

## **GOLDEN GAIT 2026**

Auckland Trotting Club is introducing the Golden Gait 2026 Race Night to be held on a date Late November / December 2026 (date TBC).

This is a loyalty programme for all horses that race at Alexandra Park in the period from 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 until mid-November / December 2026 (TBC).

Golden Gait race night will consist of 10 races – 5 Pacing and 5 Trotting.

All races are 1609m Mobile Start – 12 horses - Preferential Barrier Draw apply – refer individual race conditions.

### **For the Pacers –**

2YO – Open – (Fillies PBD)

3YO - Open (Fillies PBD)

3 Ratings Races – 4YO & Older - Top 36 horses on the Golden Gait points accrued through the year

### **For the Trotters -**

2YO – Open – (Fillies PBD)

3YO - Open (Fillies PBD)

3 Ratings Races – 4YO & Older - Top 36 horses on the Golden Gait points accrued through the year

To be eligible, horses must have paid their \$100.00+gst nomination fee and have had a minimum of six starts if you are a 3YO & Older horse and 4 starts for the 2YO horses within the respective qualifying period at Alexandra Park.

The more horses' race and race well by winning and placing, the higher their Golden Gait score will be, thus pushing their claims for starts in these feature races.

Once the top nominated qualifying pacers and trotters have been found, the qualifiers will be split via their current ratings at the time of withdrawals for the meeting to create fair, competitive contests.

### **General Qualifying Conditions and Eligibility:**

- For all horses aged two and older on 1 January 2026 that have paid their \$100.00+gst nomination fee prior to starting.
- Horses will accrue points in relation to the starts they have over the qualification period at Alexandra Park linked to their performance (Official Placings). 1<sup>st</sup> place – 5 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 3 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> place – 2 point. All other starters earn 1 point.
- To be eligible horses must have raced for a minimum of 6 starts during the qualification period excepting 2YO's who must start a minimum of 4 starts. The respective qualifying period is 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 until mid-November / December 2026 (Date TBC).

- Qualifying Ratings Races - the top 36 ranked pacers on points nominated will be selected, the top 36 ranked trotters nominated will be selected then split into fields, based on ratings. In Pacing Golden Gait races there will be a maximum of 3 fields of 12 acceptors. In Trotting Golden Gait there will be a maximum of 3 fields with 12 acceptors.
- Qualifying 3YO Races - the top 12 3YO ranked pacers on points nominated will be selected. The field will be PDB (Fillies then Colts & Geldings), based on ratings then winning stakes. In Trotting Golden Gait the top 12 3YO ranked trotters on points nominated will be selected. The field will be PDB (Fillies then Colts & Geldings), based on ratings then winning stakes.
- Qualifying 2YO Races - the top 12 2YO ranked pacers on points nominated will be selected. The field will be PDB (Fillies then Colts & Geldings), based on winning stakes. In Trotting Golden Gait the top 12 2YO ranked trotters on points nominated will be selected. The field will be PDB (Fillies then Colts & Geldings), based on winning stakes.
- Non-winners are ineligible to compete in the 3YO and 4YO & older divisions.
- In the 2YO division all 'R' rated horses shall be ranked ahead of non-winners including non-tote 2YO winners.
- In the event of a tie for any qualifying position horses will be separated by counting back to the horse with highest rating, if a tie still exists then the horse with the most lifetime winning stakes will be ranked ahead of the horse with lesser lifetime winning stakes and will go into the higher rating race.
- There is no distinction between a dead heat and a standard placing in reference to points.
- Nominations for the respective races shall be made with the Auckland Trotting Club, in the normal manner, per the advertised programme. In the event there are fewer than the allowable maximum number of acceptors for any race, the splits of the respective races will be determined by the host club.
- In the event a Golden Gait-nominated horse accepts for a race and is subsequently eliminated or that race is abandoned and does not race at that meeting, that horse will gain a technical start towards qualification for the Golden Gait but will not accrue any points.

#### **GOLDEN GAIT - RACE CONDITIONS:**

ALEXANDRA PARK – Auckland TC – Late November / December 2026 (TBC)

**Pacers** - five races – Stakes minimum \$50,000.00 each, with a maximum of 12 starters per race

Race Conditions: 1609m mobile, Preferential Barrier Draws based on Ratings and then Winning Stakes.

Stakes: Minimum Stake \$50,000 -

- For 4YO & Older- The top 36 ranked nominated horses are determined, then split in fields based on rating up to a maximum of three 12-horse races. PBD on ratings then winning stakes.
- For 3YO pacers - The top 12 ranked nominated horses are determined, then PBD on sex – (fillies draw inside colts & geldings) ratings then winning stakes
- For 2YO pacers - The top 12 ranked nominated horses are determined, then PBD on sex – (fillies draw inside colts & geldings) then winning stakes

- As these races are Preferential Barrier Draws no Emergencies will be permitted.

**Trotters** - five races – Stakes minimum \$50,000.00 each race, with a maximum of 12 starters per race.

Race Conditions: 1609m mobile, Preferential Barrier Draws based on Ratings and then Winning Stakes.

Stakes: Minimum Stake \$50,000

- For 4YO & Older- The top 36 ranked nominated horses are determined, then split in fields based on rating up to a maximum of three 12-horse races. PBD on ratings then winning stakes.
- For 3YO trotters - The top 12 ranked nominated horses are determined, then PBD on sex – (fillies draw inside colts & geldings) ratings then winning stakes
- For 2YO trotters - The top 12 ranked nominated horses are determined, then PBD on sex – (fillies draw inside colts & geldings) then winning stakes

Notes-

If any horse doesn't gain a start in the event of a race not being run or a horse is eliminated this will count as a start under this series conditions.

If any matter should arise concerning the series which is not covered by these conditions, a determination will be made by the Racing Committee of the Auckland Trotting Club whose decision shall be final.