The following recommendations has been passed by the IHRA board which was put forward following a recent meeting of the three IHRA committees:

**Change to Exercising of Horses:**

After careful consideration from both veterinarian advice and observations from international bodies there will be a permanent restriction on warm ups as of the start of the 2020 racing season. No horse will be allowed to warm up until 20mins before the post time of the race.

There will be a 25 minute interval between races and should there be any delay caused, the times of any remaining races will be altered accordingly.

This will allow more adequate time for the integrity committee to carry out pre integrity tests on any horse competing on the day.

**Change to Handicap Heats and Finals for Open Class Horses:**

Throughout 2019 many stakeholders and public attendees were critical of the heat and final structure being used and that many connections were manoeuvring their horses to set them up on the gate in the weeks leading up to the event. Therefore, taking the best foot forward for our sport, the following was agreed for the 2020 season:

Any race meeting which previously had a handicap heat and final in 2019 will be replaced with the revised system.

1. The top 16 horses entered (pacers and trotters) will be divided into two elimination races.
2. The elimination races and the top graded final will be run for the largest purse on offer at the meeting.
3. 1st - 4th will qualify for the top graded final.
4. The remaining horses entered will be divided into straight, tired races, with larger purses for higher grades and lower purses for lower grades.
5. The grade F race in both codes will be the lowest graded race and its purse will be the lowest on the card.
6. The division of horses into the specific races, who are on similar grades will be split, based on the winnings of their last five starts.
7. All races will be run as FFA’s.