

Harness Racing World Drivers Championship Schools Involvement Proposal

To our valued community schools

On Wednesday 5th November 2025, Cambridge Raceway is excited to be hosting one of six New Zealand legs of the **Harness Racing World Drivers Championship** — a prestigious international event featuring ten of the world's top harness drivers from nine countries, plus our own New Zealand representative.

This is an incredible opportunity for Cambridge to shine on the world stage, and we'd love our local schools to be part of the excitement, community spirit, and celebration that comes with it.

Thanks to Harness Racing New Zealand, there's a **\$12,000 community prize pool** up for grabs, and we've created a simple and exciting way for schools to benefit directly. It's easy to get involved, fun for students and families, and every participating school receives guaranteed funding.

How It Works — 'Adopt-a-Driver'

We're inviting 10 local schools to each 'adopt' one of the international drivers competing at the Championship (once your school confirms participation, we'll assign your driver to you).

Unsure what a harness racing 'driver' is?

In harness racing, the driver is the person steering the horse and sulky, a lightweight two-wheeled cart - much like a jockey in thoroughbred racing, guiding their horse around the track at high speed.

Once your school signs up (first in, first served), you'll be paired with one of these world-class drivers — and that's when the fun begins! Together, we'll help your students and school community get involved and build excitement in the lead-up to race night.

We'll help by providing:

- A flag from your adopted drivers' country
- Posters of your adopted driver
- Colouring-in templates for students

How your school can be involved:

- Create a banner to support your driver and bring it on the night — this is key to competing for the School Spirit & Engagement Awards.
- Run a colouring-in competition — all entries will be proudly displayed in Taylor St HQ on event night.

- Record a 20–30 second video message backing your driver – it will play on the big screen during the event.
- Between Friday 31st October and Monday 3rd November, a Cambridge Raceway team member will visit your school to collect your colouring entries, banner, and driver's flag so everything is in place and ready for your arrival on Wednesday 5th November.

What to Expect on the Night – Wednesday 5th November

- **Your school banner and drivers' flag** will mark your school's zone. The bigger your school crowd, the more of the prize pool you can win - louder cheers and stronger school spirit mean a better shot at the engagement awards.
- **Driver & School Representative Track Parade:** Each school will have the chance to take part in a special moment on the night — a short 100m walk along the track in front of your school zone, with your school representative proudly waving your flag while walking alongside your adopted driver. It's a fantastic photo opportunity and a memorable way for your students to represent their school on the international stage.
- **Bring your loudest cheer and biggest energy** to compete for the \$1,500 School Spirit & Engagement Awards.
- **Gold coin gate entry** – every dollar collected will be split evenly between the 10 participating schools, adding even more to your fundraising total.
- **Meet your World Driver** and collect signed posters and souvenir booklets.
- **All student colouring entries** will be proudly display for public viewing on the night.
- **Official World Drivers Championship merchandise** will be available for purchase.
- **Food trucks** will be on site to make it a fun night out for everyone.

Cambridge Raceway's Goals

- Support local schools with a meaningful fundraising opportunity
- Give young people a chance to cheer, create, and connect through an exciting live event
- Bring the community together for a fun, family-friendly evening
- Celebrate an international sporting event happening right here in Cambridge

Prize Structure — \$12,000 Total

Every participating school wins something, and there are plenty of ways to boost your total!

1. Guaranteed Base Prize – \$5,000 total	Every participating school receives \$500 just for joining in and bringing your school spirit on course on 5 th November
2. School Spirit & Engagement Awards – \$1,500 total	Judged live on course during the event • Best Banner/Signs: \$500 • Best School Spirit: \$500 • Biggest Crowd Support: \$500
3. Heat Performance Prizes – \$4,000	Based on your adopted driver's race results across all four heats/races during the evening: • 1st: \$400

	• 2nd: \$250 • 3rd: \$150 • 4th: \$100 • 5th: \$60 • 6th–10th: \$40 each
4. Grand Jackpot Challenge – \$2,000	If your adopted driver wins the final heat, your school takes home the \$2,000 jackpot!
5. Colouring-In Competition – Extra Prizes	Five template designs provided, entries displayed on event night, judged by the drivers, with top entries winning special prizes.
6. Audience Fun & Lucky Prizes – \$1,500	Spot prizes, ‘Cheer-o-meter’ moments, and random draws.

What Your School Can Gain

- Guaranteed funding: Every school receives at least \$500 just for taking part.
- Multiple opportunities to win more: With spirit, performance and crowd awards, plus the jackpot race – there are plenty of ways to boost your total.
- Fun and engagement for students and families: From colouring-in competitions and banner creation to cheering on your adopted driver, it’s a hands on, action-packed experience for your whole school community.
- A chance to represent your community on the world stage: Your school will fly the flag of a world-class driver at an international sporting event right here in Cambridge. [Event Details](#)

Event Details – When are the Harness World Driving Champions on?

Date:	Wednesday 5 th November 2025
Time:	From 4:30pm (meet your driver, colouring comp display, racing starts approx. 5:30pm)
Venue:	Cambridge Raceway, 1 Taylor St
Schools:	10 school spots available - first in, first served

Get Involved

We’d love for your school to be part of this exciting local initiative. To confirm your participation, please let us know by **Tuesday 21st October**, and we’ll assign your driver and provide your supporter pack to help you get started.

To help us stay in touch and share updates directly with you, please include your school’s main contact name, email address, and phone number when confirming participation.

Our team is here to guide and support you every step of the way — from sign-up through to race night.

Together, we can create a memorable evening that celebrates our schools, families, and community while putting Cambridge on the world stage.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us by phone or email — or we can arrange a visit to your school to chat in person.

Kind Regards

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