

RWWA would like to advise harness drivers of changes to its licensing process for 2023/2024 season.

As of 1 January 2023, RWWA has introduced the provision on Drivers having to undergo an annual Cogstate Test as part of their renewals. Similar to the requirements that relate to medical assessments, it will therefore be a necessary requirement for all Driver's to complete such testing in order to be eligible to have their driving licence renewed.

Cogstate Testing is a form of concussion baseline testing used in many sports, including AFL. Introducing Cogstate Testing assists RWWA in managing risks to health and safety of individuals and horses on the track.

While the test is not designed to detect diseases, it is designed to detect changes in cognitive function by measuring processing speed, attention, visual learning, working memory, visual motor function and executive function.

To assist in drivers undertaking this required testing prior to 2023/2024 renewals, RWWA staff will be visiting in various locations throughout February and May on race days where drivers can attend to complete the test.

Proposed Testing Dates and locations (Subject to change)

2023	Bunbury	Gloucester Park	Albany	Pinjarra	Northam	Central Wheatbelt
Date	19 April	24 March	17 February	27 March	18 March	7 May
Date	21 April	11 April	24 February	17 April	1 April	TBC if needed

Testers will be available 2 hours prior to races commencing until the conclusion of the races and drivers can present themselves at any time during this period. A drivers current licence card with Photo ID will be required at the time of booking.

As this testing will be new to most drivers, drivers will have 3 attempts at the testing process. If a driver fails the initial test, they are welcome to come back later that day for retesting. If they fail the second attempt, drivers will need to re-test at a later date. If the driver fails the test for a third time, they will need to seek medical advice from an approved physician and provide clearance from them. There is no charge to participants for this testing.

If participants fail to undertake this testing at one of the scheduled locations and dates, they will need to make arrangements with the testers to visit RWWA head offices or on race day.

Drivers who plan on driving in the 2023/2024 season must ensure that they undertake this testing prior to renewals closing to ensure their renewal will be accepted.

Once a Driver completes the test that establishes their baseline measurement, in the event of where a driver sustains a race fall and has suspected concussion, they will be required to undertake an additional Cogstate Test to determine if they have met their initial baseline measurement prior to being approved to return to driving.