

ASSISTANT TRAINER LICENCE APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1. Licensing forms the cornerstone of the effective governance and regulation of horse racing in Mauritius. Through licensing, the Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA) aims to minimise risks to the integrity and safety of the sport, thereby upholding public trust and enhancing the overall standards of racing in the country.
2. To qualify for an Assistant Trainer's Licence, an individual must have served as a licensed Stable Supervisor for a minimum period of 24 months and must have successfully passed the Assistant Trainer's Licensing Examination conducted by the GRA, obtaining a pass mark of at least 70%. Only upon fulfilling both criteria will the application be considered.
3. In pursuit of excellence within the Mauritian horse racing industry, the GRA enforces a set of mandatory requirements that all applicants must meet. These standards are designed to ensure that only competent, knowledgeable, and trustworthy individuals are permitted to assist in the training of racehorses.
4. An applicant for an Assistant Trainer's Licence must demonstrate a high level of proficiency in three key domains:
 - a) **Racehorse Care and Management:** This includes comprehensive knowledge of equine health and welfare, feeding and nutrition, physical training and conditioning, racecourse procedures, and licensing requirements.
 - b) **Staff Management:** Applicants should show competency in managing personnel, including recruitment, supervision, and an understanding of employer obligations under health and safety legislation.
 - c) Comprehensive understanding of the **Rules of Racing**.
5. Each application is assessed on its individual merits within a clearly defined framework. The GRA evaluates several factors when determining whether an applicant is fit to be granted an Assistant Trainer's Licence.
6. **Competence and Capability**
7. Applicants must demonstrate their ability to competently support a licensed trainer in the

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management and preparation of racehorses, with due regard to equine welfare, owner expectations, and the interests of the sport. Acting as the second-in-command within the stable. He/she is responsible for overseeing daily yard operations, supervising staff, ensuring horse welfare, and ensuring that training schedules are properly executed as planned by the Head Trainer. The Assistant Trainer must be able to interact effectively with stable staff, horse owners, the Authority, and the HRO.

8. To this end, applicants must provide:

- a) Proof of having completed a minimum of two full racing seasons as a licensed Stable Supervisor;
 - b) Evidence of successful completion of the GRA's Assistant Trainer's examination with a pass rate of 70%;
 - c) Demonstrated ability to identify signs of normal and abnormal health, detect common equine diseases and conditions, and apply practical knowledge in stable management;
9. A sound understanding of basic horse anatomy, exercise physiology, equine nutrition, racecourse operations, and the regulatory framework governing the sport in Mauritius.

10. General Suitability ("Fit and Proper" Test)

11. Beyond technical competence, the GRA must be satisfied that the applicant is a suitable person to hold a licence. This assessment considers character, behaviour, and personal integrity and supply the following towards their application:

- (i) NIC/Passport
- (ii) Two colour passport size photos
- (iii) Proof of address (less than 3 months)
- (iv) Curriculum Vitae and qualifications (**including at least 24 months' work experience as a Stable Supervisor**)
- (v) Certificate of character 6 months valid (from home country for foreign nationals)
- (vi) Letter of recommendation from Trainer
- (vii) Letter of intent/undertaking from Trainer (Contract of Employment shall be submitted once licensed)
- (viii) If foreigner,
 - i. Residence permit
 - ii. Occupation permit
 - iii. Clearance from Authority
 - iv. Past performance, including Disciplinary record

v. Declaration of assets and liabilities

12. Factors considered include, but are not limited to:

- (i) Honesty and Integrity
- (ii) Any criminal convictions or pending charges;
- (iii) Adverse findings in civil or regulatory proceedings;
- (iv) Previous compliance (or non-compliance) with GRA or other racing authority regulations;
- (v) Any previous refusal or revocation of a racing-related licence;
- (vi) Truthfulness in dealings with the GRA;
- (vii) History of drug or alcohol abuse;
- (viii) Susceptibility to improper influence or corrupt practices.

13. Integrity Considerations

Applicants must agree to and comply with conditions intended to safeguard the integrity of racing, such as:

- (i) Avoiding associations with individuals known to compromise the sport's integrity;
- (ii) Ensuring no inappropriate relationships exist with betting operators;
- (iii) Reporting any suspicious or irregular financial activity to the GRA without delay.

14. Conflicts of Interest

The GRA does not permit individuals to hold an Assistant Trainer's Licence if they are engaged in or closely connected to the business of bookmaking. The rationale is to avoid financial conflicts that could compromise racing integrity and erode public confidence in the sport.

15. Maintaining Confidence in the Licensing Process

The GRA's decision to grant a licence must support and reinforce the credibility and professionalism of the racing industry. The collective reputation of the sport relies heavily on the integrity of its participants, especially those in key roles such as assistant trainers.

16. Therefore:

- (i) Only those who meet all licensing criteria will be considered;
- (ii) All licensed assistant trainers must be held to the same standards of conduct and competence;
- (iii) No individual should be permitted to operate as an assistant trainer in substance, if not in title, unless properly licensed.

17. The racing community—including trainers, assistant trainers, and owners—must be assured that the GRA’s licensing decisions are impartial, rigorous, and aligned with the best interests of the sport.

18. Enforcement and Oversight

19. The GRA, as a statutory regulator, bears the responsibility of enforcing compliance with racing regulations. Its licensing function extends beyond issuance—it ensures that the standards set are upheld and that any breach or lapse is addressed promptly.
20. Any erosion of trust in the regulatory system can adversely impact morale, deter stakeholders, and damage the sport’s reputation. Ensuring continued confidence in the GRA’s decisions is paramount for the healthy governance of horse racing in Mauritius.

21. Licensing Outcome

22. Where all mandatory criteria are met, and no concerns regarding suitability arise, the GRA may grant the licence. Conversely, if an applicant fails to meet the required standards or if other concerns exist—particularly those affecting the integrity or reputation of the sport—the application may be refused.