh with the Gallagher Fence Master switched on
- Report any maintenance issues to the Track Work Supervisor or the Operation, Racing and Facilities Manager

#### 10.10 Walker Regulations

- Only licensed persons may load and unload horses and operate the Walker
- Children are not to enter the Walker at any time
- Horses must be supervised at all times when using the Walker
- Any horse entering the Walker must have a head collar (no bridles)
- A rearing bit or stallion chain must be attached when leading horses during the loading process
- Horses must not be tied to any part of the Walker and must not be ridden in the Walker
- Horses with rugs on are not permitted in the Walker
- Horses suffering from any infectious diseases or any complaint causing discharge from the nostrils are not permitted on the Walker
- No individual stable should have more than 4 horses on either Walker at any one time except when there is no line up to use the equipment
- Consideration for others and courtesy must be observed when using the Walkers
- After use, use shovel and broom provided to keep the Walker base pad clear of excess manure,
- Walkers are not be used during localised thunderstorm and lightning activity

#### 10.11 Walker operating times

- Monday to Saturday – 4.30am to 9.45am (Closed for maintenance and cleaning) then 11.00am to 6.00pm
- Sunday – 7.00am to 6.00pm

### 11 GENERAL INFORMATION

- 11.1 The Darwin Turf Club has zero tolerance for violence, verbal abuse, improper or insulting behaviour towards any Club employees or other persons associated with the Race Club. Any instance of the abovementioned behaviour must be reported to either the Track Work Supervisor or Operations, Racing and Facilities Manager and the matter may be referred to the TRNT Stewards to investigate. A breach of this regulation may result in action being taken by the Darwin Turf Club Board or the TRNT Stewards.
- 11.2 Any person leading a horse on the property prior to sunrise (or such time designated by the Track Work Supervisor) must wear a high visibility vest with reflective strips.
- 11.3 Any person leading horses must wear enclosed footwear.
- 11.4 The training premises are monitored by 24 hour CCTV installed along Bevan Halter Drive. All information, including personal and sensitive information is collected, held and used in accordance with the “Surveillance Devices Privacy Policy” and the “Optical Surveillance Devices Policy”.

- 11.5 Vehicle entry to the complex must be through the electric gates on the Douglas Street entrance. All vehicles entering in darkness must revert to park lights.
- 11.6 Drivers of vehicles at all times must observe the 10 kmph speed limit.
- 11.7 Riders are only permitted to carry and use padded whips that conform to the Australian Rules of Racing.
- 11.8 No person is permitted to reside on Darwin Turf Club property. Upon application, the Darwin Turf Club can give permission for visiting trainers to set up accommodation in the designated Caravan Park during the Carnival.

Under certain circumstances, trainers or licenced persons can obtain special permission by way of email, phone call or text message, to stay on course for the following reasons.

- Tend to a sick horse.
- Animal welfare monitoring during an event (Fireworks, Gala Ball, Pitch Black Jets) etc.

Each occasion will be documented for insurance and record purposes.

Permission requests:

Email: [facilities@darwinturfclub.org.au](mailto:facilities@darwinturfclub.org.au)

Phone/text: 0437381022

- 11.9 Floats and trucks must be parked in the designated area set aside for that purpose. During track work, floats and trucks parked in the designated area behind the swimming pool can only be moved after the driver reports to the Track Work Supervisor. This will ensure safe vehicle movement from this area.
- 11.10 Resident Darwin trainers are permitted to bring a dog to their stables but they must be kept within the confines of the stable or on a leash. Under no circumstances are dogs permitted to remain on course without the owner being present. Dogs kept by visiting persons, who have been granted permission to reside in the designated caravan park, must be kept within the confines of the caravan park or stables and on a leash. Any person responsible for breaching this regulation is liable to have their dog banned from Darwin Turf Club property.
- 11.11 All children visiting the Darwin Turf Club training facility and stables must be under the supervision of an adult at all times.

## **12 DARWIN TURF CLUB STAFF and OTHER CONTACT NUMBERS**

### **RACING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES MANAGER**

Ben Whitlock – 0437 381 022

### **TRACK WORK SUPERVISOR**

Mark Gillam – 0447 904 638

### **POOL SUPERVISOR**

Craig Sant – 0407 979 628

### **TRNT STEWARDS**

David Hensler (Chairman of Stewards) – 0408 497 612

Rob Hamilton (Senior Steward) – 0439 848 390

### **EMERGENCY CONTACT**

AMBULANCE / FIRE / POLICE: 000

### **VETERINARIAN**

Howard Springs Vet Clinic – 08 8983 1458

After hours – 0428 810 596

## **13 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

The Darwin Turf Club Track Regulations acknowledgement form must be signed and returned to the Track Work Supervisor, Operations, Racing and Facilities Manager or a TRNT Steward.

The Darwin Turf Club review these regulations and procedures on an ongoing basis and from time to time will make amendments and update.

A link to any updated copy will be distributed to industry participants via text message and acceptance will serve as acknowledgement of any changes.



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

In signing this form I acknowledge that I have received, read and understood the Track Regulations issued to me by **the Darwin Turf Club**.

I also agree to abide by the requirements outlined within the Track Regulations booklet, the Australian Rules of Racing in addition to any instructions issued to me by race club representatives whilst present on Darwin Turf Club property.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

### **Darwin Turf Club Representative (Witness)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_