



Asian Pattern Committee

The Asian Pattern Committee (the Committee) aims to assist in the coordination of programming high quality races within ARF member countries.

The Committee ensures quality control measures are in place for its Group races, both domestic and international, within the Asian Pattern. The Committee further ensures that wherever fair and reasonable circumstances permit, there are more Group 3 races than Group 2 races, and more Group 2 races than Group 1 races, and the total number of Group 3 races exceeds the total combined number of Group 2 and Group 1 races.

The Committee comprises seven Asian Racing Federation (ARF) member countries: Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa and United Arab Emirates, which each have Group 1 races in Part I of the International Cataloguing Standards and International Statistics Book ("the blue book"), maintained by the International Grading and Race Planning Advisory Committee (IRPAC). Any other ARF country which stages a race which has been granted international Group status is regarded as an associate member and may, by consent of the Chairman, be represented at any official Asian Pattern Committee (APC) meeting, generally conducted up to twice per year, but may not vote.

The Secretariat will be provided by The Hong Kong Jockey Club.

The Committee will have access to the annual World Thoroughbred Rankings produced by the World Rankings Supervisory Committee (WRSC) of the International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities (IFHA). The Committee is responsible for nominating three members of the WRSC, including one of the co-chairmen. Currently, the three ARF appointed members of the WRSC are Greg Carpenter (Australia), Nigel Gray (Hong Kong) and Kazuhito Matano (Japan), and Nigel Gray serves as the ARF appointed co-chairman of the WRSC.

Asian Pattern Committee Ground Rules

1. General Rules for International Group Races in the Asian Pattern

Every international Group race in the Asian Pattern must conform to the following rules:

- i. It must have no indigenous conditions.
- ii. It must have a permanent element within the registered name.
- iii. It must justify its grouping by the quality of its runners, assessed primarily by its Pattern Race Rating.



- iv. A Pattern Race Rating is the average of the Annual Race Ratings achieved by a race over a three year period. However, when considering for introduction into the Pattern a race which has been run only twice, the Committee will allow the Pattern Race Rating to be calculated from the average of the Annual Race Ratings from two years. The Annual Race Rating is the average of the official ratings, as agreed by the WRSC, of the first four placed horses in any given year. In addition, the actual weight allowance received by any fillies and mares placed in the first four in open competition will be added to their official ratings for the sole purpose of calculating Annual Race Ratings. If a race is abandoned during any three year period, the Pattern Race Rating will be calculated using the average of the three most recent Annual Race Ratings available.

The Pattern Race Ratings below are the standard which a race should achieve to justify Pattern status:

Group 1	115
Group 2	110
Group 3	105

For certain races, however, other parameters will apply as follows:

Races open to 3-y-os and/or above, restricted to female horses

Group 1	110
Group 2	105
Group 3	100

2-y-o races (other than fillies' events)

Group 1	110
Group 2	105
Group 3	100

2-y-o fillies' races

Group 1	105
Group 2	100
Group 3	095

2. Definition of Changes to the Asian Pattern

For the purposes of the Ground Rules, changes are defined as:

- i. Any change to the Group of a Pattern race.
- ii. Any change to the distance (defined as a change of 100 metres or more for races below 1600 metres, and of 200 metres or more for races of 1600 metres or above), age or sex restriction, weight format, date, venue or surface of a Pattern race.



- iii. Any change to the permanent element in the name of a Pattern race.
- iv. The introduction of a new Pattern race.
- v. The deletion of an existing Pattern race.

3. Rules Governing Asian Pattern Race Changes

- i. Decisions relating to Group 1 races (including the upgrading of races to Group 1) and to races run in countries which are not members of the Committee will be taken by the Committee. Other than in exceptional circumstances, decisions relating to all other Pattern and Listed races will be determined by the Racing Authority of the relevant member country, which will then notify the Committee at the Annual Meeting.

It is recommended that each member country should keep a record of "Registered" names of Group races which, when possible, should be included in official race records, programme books and calendars.

ii. Upgrading of Existing Pattern Races and the Creation of New Pattern Races

The following rules shall apply to the upgrading of Pattern races by Group and admission of new races to the Pattern, and shall be waived only in exceptional circumstances and, in the case of decisions made by the Committee, with unanimous agreement.

In the case of a decision requiring approval from a majority of the Committee, the country submitting the proposal shall not have a vote. In the event of a tie, the proposal shall be rejected.

- a. To qualify for upgrading or admission to the Pattern, a race must have been run with similar race conditions, comparable prize money and on a similar date for at least the last two years. (Note: a change in venue and/or surface is acceptable.)
- b. A race shall be eligible for promotion if the race under consideration achieves both a Pattern Race Rating and an Annual Race Rating for the last year equal to or above the applicable parameter.
- c. The upgrading of a race to Group 1 must be approved by a majority of two or more of the Committee.
- d. A race satisfying the requirements for admission to the Pattern must be introduced as a Group 3 race other than in exceptional circumstances. If it is proposed that a race be introduced as a Group 2 or Group 1 race, approval must be sought from the Committee.
- e. Applications for new races to be admitted into the Pattern from associate members, or from any other country wishing to become an associate member, will be



considered on their individual merits and must be approved by a majority of the Committee.

iii. Downgrading or Deleting of Pattern Races

The following rules shall apply to the downgrading/deletion of Group races, with the understanding that they will not be applied to Group 1 races until the Rules have been in effect in the jurisdiction concerned for three seasons, and they will not be applied to Group 2 and Group 3 races until the Rules have been in effect in the jurisdiction concerned for two seasons.

a. For Group 1 races

- If the Annual Race Rating is more than 5lb below its parameter for each of the **previous** three years : warning letter to be issued by the relevant Racing Authority, with a copy sent to the Chairman of APC.
- If the Annual Race Rating is more than 5lb below its parameter for each of the **previous** four years, the Committee will consider the merits of the race, and vote on whether the race will be permitted to retain its Grade, or whether it will be downgraded.
- The downgrading of a race from Group 1 must be approved by a majority of two or more of the Committee.

b. Group 2 and 3 races (automatic downgrade)

- If the Annual Race Rating is more than 3lb below its parameter for each of the **previous** two years : warning letter to be issued by the relevant Racing Authority.
- If the Annual Race Rating is more than 3lb below its parameter for each of the **previous** three years : automatic downgrade unless a material change in conditions (i.e. distance, age, sex restriction, weight format or date) is proposed in which case it may be given one final year in which it must achieve the required Annual Race Rating or it will be automatically downgraded by the relevant Racing Authority.

c. The Committee must be informed at the Annual Meeting of any voluntary downgrading or deletion of a Pattern race by the country concerned.

iv. In assessing upgrades, admissions, downgrades or deletions of races to or from the Pattern, the following factors may also be taken into account:

- a. The ratings of the four highest rated horses to start in any race as well as the first four to finish.



- b. The number of horses to start in any race which had won a Group 1 race in the preceding 18 months.
- c. The effect on the shape of the Pattern in the country concerned and/or the effect on the shape of the entire Asian Racing Federation Pattern.
- v. The following rule shall apply to any other amendments defined as changes to Group 1 races:
 - Any change to the distance, surface, age or sex restriction, weight format, date or venue of a Group 1 race must be approved by a majority of the Committee.

4. Listed Races and Domestic Group Races

The Committee will be informed at the Annual Meeting of the total number of Listed and Domestic Group races in each country.

5. Weight-for-Age and Sex Allowances

The Committee aims to achieve greater standardization of the weight-for-age and sex allowances in all countries.

6. Notification and Implementation of changes

- i. All Pattern race proposals planned for instigation in the following season should be notified to the Secretariat by the relevant date of the two designated deadlines to be determined by the Committee, for immediate circulation to all members of the Committee.
- ii. When the timing of a change is critical, application for approval outside scheduled meetings of the Committee may be made by circular resolution.
- iii. Until agreement has been reached by the Committee, there must be no official statement to the media of any proposed changes to Group 1 races.