

NEW ZEALAND
THOROUGHBRED **RACING**



PUREI HŌIHO NĀTI O AOTEAROA



— Elite Jockey Programme

FAQ's
for Trainers



Why are we moving to a new system?

Following feedback from past apprentices and stakeholders it is clear that the current apprentice training system is not producing the results that are required to adequately attract and develop apprentices for the future of the industry.

Attracting, training and retaining jockeys is of upmost importance for the sustainability of our racing industry. The Elite Jockey Programme will ensure apprentices are afforded the opportunity to develop their race day riding and employers are adequate to coach the apprentice for performance and qualification as a senior rider.

How does the EJP benefit me as a trainer?

- If you are an employer of a domestic apprentice you will be financially assisted with a wage support package that will cover 50% of the apprentices wages for the first year. This is to support the apprentice with absence from the workplace to engage in race day and trial rides.
- With increased rides per year (200) your share of the riding fee, alongside the wage support package, should cover the wages of your apprentice for the first year. NZTR recognises that the first year of an apprenticeship is critical to establishing the apprentice and therefore the wage support has been put in place to support employers in this period.
- The Jockey Coaching Programme for Employers will be fully funded by NZTR and the skills you will gain will be beneficial across all aspects of business and human resources.
- You will gain a highly skilled jockey who will professionally represent your stable/business.
- You will receive 50% of riding fees and stake money for the duration of the apprenticeship (3 years).
- You will be supported by high performance coaches to develop a skilled apprentice jockey.
- The high-performance aspect of the EJP will shine a positive light on the industry and encourage more participation in Racing.

What do I need to do to become an Approved Employer?

Initially, you will be working towards your Approved Employer Status during the probation period and first year of the apprenticeship. Once you have completed the training you won't have to do it again. There will be a short yearly refresher course to keep you up to date with best practice coaching.

To receive a full list of requirements for becoming an approved employer in the EJP, please see NZTR Approved Apprentice Jockey employer accreditation process. The main points are listed below:

- Hold a Class A Trainers' licence for at least 3 years (or relevant industry experience)
- Complete all 3 modules of the coaching programme. This will be delivered in person via conversations with the Employer support coach detailing how the apprentice is progressing and is designed to support you in developing the apprentice jockey to a high standard. It will cover topics such as training to perform, giving feedback and supporting performance routines.
- Be committed to developing the apprentice as an Elite Athlete.
- Be able to provide or give the opportunity for an apprentice to get the minimum number of rides per season, as set out in the apprentice agreement.

What happens if I cannot give the apprentice the minimum number of rides per season?

It is not solely on the apprentice trainer to provide the rides, they can come from outside trainers as well. The NZTR Education and Training team will proactively support you and your apprentice and come up with a plan to help increase riding opportunities.

This may include riding trackwork for outside trainers and encouraging apprentices to ring for rides at trials and races. If these steps do not increase rides, NZTR will support a loan or transfer to another trainer or region.

I am a trainer and currently don't have an apprentice but would like to become an approved employer to set me up for any future apprentices, can I still do the necessary training to become an Approved Employer?

Yes, you can. You can enrol and complete all three parts of the Jockey Coaching Programme, which will set you up as an Approved Employer, streamlining the process and making it easier and quicker for you to have apprentices in the future.

"New Zealand has long been known as a producer of top athletes worldwide and jockeys will now be recognised as one of those athletes"

Can I loan my apprentice to another trainer?

Yes. The loan trainer will need to either be an approved employer or actively working towards being one.

If I want to employ an Apprentice from Hong Kong, do I have to become an Approved Employer?

Yes. You will either need to be an Approved Employer or actively working towards becoming one.

Can I employ an apprentice on a Work Visa?

International students are welcome to apply for the Probationary Selection Camp. However, it's important to note that scholarships/grants from NZTR for first-year wages and travel subsidies are exclusively available to domestic apprentices. NZTR and HPSNZ are committed to fostering the development of New Zealand athletes.



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