

## COMPETITION RULES FOR NORWEGIAN TROTTING 2017

### Welcome to Norway and Norwegian Trotting.

The sport of Trotting differs throughout the world, so with this summary we would like to inform guest Trainers and Drivers about the most important rules and regulations for Norwegian trotting.

All participants are required to acknowledge the rules and regulations in its entirety to take part.

The animal protection is the most important, and the Animal Health and Welfare Act is always in focus. The Trainer is responsible for the horse prior to, during and after the race, and will be held responsible if prohibited equipment are used, or prohibited substances are found during inspections, or in a doping control.

During the competition day, the panel of judges has the highest authority in all matters concerning the competition.

The racecourse veterinarian, representing the Norwegian Food Safety Authority, has the highest authority in all matters concerning animal welfare.

The Norwegian Trotting Association is the central organization for Trotting and is responsible for competition rules in Norwegian Trotting.

The Norwegian Trotting Association strives everyone to experience participation in Norwegian races where animal protection, fair play and competition on equal terms is a top priority.

## **Pre-competition (chapter 9, § 11-1)**

All horses and Drivers participating in the races must be present at the racecourse minimum one (1) hour before the start in the participating race.

The racecourse veterinarian must identify horses starting in Norway for the first time.

When arriving at the racecourse the Trainer, or other representatives of the horse, must contact the registration body (Vekta) to declare that the horse is present and collect the number badge.

Alcohol and drugs are prohibited on Norwegian trotting tracks. All participants will be tested before the races, and may at any time be tested again later the same day of competition. Testing for alcohol will be completed as breath test, no later than one hour before the participating race.

Drug tests may also occur.

## **Equipment (§§ 2-4, 13-4)**

**Horse:** Equipment regulations with pictured allowed equipment can be found at our website [www.travsport.no](http://www.travsport.no). Equipment not described in these regulations is not allowed to use at any Norwegian racecourse.

### Regular equipment:

Norway have regulations to use back-pieces and buxtons/breast-collars/breastplates both in sulky and monte races.

Spikes, quill, bristles, burr, electronic/magnetic equipment etc. on any part of the equipment is strictly forbidden. Use of hobbles is also forbidden.

In monté, use of overcheck is mandatory when mobile start is being used as starting procedure.

### Sulky:

It is mandatory to use wheel disc covers, and the free space between the wheel and the shaft of the sulky must not be more than 60 mm. In case of bad weather- and track-conditions, the Panel of Judges may order the use of splashguards. Every equipage must make sure that splashguards are available if needed.

### Bridle and bits:

The horses bridle must be comfortable for the horse as well as giving the Driver/Rider full control. Bit is mandatory and cannot be thinner than 9 mm in diameter at the point of contact in the horse's mouth. No type of "lasso" bit is allowed.

If any material defects/faults should occur, the Driver/Rider must contact the Head Starter. In such case, the equipage will be given maximum five minutes to attend to the problem.

If the equipment cannot be attended in approximately five minutes, the Head Starter have the right to exclude the equipage.

**Driver:** A helmet with fastened chinstrap is mandatory at all time when driving on the racetrack or in the paddock/stable area.

Safety vest is mandatory when participating in the races.

White trousers or proper competition attire shall be worn as well as suitable shoes.

In Norway, it is prohibited to use or carry a whip when warming up horses, or participating in the races.

**Rider:** A helmet with fastened chinstrap is mandatory at all time when riding on the racetrack or in the paddock/stable area. Safety vest is mandatory when participating in the races.

In Norway, it is prohibited to use or carry a whip when warming up or participating in the races. Riders are not allowed to wear spurs.

The total weight of the Rider including his/her attire; safety vest, helmet and saddle with accessories must not weigh less than 65 kg. Weighing in will take place after the race, and Riders finishing among the first four equipages are obligated to weigh in directly after the race. If the Rider weighs less than 65 kg after the race, the equipage will be disqualified.

### **Pre-race (§§ 11-2, 11-3)**

When the Speaker announces three minutes until parade, all horses and Drivers shall assemble before the race where the Equipage Controller check horses, Drivers and their equipment. Equipages are then paraded in number order in front of the audience, following commands given by the Speaker.

After the parade, all equipages complete a trial start down the finish stretch, passing by the racecourse veterinarian. The racecourse veterinarian may order equipages to conduct a new trial start if he deems this necessary. If a trial start is not completed, the horse will be excluded.

Adjustments to the equipment are allowed after the parade, and until the speaker announces "start in one minute". If material defects occur, further adjustments may be done under indulgence of the Racecourse Officials, see page two (2). Horses leaving the track without the Head Starters consent may be excluded.

Immediately after the parade, the Speaker announces that the start will commence in three minutes.

The following time references are always used by the Speaker:

Start om tre (3) minutter

Start in three (3) minutes

Start om ett (1) minutt

Start in one (1) minute

All equipages drive/ride the shortest way to the starting position for the standing start or to the assembly point for the auto start/line start.

45 sekunder

45 seconds

30 sekunder

30 seconds

15 sekunder

15 seconds

Klart for start, til start

Ready for start

All equipages are at their starting positions.

### **Starting procedures (§ 11-3)**

The races are started with a standing start or auto start. If a motorized starting gate cannot be used for an auto start, a line start shall be used, § 11-3, 2. If the same equipage cause for a recall or interrupt the start more than once, the equipage will be excluded from the race.

### **Auto start (§ 11-3, 2)**

The maximum number of equipages in an auto start is limited to 12. When there are 12 equipages, the race is started in two tiers behind the gate.

Equipages with event number 1-8 starts in the first tier, directly behind the starting gate.

Equipages with event number 9-12 starts in the second tier and are free to choose between two tracks as follows:

- Equipage no. 9, behind no. 1 or 2
- Equipage no. 10, behind no. 3 or 4
- Equipage no. 11, behind no. 5 or 6
- Equipage no. 12, behind no. 7 or 8.

In the event of a withdrawal/exclusion from the race, equipages can be moved to the next available inside lane. However, equipages can never be moved from the back tier to the front tier. Equipage 1-8 shall be placed about 100 meters behind the starting line, well connected to the gate, and in the correct lane. Equipage 9-12 shall be positioned behind and in the correct lane.

If this is not observed a recall can be ordered and sanctions imposed.

### **Tape start (§ 11-3, 1)**

The maximum number of equipages in a standing start is limited to 12 for each distance, and only 7 horses from the same tier.

The pattern of the Norwegian standing start is as follows:

The starting area for the horses running proper way in the circle, which is clockwise, is about 28 meters behind from the starting line. The starting area for the horses running reverse way in the circle is up to 40 meters behind from the starting line.

1 – 4 horses	all horses are running the proper way in the circle. 3 horses – 2 + 1, or 1 + 1 + 1 4 horses - 2 + 2, or 2 + 1 + 1
5 horses	3 horses are running the proper way, and 2 horses are running the reverse way.
6 horses	3 horses are running the proper way (1 + 1 + 1), and 3 horses are running the reverse way (1 + 1 + 1).
7 horses	4 horses are running the proper way (2 + 2, or 2 + 1 + 1), and 3 horses are running the reverse way.
8 horses or more	horses given equipage no. 8-12 will be given a starting area behind the first tier. The pattern of the standing start is the same as for the horses in the first tier.

Following commands with time references will always be given:

**Klar** (ready)

*9 seconds*

**En** (one)

*5 seconds*

**To** (two)

*1,5 seconds*

**Kjør!** (go!)

To see a video of the Norwegian standing start use the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2NNPjWdB78>

## **The race (chapter 12)**

Horses shall be competitively driven/ridden to achieve the best possible position, without putting the horse under abnormal stress.

Leading equipage shall take the inner lane.

Driving between or outside the lanes are not allowed and can lead to disqualification if the equipage gains advantage by doing so.

On the finishing stretch, a trotting horse cannot change lane if there is no horse in front in the same lane.

Narrow driving/riding, jostling or hindering competitors is examples of violations which can result in sanctions.

An equipage may be disqualified or demoted if the Driver/Rider conducts inappropriate or narrow driving/riding, which according to the Panel of Judges' discretion provide the basis for disqualification or demotion. The Panel of Judges will consider whether there is a probability that the offender equipage has achieved a better placing because of the infringement.

An equipage may also be disqualified or demoted if the horse behaves unruly during the race, and because of this behavior achieves a better placing.

The Panel of Judges will apply the same type of judgement in both cases.

## **Goading/urging and treatment of the horse (§ 10-2)**

All goading/urging of the horse shall be administered gently with the lines/reins from above. When mounted, all goading/urging or restraining must take place with one line in each hand. The Driver shall not continue goading/urging the horse before it has had a chance to respond to prior goading/urging, or on a horse whose position obviously cannot be improved.

The Driver must have both feet in the stirrups of the sulky unless side shafts are used, and it is forbidden to use Driver's feet in goading/urging or restraining of the horse, even pulling the earplugs etc. Kicking the horse, or twisting or leading the legs against the hind legs of the horse is not allowed.

Excessive urging, abruptly correcting a horse off stride, vigorous jerking of the lines, kicking, boxing or inappropriate conduct in general, or loud use of voice, is forbidden.

In monté, all goading of the horse shall be administered gently with the lines/reins in lateral movement against horse's neck. It is forbidden to use lines/reins in vigorous jerking towards

the horse's head or ears, or to use Rider's feet to kick, hit or pinch the horse in the side.

**Use or carrying of whip or spurs is not allowed under any circumstances.**

### **Open stretch (§ 12-4)**

Open stretch means that there is an extra lane which can be used to the left of the leading equipage, but only on the home stretch. The open stretch lane is not included in the actual racetrack and it is forbidden to use it until the home stretch. A trotting equipage must, after passing the home stretch curve, keep the lane if there is no horse in front of it in the same lane. Sanctions can be imposed for unlawful use of the open stretch.

If the horse gains ground and the competition result is affected, the horse can be disqualified.

### **Prohibited gaits (§ 12-1)**

Prohibited gaits are gallop and amble.

An equipage will be disqualified if it:

- gallops or ambles more than twice
- gallops or ambles more than 150 meters during the first 500 meters of the race
- gallops or ambles more than 100 meters during the remaining part of the race
- gains advantage by galloping or ambling

When galloping or ambling amongst the other horses the Driver must be alert and take to the outside to pull back to the correct gait. It is not allowed to steer inwards, and never inside the track marks.

### **Breaking gait (§ 12-1)**

Horses must not break gait. The racecourse veterinarian may prohibit a horse who is breaking gait from participating in the race, or registering to new races for a period.

Breaking gait is not grounds for disqualification.

### **Sanctions (§ 15-1)**

Sanctions can occur if rules and regulations are broken. Sanctions can be warnings, fines, driving-/riding bans, and occasionally admittance to the racecourse can be denied.

The Panel of Judges imposes the sanctions. All fines depends on the sum of the first prize in the actual race, the higher the amount, the higher the fine. However, the fine cannot exceed 100.000 NOK for one single violation. (This does not apply to doping, see below.)

Suspension from racing in Norway will also lead to suspension in other countries.

## **Prohibited medications, drugs etc.**

The Panel of Judges, the Racecourse Veterinary or other person authorized by the Norwegian Trotting Association decides which horses shall be tested. Doping tests can be administered at other times, apart from during the competition. The Trainer is obligated to make the horse available for testing at any time.

Body fluids or other samples must not contain any substance not normally present in a horse or can be related to natural forage. There are internationally agreed levels, which must not be exceeded naturally present, forage related and special substances. If prohibited substances are found, the normal sanction is a fine. If it can be proved that the doping was intentional, the license will be withdrawn for at least 18 months. If intention cannot be proved, the sanction will be a fine, from 10.000 NOK up to 1.000.000 NOK.

Withdrawal times are used in Sweden. A withdrawal time list is available in english for a wide range of various preparations, substances and treatments. Usage of substances not on the list is at your own risk and there are no fixed withdrawal times. The withdrawal time list is published on our website.

Cooling with water is allowed. Cooling using other methods, treatment with electric equipment and magnetic therapy on the day of competition on the racetrack or in the paddock area is not allowed. Horses treated with anabolic steroids or growth hormones can be permanently banned racing.

## **Health certificate and keeping of medical records**

The trainer is responsible for ensuring that any treatment that requires a withdrawal time is listed in the horse's health certificate. The start and end dates of the treatment, the name of the treatment/medication/active substance, amount given, method of administration, withdrawal time as well as the name of the veterinarian or other person responsible for the treatment must all be listed in the health certificate in accordance with DNT's Doping Regulations 2017 § 4. Passport and health certificate should be brought with the horse at all times. Omitting, incompletely or improperly listing treatments in the health certificate constitutes a breach of the Doping Regulations.