

APPLICATIONS FOR TRAINERS LICENCE

The GRA's licencing policy is designed to ensure that only competent, responsible, and financially viable individuals are granted licences to train racehorses in Mauritius. By applying these standards, the Authority aims to protect the integrity of racing, promote the welfare of horses and support the long-term sustainability of the sport.

1. Purpose of Licencing

Licencing is the foundational step in ensuring that horse racing in Mauritius is governed with integrity, professionalism, and safety. It allows the Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA) to regulate who may participate in key roles. The aim is to protect the welfare of horses, uphold public confidence in the industry, and maintain the integrity and standards within the sport.

2. Application Requirement

To be considered for a trainer's licence, a formal application must be lodged with the GRA. The application must demonstrate that the individual meets strict professional and ethical standards.

(i) Minimum Requirements:

The applicant would have to have served as an **assistant trainer** or a period of a minimum 3 years in order to qualify to apply for a trainer's licence and shall have served as a **Stable Supervisor** for a continuous or cumulative period of **not less than twenty-four (24) months** under the supervision of a licenced Trainer or have been a licenced jockey.

(ii) All other applicants:

For first time applicants, including ex-jockeys, the applicant will be required to pass a trainer's examination with a 70% pass mark. This process ensures that trainers are not only experienced

in horsemanship but are also well-equipped to manage a stable, comply with Mauritian regulations, have a thorough understanding of the rules of racing and contribute positively to the sport.

Criteria for individuals license applications will apply where the following information will be required:

- (i) NIC/Passport
- (ii) Two passport size photos
- (iii) Proof of address (less than 3 months) or rental agreement, Birth certificate, marriage certificate, as applicable
- (iv) Occupation permit (Mandatory for foreign nationals)
- (v) Bank reference letter (Original) – 6 months
- (vi) Latest tax return
- (vii) Certificate of character (within 6 months)
- (viii) Declaration of assets and liabilities
- (ix) Curriculum Vitae and qualifications (at least 2 years' experience as an Assistant Trainer)
- (x) Clearance from Home Authority (Racing as well as Forfeit List Clearance), where applicable
- (xi) Disciplinary and performance record
- (xii) Proof of Financial Stability, including last 6 months bank statement showing evidence of transaction and funds (From account which will be used for transaction)
- (xiii) Stable Location
- (xiv) Stable lease agreement (as applicable)
- (xv) 3 years' business plan, including source of revenue/ source of funds (If Trainer is employed, business plan to be provided by employer)
- (xvi) Bank guarantee MUR 3 million (If trainer employed, bank guarantee to be provided by employer)
- (xvii) Contract with Owners
- (xviii) Contract with employer as applicable
- (xix) List of horses (Minimum 15)

3. Core Competency Areas

(i) Racehorse Care and Management

Applicants must provide evidence of thorough knowledge in horse care.

This includes:

- Understanding equine health, diseases, and injury prevention;
- Proper nutrition and feeding regimens;
- being able to identify signs of good health or illness in horses;
- Understand equine anatomy and exercise physiology;
- Apply principles of effective feeding and fitness training racehorse conditioning;
- Stable management;
- Veterinary care;
- Equine welfare standards;

(ii) Training methods and fitness maintenance which includes:

Applicants must prove that they are capable of training racehorses to a high standard while ensuring animal welfare.

This includes:

- Being capable of discharging all the duties and responsibilities expected of a licensed Racehorse Trainer;
- Possess the necessary technical knowledge and practical experience to train racehorses;
- Being knowledgeable on how to achieve racehorse conditioning;
- Being able to do race planning.

(iii) Familiarity with licencing procedures, horse ownership and racecourse operations

This includes:

- Having a sound understanding of the Rules of Racing and applicable legislations;
- Exhibit effective leadership and people management skills;
- Understand and implement workplace safety and employment standards; and
- Provide training and direction to stable staff racehorse conditioning;

- Navigate racecourse procedures, GRA regulations and race day responsibilities;
- Comply with the Rules of Racing.
- Have sufficient owners committed to placing horses under his or her care; evidence may include: letters of commitment from owners; ownership agreements; details of horses expected to enter training.

The GRA shall consider whether the applicant has sufficient owners and horses to operate a financially sustainable and competitive racing stable.

4. Business Skills for Racehorse Trainers

(i) Trainers are effectively business operators and shall:

- Have the financial resources necessary to operate a racing stable throughout the racing season.
- Secure suitable stable facilities and horse boxes;
- Have adequate staff available to ensure the proper care and supervision of horses;
- Show solid business acumen and financial literacy;
- Demonstrate effective media communication skills; and
- Manage owners' expectations and maintain professional relationships
- Demonstrate that he has financial resources to maintain horses and staff
- Have a business plan indicating sustainability and long-term commitment

(ii) The applicant shall demonstrate the ability to meet all operational expenses, including but not limited to:

- staff salaries;
- feed and bedding;
- veterinary expenses;
- transport;
- insurance;
- equipment;
- licencing fees;

- general stable operating costs.

5. Integrity

The applicant's character and conduct are scrutinised. Past disciplinary history, involvement in racing controversies, or any record of unethical conduct may negatively impact the application. The GRA must be confident that the applicant will uphold the rules and values of the sport.

(i) The GRA may require any applicant to:

- attend interviews;
- undergo practical assessments;
- complete written examinations;
- provide additional documentation;
- successfully complete any educational programme prescribed by the Authority.

Completion of these requirements shall not automatically entitle an applicant to a licence.

6. Holders of a valid Horse Trainer's Licence (International)

(i) Licences issued by a recognised racing authority or any other approved racing jurisdiction shall provide:

- documentary proof of his or her current or previous Trainer's Licence;
- details of the period during which the licence has been held;
- a Certificate of Good Standing or Clearance from the relevant racing authority;
- a complete disciplinary record for the preceding five (5) years;
- details of the racing stable operated, including the average number of horses trained;
- comply with the local conditions of a trainer's licence;
- evidence of previous racing performance and training record, if requested by the GRA.

(ii) The GRA may recognise the applicant's experience as a licenced Trainer as satisfying all or part of the practical experience requirements set out in paragraph above, provided that it is satisfied that such experience was obtained in a recognised racing jurisdiction and is equivalent to the standards required in Mauritius.

- (iii) Notwithstanding the above, the GRA may require any licenced Trainer from **another jurisdiction** to undergo an interview, written exam, practical assessment or induction programme to demonstrate familiarity with the Rules of Racing and regulatory framework applicable in Mauritius.

7. Conclusion

- (i) These Guidelines shall apply to all applications for Horse Trainer's Licences for the current and upcoming Racing Season and shall remain in force until amended or revoked by the Gambling Regulatory Authority.
- (ii) The GRA expects every licensed Trainer to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, competence, integrity and horse welfare. The licensing process is intended to ensure that only applicants who possess the necessary knowledge, practical experience, financial capability, infrastructure and commitment are entrusted with the responsibility of training racehorses in Mauritius.
- (iii) The GRA's licensing policy is designed to ensure that only **competent, responsible, and financially viable** individuals are granted licences to train racehorses in Mauritius. By applying these standards, the Authority aims to protect the integrity of racing, promote the welfare of horses, and support the long-term success of the sport.