

GUIDELINES FOR LICENCING OF EQUESTRIAN CENTRES

All horses registered to participate in horseracing organised by a licenced Horse Racing Organiser (HRO) in Mauritius must be stabled at Equestrian Centres duly licenced by the GRA. The GRA's licencing policy is designed to ensure that only competent, responsible, and financially viable individuals are granted licences to equestrian centres 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 Licensing

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 and that only qualified and reputable individuals are entrusted with such responsibilities. 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 an Equestrian Centre licence, a formal application must be lodged with the GRA, HRID licencing department at hrid@gra.mu. The application must demonstrate that the centre meets strict professional and ethical standards. The Applicant is required to comply fully with all provisions of, guidelines and directions issued under, the Gambling Regulatory Authority Act 2007, including the applicable Rules of Racing and any other applicable laws and regulations. This obligation extends to adherence to licence conditions, responsible gambling and anti-money laundering obligations and any directions issued by the Gambling Regulatory Authority (the "Authority").

Criteria for individuals license applications will apply as follows:

Gambling Regulatory Authority

Level 12, Newton Tower, Sir William Newton Street, Port Louis, Mauritius | Tel: +230 260 2000 |
Fax: +230 213 1205 | Email: hrid@gra.mu | Website: <http://gra.govmu.org/>

3. Application Submission & Documentation

The applicant must submit a fully completed Licence Application Form accompanied by the mandatory attachments listed below, organized by corporate, infrastructural, and multi-ministerial clearings:

- (i) NIC/Passport of director/owner – person making the application
- (ii) Company incorporation (if any)
- (iii) Certificate of Character of the director/owner of centre 6 months valid
- (iv) Proof of address of the director/owner (less than 3 months)
- (v) Proof of Ownership/ Lease agreement
- (vi) Site Plan
- (vii) Authorisations from:
 - i. Local Government/District council
 - ii. Ministry of Environment (Department of environment /Environmental Impact Assessment)
 - iii. Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries (animal welfare and veterinary protocol)

4. Property & Infrastructure Plans

Comprehensive Plan of the Equestrian Centre, which must explicitly detail:

- (i) Perimeter fencing layout
- (ii) Total number and specifications of horse boxes (stables)
- (iii) Paddocks and turnout areas
- (iv) Sand pits and exercise arenas
- (v) Training tracks
- (vi) Active security measures (e.g., CCTV, gated access, security posts)

5. Statutory Clearances & Ministerial Approvals

Due to the environmental, land-use, and biosecurity nature of operating an equestrian facility, the application must include official clearances from the required public bodies.

6. Licencing Process and Site Inspection

- (i) Once the HRID/GRA licencing department reviews all financial, character, and physical plans, the approval decision is sent to the applicant.
- (ii) The premises will be inspected by the HRID team including a Stipendiary Steward and the Regulatory Veterinarian to assess the suitability of the centre and advise on remedial action required.
- (iii) All remedial requirements should be fulfilled within a month (30 days) where a re-inspection will be conducted to ascertain that the necessary changes have been made.
- (iv) The final inspection report will then be escalated to the GRA Licencing committee for final decision and ratification.