



19th August 2010

NZSBA policy on Black Type

The New Zealand Standardbred Breeders' Association has developed and agreed upon a policy for black type. Black type is usually found in sales catalogues. It recognises mares that achieve above the industry standard. Almost all racing jurisdictions have been unable to agree to any changes in the last 40 years – despite the 2.00 Mile Rate (MR) becoming commonplace these days.

PGG Wrightson wrote to NZSBA last year proposing significant changes to their policy for publishing black type in the sales catalogues. PGG Wrightson believed that the current criteria did not reflect the modern standardbred.

This policy was developed after extensive consultation with Harness Racing Industry including; HRNZ, PGG Wrightson, the three regional breeders associations and over 30 submissions received from harness racing participants. The majority of submissions agreed that a change was needed to the 2.00.0 mile rate for pacers. There were mixed opinions on total criteria.

PGG Wrightson's proposal to shift the lifetime earnings bar from \$100,000 to \$500,000 was a stretch too far for most. \$200,000 has been nominated as a preferred level. Whether a mare should be able to earn black type in a time trial caused significant debate. The status quo will remain as there was a 50/50 split. Time trial black type is indicated with the abbreviation 'TT'.

The NZSBA decided that if a policy was required some updating of times was necessary, but overall minimal change as to how black type is earned. The NZSBA's black type policy is as follows:

- Group 1 win – **BOLD CAPITAL TYPE**
- Group 1 place – **Bold ordinary type**
- Group 2 or 3 win – **Bold ordinary type**
- Total Stakes \$200,000 or over – **BOLD CAPITAL TYPE**
- Winning times NZ & AUS – Pacers MR 1.58.0 or faster, Trotters MR 2.00.0 or faster – **BOLD CAPITAL TYPE**
- Winning times USA & CAN – Pacers MR 1.55.0 or faster, Trotters MR 1.58.0 or faster – **BOLD CAPITAL TYPE**
- Time trials – Pacers MR 1.58.0 or faster, Trotters MR 2.00.0 or faster – **bold ordinary type** with (TT) against horse name

The NZSBA would like to stress that black type earned by a horse prior to 1st August 2010 will still remain. Please note this is the NZSBA's policy on black type for use in the Sires Register. PGG Wrightson have not released their policy on Black Type for the sales catalogues at the time of writing.

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