

NZTR

NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACING
HANDICAPPING GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

The New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) Handicapping Panel has the responsibility of ensuring that races in New Zealand are run competitively, through the allocation of weights to be carried by each horse in a race.

The weight given to each horse is based on the individual merits of that horse, taking into account the:

- Conditions and regulations relating to that race;
- Ratings Based Handicapping System; and
- Judgment of the Handicapper.

The aim of the Handicapping Guide is to assist industry participants to understand:

- The weight horses will receive by virtue of their performances in the various races in which they compete.
- Provide a greater understanding of the handicapping system and methodologies that are used.

The Guide will also provides greater transparency as to how the Handicappers operate and will ensure that the handicapping system remains fair and consistent at all times.

NZTR HANDICAPPING PANEL

Chief HandicapperDean Nowell



PRINCIPLES

- In New Zealand horses are handicapped from the top weight downwards.
- The Rating of the top weighted horse determines the spread of the weight scale in a race.
- There may be circumstances where the lowest weighted horse or horses are allocated a weight that is higher than the advertised minimum weight.
- There may be circumstances where there are a number of horses weighted on the minimum that hold different Ratings. These horses could be deemed to be disadvantaged by the scale of weights, however these lower weighted horses may be eligible to enter more suitable (lower rated) races, while the majority of horses weighted above the minimum will only be eligible for the applicable rating band race.

Example: Horse A has a Rating of 80, Horse B has a Rating of 72. In a Rating 80 race Horse A would carry 3.5kg more than Horse B. In an Open Handicap they will both carry the minimum 54kg disadvantaging Horse B, however Horse B is eligible to enter much easier races, while those horses above the minimum in an Open Handicap are generally only eligible for Open class races.

- The Ratings provide an indication of what weight a horse may be allotted in a particular rating band. The eventual spread of weights is determined by the field strength, and is at the discretion of the Handicappers.
- Horses that have competed in a race will have their Rating assessed at the end of each performance.
- A winning performance generally attracts a penalty. The severity of the penalty is at the Handicapper's discretion and is based on factors such as previous form and performance, the strength of the field and the authority of the win, having regard to the weight carried, winning margin and time for the race, as well as any other relevant factor.
- Horses which are placed second or third may also have their Rating increased, depending on the merit of the performance and their proximity to the horse(s) ahead in the finishing order. Horses placed fourth or fifth will not generally have their Rating altered, while horses finishing further back may have their Rating lowered.
- Once a horse has moved into a higher rating band they will initially receive penalties for placed performances, but will not graduate from one rating band to another solely through placed performances. An exception to this general rule may be made where a horse places in a Black Type race.
- As a general rule, a horse that moves back to a lower rating band race will go up in weight, and a horse that moves up to a higher rating band race will go down in weight.
- Horses graduating from Maiden class will be re-rated to 68, 69 or 70 depending on the strength of the win. This will be assessed with reference to the advertised prize money for the race. A Maiden horse may be re-rated higher than 70 if it wins a Black Type race or a handicap race with an upper rating limit higher than 70.
- A Maiden horse will not be rated higher than 59 unless it is placed outside of Maiden company. A Maiden horse rated higher than 59 remains eligible for Maiden races, and such horse may have its rating dropped back to 59 if it is subsequently beaten in a Maiden race.

- As a horse moves through the ratings bands, the size of the Ratings adjustments will generally decrease.
- The Handicapper will take into account any overweight carried when adjusting Ratings and/or weights, but no allowance will be taken of Apprentice allowances, as these have been designed to allow for the inexperience of the rider, and consequently are not relevant to the handicap.
- Overseas horses will be allocated a Rating when nominated in New Zealand based on their performance history and their rating in their home jurisdiction. NZTR Handicappers may also consult with Handicappers from that horse's home jurisdiction.



RATING BASED HANDICAPPING (RBH)

OVERVIEW

The RBH system is a flexible numeric based Ratings system allowing horses to move up and down the ratings bands. This enables horses to remain competitive for longer periods of time, and allows out of form horses to move down the rating bands, unlike the previous classifications system, which generally required horses to remain within a class after graduating.

With the RBH system, the Handicappers allocates horses a numeric Rating (within two working days) following a race performance within New Zealand. These Ratings give an indication of the weight a horse may receive in each rating band. In accordance with the NZ Rules of Racing, the Handicappers have the discretion to amend Weights or Ratings after they have been allocated.

Other than Maiden Races, which are assessed using a set formula, there is no automatic upgrade to a horse's Rating for a win or placed performance and no automatic downgrade to a horse's Rating for an unplaced performance. There are a number of circumstances whereby the Handicapper may apply judgment or discretion in determining the final Rating of a horse after a race performance.

Generally, a horse on a given Rating will not be allocated more weight than a horse on a higher Rating, but in some circumstances it may be allocated the same weight. There are however some exceptions:

- In 2YO and 3YO races Fillies may be given a weight allowance and in Weight-For-Age (WFA) races weights are determined according to age and sex. Therefore in these races a horse with a lower Rating may be allocated a higher weight than a horse with a higher Rating, when the age and sex of the horse are taken into account.
- Where there is an early declaration of weights for a feature race and a declared horse subsequently wins a penalty free race and its Rating is increased, but its weight is not increased for the feature race given the penalty free condition, then the horse concerned may carry less weight in the feature race than a horse on a lower Rating.



METHODOLOGY

Penalties

There are no automatic or fixed adjustments for a win or placed performance (except in Maiden races).

A winning performance will generally see a horse have its Rating increased.

Horses that are placed second or third may also have their Rating increased, depending on the merit of the performance and their proximity to the horse(s) ahead in the finishing order. Horses placed fourth or fifth generally do not have any alteration to their Rating, while horses unplaced may have their Rating lowered.

Horses may receive an increased Rating for placing within their own rating or higher rating bands, but will not be re-rated out of their current rating band (Rating 70, 80, 90) for a placed performance unless it is achieved in a Black Type Race.

The reassessment of a horse's Rating takes into account the Rating of that particular horse going into the race. Horses with relatively low Ratings that compete in strong races are effectively disadvantaged by the scale of weights. Therefore if they win or place they can expect to have larger Rating adjustments than horses in the same race that had higher Ratings. This is often the case in Set Weights or Weight-for-Age events. Where horses with large Rating discrepancies meet at equal weights and finish relatively close together the horse with the lower rating may incur more Rating points even where it has finished behind the higher rated horse.

Example: Horse A runs in a Black Type 3YO fillies race run at Set Weights with a Rating of 70 and runs second to Horse B which has a Rating of 85. If Horse B is the highest Rated horse in the race it might only have its Rating increased by one or two points as it is expected to win (from a Rating perspective). However Horse A might have its rating increased by six to eight points to reflect its performance in having finished close up behind a horse Rated 85 at equal weights.

It is also important to remember that as horses move up the grades, the incremental adjustment to their Rating will decrease. For example, a horse winning a Rating 70 race may attract a penalty of between six and eight Rating points, whilst a horse winning an Open Handicap race may only be adjusted two or three Rating points (depending on the Rating of the horse going into the race). This reflects the higher Rating usually carried by an open class horse prior to its winning performance.

RATING BASED HANDICAPPING (RBH) CONTINUED

Exceptions

The NZTR Handicapper at all times may exercise discretion in determining the Rating of a horse. The Handicapper may decide not to lower a horse's Rating despite that horse having finished well back in a race in the following circumstances:

- If the horse is racing at an unsuitable distance (such as a stayer in sprint events);
- Where the horse suffers interference in running;
- Where the horse misses the start;
- Horse being wide throughout the race;
- Horse contesting a significantly higher rating band race;
- Horse resuming from a spell.

Furthermore, if a horse falls, bleeds, is brought down, pulled up, run off, disqualified, or loses its rider there will be no adjustment to its Rating.

As a consequence of the introduction of Ratings based programming, the Handicapper will take into account the future eligibility of a horse for a particular rating band when assessing a beaten performance. This means that a horse may have its rating lowered even though it suffered interference or was caught wide in a race. The rationale for this is that the connections of that horse should not be effectively penalised twice as a result of bad luck in running, provided the horse's overall performance history warrants its eligibility for the rating band it is dropping back into.

Scaling of Weights

Final weights are subject to any scaling that may be required.

The Handicapper will, after assessing the nominations and the strength of the field, determine if and how the weights should be scaled.

Website

Ratings are displayed alongside nominations on the NZTR website (www.nzracing.co.nz) at the time of their release. Ratings are also available online for all horses that are currently racing in New Zealand by the following sort options: by horse name, by descending Rating, by ascending Rating and by trainer.

RATINGS GUIDE

The template on the following page is provided as a guide as to the weight a horse may receive.

Based on the template, if a horse has a Rating of 67 going into a Rating 70 race, the horse would be weighted at 56.5kg, as long as the top weight had a Rating of 70.

If the Rating 67 horse were the highest Rated horse going into the race, then scaling would require it to carry the top weight of 58kg, with those horses Rated beneath it scaled accordingly.



NEW ZEALAND RBH TEMPLATE

	GROUP 1 & 2	GROUP 3 & LISTED	NORTH ISLAND OPEN	SOUTH ISLAND OPEN	RATING 90	RATING 80	
RATING	WGT	WGT	WGT	WGT	WGT	WGT	
114	62.0	63.0	64.0	66.0			
113	61.5	62.5	63.5	65.5			
112	61.0	62.0	63.0	65.0			
111	60.5	61.5	62.5	64.5			
110	60.0	61.0	62.0	64.0			
109	59.5	60.5	61.5	63.5			
108	59.0	60.0	61.0	63.0			
107	58.5	59.5	60.5	62.5			
106	58.0	59.0	60.0	62.0			
105	57.5	58.5	59.5	61.5			
104	57.0	58.0	59.0	61.0			
103	56.5	57.5	58.5	60.5			
102	56.0	57.0	58.0	60.0			
101	55.5	56.5	57.5	59.5			
100	55.0	56.0	57.0	59.0			
99	54.5	55.5	56.5	58.5			
98	54.0	55.0	56.0	58.0			
97	54.0	55.0	56.0	57.5			
96	53.5	54.5	55.5	57.0			
95	53.5	54.5	55.5	56.5			
94	53.0	54.0	55.0	56.0			
93	52.0	54.0	55.0	55.5			
92	52.5	53.5	54.5	55.0			
91	52.5	53.5	54.5	54.5			
90	52.0	53.0	54.0	54.0	59.0		
89					58.5		
88					58.0		
87					57.5		
86					57.0		
85					56.5		
84					56.0		
83					55.5		
82					55.5		
81					55.0		
80					55.0	59.0	
79					54.5	58.5	
78					54.5	58.0	
77					54.0	57.5	
76					54.0	57.0	
75						56.5	
74						56.0	
73						55.5	
72						55.5	
71						55.0	
70						55.0	
69						54.5	
68						54.5	
67						54.0	
66						54.0	
65							
64							
63							
62							
61							
60							
59	Highest Ranked Maiden (Unless performed out of class)						
58							
57							
56							
55							
54							
53							
52							
51							
50	Lowest Ranked Maiden						

RATINGS BASED RACES

Ratings based races replaced the former Intermediate and Progressive grades from 1 August 2005. Eligibility for Ratings based races is determined at the time of Nomination (unless otherwise stated in the conditions of a particular race). Therefore if a horse's Rating is adjusted upwards and beyond that particular Ratings band subsequent to nominations closing, it is still eligible for the race because eligibility is determined at the close of nominations.

MAIDENS

All horses begin with a Rating of 50. A Maiden horse will not receive a rating above 59 unless that horse is placed outside of Maiden company and in the opinion of the Handicapper, a rating in excess of 59 is appropriate. A Maiden horse that is placed in a Black Type race will almost (though there may be exceptions) receive a higher Rating than 59. How much higher will depend on the merit of the performance and the quality of the field in the particular race in question.

As Maiden races are set weight races Maiden horses are only rated for balloting purposes.

Maiden horses that are Rated above 59 and start in a handicap race will be weighted based on their Rating.

RATINGS SYSTEM FOR MAIDEN RACES

Maiden horses start with a Rating 50.

Ratings are then adjusted based on race performances:

- Maiden win re-rated to 68-70 depending on the strength of the performance which will be determined by the Handicapper having regard to the advertised prizemoney for the race.
- Placed second re-rated to 57
- Placed third re-rated to 56
- Placed fourth re-rated to 55
- Placed fifth re-rated to 52

Subsequent second placed performances will result in a horse being awarded an extra two rating points, subject to the condition that a horse having run second at its most recent start will not be rated below 57 or above 59.

Subsequent third placed performances will result in a horse being awarded an extra one rating point, subject to the condition that a horse having run third at its most recent start will not be rated below 56 or above 59.

Subsequent fourth or fifth placed performances will not result in any change to a horse's rating subject to the condition that a horse having run fourth at its most recent start will not be rated below 55 and a horse having run fifth at its most recent start will not be rated below 52.

Maiden horses will lose a point for an unplaced effort (sixth or worse) and after three unplaced performances will revert to 50, which is the minimum rating a horse can receive in New Zealand.

RATINGS BASED RACES CONTINUED

Horses that finish sixth at any of their first three career race starts will be re-rated to 51. That Rating reverts to 50 after one start unless the horse again finishes sixth or better.

Unplaced runs in Group or Listed races are ignored.

Examples:

FormRating

0287.....Rating 55

8202.....Rating 58

4522.....Rating 59

3908.....Rating 50

796.....Rating 51

769.....Rating 50

500.....Rating 50

RATING BANDS

While races in New Zealand can be run for horses in any Rating band, the majority of races are programmed using the following classifications. The descriptions provided below are a guide only. Ratings are determined by the Handicappers based on the race performances of an individual horse and in accordance with the principles set out in this Guide.

Rating 70

These races are open to all horses with a Rating of up to and including 70 at the time of nomination.

This Rating band generally includes one and two win horses but may also include horses with more than two wins that have lost form.

All Rating 70 races in New Zealand are run under Set Weights with Penalties conditions. Colts, Gelding and Entirets are allocated a base weight of 56kg. Fillies and Mares are allocated a base weight of 54.5kg. Horses that have won two flat races incur a 1kg penalty. Horses that have won three flat races incur a 2kg penalty. Horses that have won four or more flat races incur a 3kg penalty.

Rating 80

These races are open to all horses with a Rating of up to and including 80 at the time of nomination.

This Rating band generally includes two, three and four win horses but may also include horses with more than four wins that have lost form.

Rating 90

These races are open to all horses with a Rating of up to and including 90 at the time of nomination.

This Rating band generally includes three, four and five win horses but may also include horses with more than five wins that have lost form.

OPEN RACES

Open races are open to all horses.

The top weight will determine the spread of the weights below it.

In Open races it is possible for the actual weight of a horse to drop from one race to the next despite that horse winning an Open race at its previous start. This is a reflection of the make up of the field in subsequent races that the horse starts in.

Horses are weighted in relation to the top weight and the strength of other nominations, not to what the horse has carried in the previous race(s).

2YO HANDICAP RACES

Two-Year-Old Handicap races are run as discretionary handicaps without reference to Ratings. The reasons for this are that Maiden horses frequently start in a 2YO Handicaps and their ratings are derived from a fixed points system designed for balloting and not handicapping, and that fillies are usually given an allowance of approximately 1kg.

3YO HANDICAP RACES

Three-Year-Old Handicap races can also attract horses with a wide spread of Ratings including Maiden horses. Therefore the Handicapper may need to apply a more discretionary approach in these races and weights may need to be more compressed. This can result in horses on different Ratings receiving the same weight.

WEIGHT-FOR-AGE (WFA) RACES

The WFA scale is designed for horses to meet on even terms once consideration has been given to age, sex and the time of year that the race is being conducted.

In the case of field selection and ballots, a 3YO Rating allowance is factored in to provide a greater chance for 3YOs to gain a place in the field. This allowance is at the discretion of the Handicapper and is designed to compensate for the fact that 3YOs will generally have a lower Rating than a similarly performed older horse.

New Zealand formally adopted the Australian Weight-for-Age Scale on 1 August 2006. From 1 August 2008 Australia changed their Fillies and Mares allowance from 2.5kg to 2.0kg. Accordingly New Zealand made the decision to adopt the 2.0kg Fillies and Mares allowance from 8 December 2008. A copy of the Standard WFA Scale is found in the following pages.

SET WEIGHT AND PENALTY (SWP) RACES

In SWP races weights are determined by a system of fixed penalties for winning performances. These penalties are set out in the race conditions.

RATINGS BASED RACES CONTINUED

For example the base weight may be:

- 56.0kg for Colts, Geldings and Entires
- 54.5kg for Fillies and Mares
- 1.5kg 3YO allowance

Penalties may be:

- 3kg for a Group 1 win (1.5kg if race is age restricted)
- 2kg for a Group 2 win (1kg if race is age restricted)
- 1kg for a Group 3 win (0.5kg if race is age restricted)
- 0.5kg for a Listed Race win (no penalty if race is age restricted)

Based on the above example:

- A 4YO Gelding with no Black Type form will receive 56.0kg (base weight for the race)
- A 5YO Mare with an open age Group 1 win and an open age Group 3 win will receive 57.5kg (base weight for the race 54.5kg plus 3kg penalty for a Group 1 win. No penalty incurred for Group 3 win as penalties are not cumulative)
- A 3YO Filly with a Group 1 win in a 2YO race will receive 54.5kg (base weight of 53.0kg plus 1.5kg penalty for winning an age restricted Group 1)

The penalties are not cumulative. Conditions may vary from one SWP race to another. The specific race conditions are advertised in the Thoroughbred Racing Monthly (TRM).

SET WEIGHT RACES

The weights for all Set Weight mixed gender open Two-Year-Old and Three-Year-Old races including Group and Listed races will be 56.0kg for Colts and Geldings, and 54.5kg for Fillies.

BENCHMARK RACES

In the South Island, due to the smaller horse population and the resulting limited number of open class horses, races at the top end of the rating bands are programmed as Benchmark races.

This means that in Rating 85 and 90 races marked Benchmark, horses rated higher than 85 or 90 remain eligible but will be weighted upwards from 59kg. These race types recognise that the vast majority of horses that start in South Island Open Handicaps are rated below 90 and therefore might be considered not to be genuine open class gallopers. Benchmark races cater for these horses, while still providing an opportunity for the limited number of genuine open class horses to race, particularly in the lead up to Open races at Feature and Premier meetings.

STANDARD WEIGHT-FOR-AGE SCALE FOR FLAT RACES

(Effective 8 December 2008)

		AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
DISTANCE	AGE												
1000 m to 1200 m	2						45.0	46.0	47.0	48.0	49.0	50.0	51.0
	3	51.5	52.0	53.0	53.5	54.5	55.0	55.5	56.0	56.5	57.0	57.5	58.0
	4	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5
	5+	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5
Over 1200 m to 1400 m	2						44.0	45.0	46.0	47.0	48.0	49.0	50.0
	3	50.5	51.0	52.0	53.0	54.0	54.5	55.5	56.0	56.5	57.0	57.5	58.0
	4	58.5	58.5	58.5	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0
	5+	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0
Over 1400 m to 1600 m	2						43.5	44.5	45.5	46.5	47.5	48.5	49.5
	3	50.0	50.5	51.0	52.0	53.0	54.0	55.0	56.0	56.5	57.0	57.5	58.0
	4	58.5	58.5	58.5	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0
	5+	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0
Over 1600 m to 2000 m	2						42.5	43.5	44.5	45.5	46.5	47.5	48.5
	3	49.0	49.5	50.0	51.0	52.0	53.0	54.0	54.5	55.5	56.5	57.0	57.5
	4	58.0	58.0	58.0	58.5	58.5	58.5	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0
	5+	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0
Over 2000 m to 2400 m	3	48.5	49.0	49.5	50.5	51.0	52.0	53.0	54.0	54.5	55.5	56.0	57.0
	4	57.5	57.5	57.5	58.0	58.0	58.0	58.5	58.5	58.5	59.0	59.0	59.0
	5+	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0
Over 2400 m to 3200 m	3	48.0	48.5	49.0	50.0	50.5	51.5	52.5	53.5	54.0	55.0	55.5	56.0
	4	57.5	57.5	57.5	58.0	58.0	58.0	58.5	58.5	58.5	59.0	59.0	59.0
	5+	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5
Fillies and Mares to be allowed 2.0kg from 1st August to 31st July													

WEIGHTS

MINIMUM WEIGHTS

As provided for in The Rules Of Racing no horse shall be allocated less than:

- 52.0kg in a Handicap Group 1 or 2 Race;
- 53.0kg in a Handicap Group 3 or Listed Race;
- 54.0kg in all North Island non-Industry day Handicap races and all other South Island Handicap Races;
- 54.0kg in all North Island Industry day Handicap races
- 55kg in all Restricted Open handicaps

MINIMUM TOP WEIGHTS

The top weight allocated in a Handicap flat race shall not be less than:

- 58.0kg in 2YO and 3YO Handicap races
- 59.0kg in all other Handicap races

In accordance with Standard Regulation 8.3,

- (a) If at the advertised withdrawal deadline for a Handicap Flat Race (except a Two & Three Year Old Handicap Flat Race), the then top weighted horse has been allocated less than 58kg, such top weighted horse or horses shall be allocated 58kg and the weights allocated to the horses comprising the remainder of the field adjusted accordingly.
- (b) For a Two and Three Year Old Handicap Flat Race, the then top weighted horse has been allocated less than 57kg, such top weighted horse or horses shall be allocated 57kg and the weights allocated to the horses comprising the remainder of the field adjusted accordingly.
- (c) If at the advertised withdrawal deadline for a Maiden Flat Race (except a Maiden Two Year Old Race), or a Set Weights with Penalties and allowance race (excluding Group and Listed races) the then top weighted horse has been allocated less than 57kg, such top weighted horse or horses shall be allocated 57kg and the weights allocated to the horses comprising the remainder of the field adjusted accordingly.
- (d) The set weights for a Maiden 2 year old race is 56kg and 54.5kg. Because of this, the minimum top weight for this type of race is 56kg.

MAIDEN ALLOWANCES FOR 3YOS

Three Year Olds competing in Maiden races receive an age allowance, dependent on the time of year (as per the table below). The scale reflects the developing maturity of the horse as the season progresses.

AUG-OCT	NOV-JAN	FEB-APR	MAY-JUL
1.5kg	1.0kg	0.5kg	-

JUMPING RACES

In a Handicap jumping race:

- The minimum weight to be allocated is 64kg, or 63kg in a Prestige Jumping Race.

GENERAL

NORTH ISLAND – SOUTH ISLAND DIFFERENCES

A horse only has one Rating irrespective of where it is racing (North Island or South Island). It should be noted that a horse's Rating may result in it being allocated a different weight in Open Handicap races, depending on whether it is racing in the North Island or South Island.

In South Island Open Handicaps a Rating of 100 equates to a weight of 59kg. In the North Island a Rating of 104 equates to 59kg, with a Rating of 100 equating to 57kg. This is intended to take into account that North Island Open Handicaps will generally be stronger. It must always be remembered that these weights are subject to scaling depending on the relative ratings of horses entered for a particular race.

There is no distinction made between the North Island and South Island in Black Type races or races restricted by Rating.

BALLOTING

Ratings are utilised in the NZTR Standard Balloting Conditions for the purpose of determining the order of ballots and eliminations. The majority of races conducted in New Zealand are run in accordance with the Standard Balloting Conditions.

For those races that are not run under these conditions, and where the field is selected based on other criteria, the entry and qualifying conditions will be advertised in the TRM.

DOMESTIC VERSUS INTERNATIONAL RATINGS

The domestic Ratings Based Handicapping system should not be confused or judged against the end of season International and ANZ Ratings.

The International and ANZ Ratings are compiled at the end of each season and are a peak performance rating based on the horse's best performance for that season, taking into account the strength of the field that performance came in.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Allowance

A reduction in the weight to be carried by a horse conferred as a result of factors which may include age or sex.

Apprentice Allowance

A weight allowance conferred to a horse as a result of that horse being ridden by an Apprentice Rider.

Balloting Order

The order by which horses are eliminated from a race where the total number of horses remaining in the field at the close of final withdrawals exceeds the starting limit.

Black Type Race

A race that is classified as either Group or Listed by the Graded Stakes Committee. Also referred to as a Stakes Race. These races are the highest standard of thoroughbred horse race in New Zealand.

The list of Group and Listed races approved by NZTR is accepted by the International Cataloguing Standards Committee for publication by The Jockey Club (US) in The Blue Book. Group and Listed races are broken down into the following categories from the most prestigious to the least:

Group 1

Group 2

Group 3

Listed

Feature Race

A high quality race usually run for high stakes (prizemoney) for which entries may be taken and weights declared earlier than would be the case for other races.

Grade

A category into which a horse might be placed based on its Rating and the types of race for which it is eligible.

Handicap Race

A race in which the weights to be carried by the horses are allocated by the Handicapper based on each horse's Rating for the purpose of equalising their chances of winning.

Maiden Race

A race restricted to horses that have not won a flat race.

Minimum Weight

The minimum weight that a horse can be allocated in a particular race. The minimum weight for each race type is advertised in NZTR's Thoroughbred Racing Monthly (TRM) magazine.

Open Race

A race open to all horses except for horses aged two years, unless this has been advertised as a race condition in the TRM.

Overweight

An amount of weight, generally not exceeding 0.5kg, that a horse may carry in a race in addition to its allotted weight because its rider is unable to make the allotted weight.

Penalty

The amount by which a Handicapper increases a horse's weight and/or Rating following a win or placed performance.

Rating

A numerical assessment of a horse's prior performance(s) made by an NZTR Handicapper which is used to determine the weight to be carried by that horse in any Handicap race. Ratings are also used to determine Balloting orders for some races.

Rating Band

A category into which a horse might be placed based on its Rating and the types of Rating races regularly programmed.

Example: A horse Rated 75 might be considered to be in the Rating 80 Band, because the most suitable races for which it is eligible (which are regularly programmed) are Rating 80 races.

Rating Race

A race for which eligibility is determined by a horse's Rating at the close of nominations.

Example: A Rating 70 race is for all horses that have a Rating up to and including 70 at the time of nomination.

Set Weight Race

A race where all horses carry the same weight subject to a sex allowance for fillies and/or mares.

Top Weight

The highest weight allotted in a particular race.

Weight-For-Age (WFA) Race

A race in which the weights to be carried by the horses are determined by the Weight-for-Age scale. Under the scale weights are determined according to a horse's age, sex, the race distance and the month of the year.



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