

Frequently Asked Questions

A companion guide for owners holding credits under the Fillies and Mares Breeding Credit Scheme. Brought to you by HRNZ and NZSBA. Updated August 2026 for the pause of the scheme from 1 September 2026.

Scheme update: the scheme is paused from 1 September 2026

What is changing?

The Fillies and Mares Breeding Credit Scheme is being paused from 1 September 2026. Wins up to and including 31 August 2026 earn credit in the normal way. From 1 September 2026, while the scheme is on hold, wins no longer earn new credits.

Has the scheme been terminated?

No. The scheme is on hold, not closed. HRNZ and the NZSBA are working through the best strategies for fillies and mares racing and their transition to the breeding barn, and the pause gives that work the room to be done properly.

Why is it being paused now?

The scheme came into effect in 2024 and has paid out \$1,966,650, close to \$2 million in two years. The pause is an opportunity to look at how that investment has worked and to shape what comes next for fillies and mares racing.

What happens to the credits my mare has already earned?

Nothing changes for credits earned before 1 September 2026. They remain claimable in full, on the same terms set out in this guide, until the end of February 2028.

When is the final date to claim?

28 February 2028. Every credit earned before the pause must be claimed by that date. After it, unclaimed credits lapse with no payment or compensation.

What should I do now?

If your mare holds a credit, start thinking about the breeding you intend to use it on. With claims closing at the end of February 2028, that realistically means the 2026/27 or 2027/28 breeding seasons. Check her balance in My HRNZ, or contact us using the details below.

About the credit

How are credits earned?

Every time a filly or mare wins a race in New Zealand, \$750 of breeding credit is earned against her. Credits accumulate as she wins, up to a cap of \$6,000 (eight wins). The credit is a breeding credit, not a cash payment: it can only be drawn down against direct breeding costs. From 1 September 2026, while the scheme is paused, wins no longer earn new credits.

Who does the credit belong to?

The credit attaches to the mare, not the owner(s). If you sell or lease her within New Zealand, the credit transfers with her to the new owner(s) / lessee (s).

What happens on export, death or failure to get into foal?

If she is exported, dies, or is found unable to reproduce, the credit lapses with no payment or compensation. The CEO of HRNZ has a discretion to allow credits to be transferred to another mare if a race mare dies or a mare fails to get into foal after numerous attempts.

How long do credits last?

Two dates apply, and the earlier one governs. Credits remain available for five years from the mare's last racing season, and all credits must be claimed by 28 February 2028, when the claim window for the paused scheme closes. After that, they lapse and cannot be claimed.

What can the credit be used for?

Direct breeding costs when the mare is put in foal:

- Service fees
- Semen costs and shipment
- Working fees
- Veterinary breeding packages and services

Transport and grazing are not covered.

Can the credit only be used on the mare(s) who earned it?

Yes. The credit earned by a mare can only be used to breed that same mare. She must also be located and served in New Zealand. Credits earned by different mares cannot be combined.

Using the credit

Does the credit have to be used in one season?

No. The credit can be used across multiple seasons until it's drawn down or expires. In practice that now means the 2026/27 and 2027/28 breeding seasons, with all claims closing on 28 February 2028.

Can the credit be split across more than one cost?

Yes. You can lodge multiple claims against the same mare as costs are incurred, for example a service fee at booking, working fees later, and vet costs at scanning, up to her total credit balance. You can also lodge separate claims against different mares in your ownership, each drawing on that mare's own credit.

What if the stallion's service fee is higher than my credit?

You pay the difference and claim back the credit portion. The credit can be used as part payment on a higher-priced service.

What if the stallion's service fee is lower than my credit?

You claim what you've spent. The balance stays on her account for future use, up to 28 February 2028 or her earlier five-year expiry date.

What if the mare doesn't get in foal?

The reimbursement is triggered by the service fee being paid, not by a positive pregnancy test. If you've paid the fee, you can claim. What happens with any return service is between you and the stud under their normal terms.

Making a claim

How do I lodge a claim?

1. Log in to My HRNZ at www.hrnz.co.nz
2. Navigate to **My Horses**, then **Fillies & Mares Breeding Credit**
3. Confirm your GST status and bank details
4. Upload proof of payment (a clear scan or photo of the stud's invoice plus proof of payment is enough). A claim cannot be submitted in My HRNZ without an uploaded document.

5. Submit your claim

When will I get paid?

Claims are paid on the 20th of the month following submission, into your nominated bank account.

What if I'm not GST-registered?

You can still claim. HRNZ will issue you a remittance advice rather than a buyer-created tax invoice. There's nothing further you need to do.

What if the invoice is in someone else's name?

The claim must be supported by proof of payment by the registered owner (or one of them, where the mare is multi-owned). If the paperwork doesn't quite line up, get in touch before submitting and there's usually a workable answer.

Can I claim retrospectively for a service I paid for earlier this season?

Yes, provided the credit was earned before the service and is still within the claim window. Credits earned before 1 September 2026 can be claimed up to 28 February 2028.

Can I also claim again under Paddock To Podium (P2P)?

Short answer is no. You can only recover reimbursement once from HRNZ. However, if after claiming all FMBCS credits and you still have a difference between the costs you paid, and the credit received, you may use your personal P2P credits.

Multi-owner mares

The mare(s) are owned by a syndicate. How does this work?

The credit belongs to the mare, and any decision to breed her is a decision for the ownership group. Only one claim per service can be submitted. HRNZ pays each registered owner their share of the reimbursement directly into their own bank account, in proportion to their ownership. The group needs to agree on:

- Whether to breed her this season?
- Which stallion to use?
- Who will lodge the claim on behalf of the group?
- Who fronts the service fee, and how that is squared up internally.

Who can submit the claim?

Any registered owner can submit the claim.

How is the reimbursement split between owners?

HRNZ pays the credit to the ownership entity nominated account or to each registered owner their share directly, in proportion to their registered ownership share, into their own nominated bank account. Only one claim per service can be submitted, but the payout itself is split automatically.

Selling, leasing, exporting

What happens if I sell the mare within New Zealand?

The credit transfers to the new owner(s) with the mare. You no longer have access to it.

What happens if I export her?

The credit lapses immediately with no payment or compensation. If the mare is exported for racing only and later put in foal before returning to New Zealand, credits can still apply for breeding costs incurred on her return.

What happens if I lease the mare?

The credit transfers with the mare to the lessee unless the lease specifies otherwise.

Status changes**The mare has died or been deregistered. What happens to her credit?**

Any existing credit expires with no payment or compensation.

The mare has been retired from both racing and breeding. What should I do?

Let HRNZ know so her status can be updated. If her credit has not been used by 28 February 2028, or by her earlier five-year expiry date, it will lapse.

The mare hasn't been to a stallion in some time. Do I lose the credit?

Not while she's still within the five-year window from her last racing season and the 28 February 2028 claim deadline has not passed. After the earlier of those two dates, yes, it lapses.

What if I haven't decided whether to breed her at all?

The credit doesn't oblige you to breed. It simply sits on her account until you do, or until it expires. With the scheme paused and claims closing on 28 February 2028, it is worth thinking it through sooner rather than later. Get in touch using the contacts below.

Records and admin**How do I check my credit balance(s)?**

Through My HRNZ at www.hrnz.co.nz, under **My Horses, then Fillies & Mares Breeding Credit**. Each mare in your ownership with a credit will be listed separately. You can also contact us directly using the details below.

My contact details have changed. What do I need to do?

Update them in My HRNZ. Keeping your bank details current is particularly important. If they go stale for more than 12 months after a claim is lodged, the scheme rules allow HRNZ to remove the claim.

What happens if I'm audited?

HRNZ may randomly audit claims to confirm the terms have been adhered to. Audits are straightforward if you've kept the supporting paperwork (stud invoice and proof of payment). Failure to cooperate with an audit can result in removal from the scheme.

What if the horse was disqualified from the race that earned a credit?

The credit transfers to the next horse promoted to that placing. In the unlikely event that a credit has been claimed before the disqualification HRNZ can reclaim the credit for the disqualified race from the owner.

Contacts

Cameron Kirkwood
HRNZ Breeding Team
Cameron.kirkwood@hrnz.co.nz

Brad Reid
NZSBA
brad@thebreeders.co.nz

For full terms and conditions, see the FMBCS 2024 Terms and Conditions (available on www.hrnz.co.nz).