



**TRNT BOARD POLICY NO: 024**

**Date Introduced: 2 July 2009**

**Date Varied: 16 November 2010**

## **DIVIDING OF RACES**

**Authority to Divide Races and Pay additional Prize money, along with non Prize money earning payments to Owners and Riding Fess for Jockeys on Non prize money earning horses.**

### **HISTORY**

From 1 July 2009 TRNT had taken over the responsibility for programming along with the setting and payment of prize money for all clubs in the NT. In the past the decision on whether a race would be split or not was the prerogative of the respective club as they had to provide the additional stake money. For example on ROANT Race Day (27-6-09) there was more than another field of horses in the 0-70 race that would not have got a run the following week due to there being no race for them, so the race was split by the club and the additional \$14,000 stake had to be met by the Club.

Now that TRNT was responsible for the setting and payment of stakes, the responsibility for this decision was that of the TRNT Board.

This was brought to the attention of the Chairman & CEO when at the closing of acceptances or the first day of the Darwin Cup Carnival the number of acceptances (26) for the 0-62 race was . 14 horses more than could get a run and of these, 7 would not get a run in a similar race next week.

In this instance the TRNT Chairman had made the decision on the recommendation of the CEO that, in the interests of racing, the race should be split and this decision would need to be ratified by the Board.

In considering the matter the Board agreed that it would be impractical due to the constraints of time when acceptances close to consult the entire Board and that a delegation of authority to the Chairman and CEO would be the only way that this could be managed.

## **NTR 55 - Divided Races**

### **Guidelines**

#### **Carnival**

The reason for dividing races is to provide opportunities for horses to gain a start where there may be limited opportunities if they miss the cut for a given race.

Future opportunities. If no opportunity exists within a similar class or similar distance within the following 11 days it is accepted that a genuine lack of opportunity exists.

Similar Class means another race for which they are eligible and are rated above the minimum.

Similar Distance means another race which is over a distance of within 200 metres of the given race.

Field Sizes. There should be at least 18 acceptors in the given race which will result in field sizes of no less than 9 if divided.

### **Outside Carnival**

There may be several reasons why a race outside carnival is divided. It will predominantly be to provide an opportunity for horses to gain a start but the necessity for that can have several reasons. It may be that there are too many acceptors or it could be that there is a shortage of riders.

As a general rule there should be 8 starters in each division. However, this is not an essential requirement. For example there may only be 12 acceptors but there could be only 6 riders available, therefore to divide the race would ensure that all horses can start.

It may also be that the Club needs to consider requesting a division. If there were to be 2 races deleted and 1 race with 10 acceptors it may be that to divide the race would allow the meeting to proceed rather than abandon the entire meeting.

Decisions not to divide a race are often controversial and attended by publicity. A degree of flexibility is required to deal with the wide range of possible scenarios. It is impossible to completely identify the potential circumstances which may apply, and the extent to which they may apply. The rigid application of a hard and fast rule based on an arbitrary set of circumstances is likely to produce less satisfactory results than if a wider discretion is exercised.

Therefore, it is considered prudent to set out these flexible guidelines rather than absolutely binding criteria. Each decision should be made keeping in mind at all times the best interests of the sport, the Club and the participants.

## **POLICY**

The decision to split races be delegated to the Chairman and CEO of TRNT with the following guidelines to be followed:

1. That there would be no opportunity on the next race day for the majority of the eliminated runners at a similar distance and class.
2. That the number of runners in each of the races resulting from a race being split was not less than 9.
3. That there had be sufficient funding available in the existing TRNT Prize money/non prize money payments to Owners & Jockeys budget to meet the additional costs.