

**Report of the  
NEW ZEALAND PATTERN COMMITTEE**

**Group & Listed Race  
Schedule for  
2020/21 Season**

**Following review of  
2019/20 Season**

**15 SEPTEMBER 2020**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Pattern Review for races run in the 2019-20 season has been completed by the NZ Pattern Committee. The schedule of Group and Listed Races to be run in the 2020-21 season has been finalised.
2. Due to the impact of Covid-19, several temporary changes have been made to the schedule of Pattern races for the 2020-21 season. These will see a number of one-off movements and several races not run on a one-off basis. Given the rapidly evolving impact of Covid-19, further changes may be possible and the NZPC will display flexibility if required.

The Asian Pattern Committee (APC) Ground Rules are evolving rapidly in response to the implications of the Covid-19 crisis.

The APC has determined that the normal review process will be followed for the 2019/20 season just finished but that no races will be downgraded unless the relevant national Pattern Committee has a strong view that this should occur.

If a race was not run during the 2019/20 season, then this season is to be ignored. Accordingly, if a race was on a Warning or Alert after its 2018/19 edition, then that Warning or Alert remains.

Where a race was run in the 2019/20 season, the race is to be assessed on the best three performances over the last four years. The lowest rated race in the last four years can be ignored. This means that if a race rated poorly in 2019/20, and would have otherwise received an Alert, Warning or Downgrade, no such action has been applied. For clarity, these races are highlighted within this report.

However, if a race achieved a high rating in 2019/20, then that edition can still be considered. This has seen the NZPC remove a number of Alerts and Warnings although no Upgrades have been applied.

There is some potential for further changes to the APC Ground Rules given the dynamic nature of the Covid-19 crisis and differing global responses. The duration and permanency of these changes remains to be determined.

3. Under the revised schedule, the total number of Pattern flat races is planned to fall from 150 to 147. With the exception of these temporary changes, the NZPC has made no changes to the schedule for 2020/21.
4. Given a likely further decline in races run in 2020/21, the Pattern race percentage will rise to over 6%. Every country has unique aspects to its racing structure. The NZPC acknowledges that NZ has very few non-tote races and a large number of competitive trials relative to most peers.

While the rating of each NZ Pattern race justifies its status with respect to the APC Ground Rules, the NZPC now views the percentage of Pattern races as unacceptably high if confidence in the integrity of NZ black type is to be maintained. Accordingly, the NZPC has requested that a thorough review be carried out over the period ahead with a view to reducing the percentage of Pattern races to a more acceptable level. We also note that the APC intends to review its processes in the coming year.

A further issue with the current percentage is that a very high bar is set for any potential promotions. Therefore, a review may result in the downgrade of weaker Listed races if there are unlisted races that are materially stronger from a ratings perspective and would improve the overall Pattern if promoted – even if the downgraded races are meeting their minimum benchmarks. One option is to use a higher tolerance level than APC benchmarks. Any decisions are some distance from being made and any changes would only occur following significant consultation.

The NZPC has raised with NZTR the issue of prizemoney being tied to a race's Pattern status and therefore being reduced if a race is downgraded. This may not be appropriate in all circumstances such as if a downgraded race is a major regional target, has considerable historic importance or wide public appeal.

5. The NZPC views the ideal shape of the Pattern as being a pyramid. The Covid-19 interruptions made any analysis of this moot in the 2019/20 season.
6. This was the eighth year that the NZPC has operated under the APC Ground Rules, which were approved by NZTR in consultation with the NZPC and the industry.

From 2019/20, any NZ race failing to attain the minimum rating threshold for the first time is likely to be issued with an Alert. In most cases, a Warning will then be issued if the minimum rating has not been achieved in the next edition. If the race meets the required threshold in its next edition, it may then be moved back to having no Alert or Warning.

G1 and G2 races that fail to meet their tolerance threshold in three consecutive editions have the merits of the race considered and voted upon by the APC. Any downgrade must be approved by a simple majority of countries. The affected country cannot vote. G3 and Listed races are automatically downgraded unless a material change in conditions is proposed. Voluntary downgrades by a country may still occur. Any upgrade to G1 must be voted on by APC member countries. Special factors may be considered and the NZPC has chosen to recognise these at times. These include the ratings of the top 4 rated starters as opposed to the first 4 finishers; the number of G1 winners in the preceding 18 months; unusual track conditions; and the effect on the shape of the Pattern.

The Asian Pattern Committee is launching a review of its procedures during 2020.

7. The race rating is determined by the peak World Best Racehorse Ranking (WBRR) that season for the average of the first four finishers in the race. Note that the WBRR has no relationship with the points-based domestic NZ handicap rating and the two measures should not be confused.
8. In recent seasons, G1 races have been allowed a 5 point tolerance relative to their threshold level, while G2 and lower have had a 3 point tolerance. These tolerance thresholds have now been reduced to 3 points and the NZPC expects this to create some future pressure on the lower end of NZ G1 races, particularly for older horses.

The NZPC has a degree of concern with the WBRR ratings assigned to some NZ 2yo and 3yo races. As a starting point, these ratings tend to be at the bottom end of global norms unless the horses perform well overseas in the same season. Further, many NZ horses are exported following their 3yo season and at times achieve markedly higher ratings as older horses, implying an improbable degree of improvement. This issue is beginning to be recognised but requires further attention. NZ/Australia also appear to rate 3yo horses with some implicit reference to the WFA scale when a different approach is followed in the Northern Hemisphere. These are matters which NZ intends to explore in the forthcoming APC review.

The NZPC notes that the APC has agreed that the threshold for 3 year old races will be reduced by 3 pounds for the 2020/21 season onwards. However, the 3 pound tolerance buffer for 3yo races will be removed. The net effect of this will be to have no effect on potential downgrades but it may see some races meet the threshold for potential promotion.

9. The WBRR Race Ratings used to evaluate race quality are appended as Section 6 of this Report.
10. There are currently 6 races on Alert (10 last year) and 5 races on Warning (6 last year).
11. The NZPC considered and approved a request from the Auckland Racing Club to change several registered race names. The G1 WFA 2000m race on Boxing Day will now be the Zabeel Classic. The G1 WFA 2000m race in early March will now be the New Zealand Stakes. The Championship Stakes Prelude has had several changes over time but will now be known as the Gingernuts Salver. The Alison Stakes will become the Balmerino Stakes.

While the reasons for the changes were accepted in each case, the NZPC did express concern that registered race names should stand the test of time and only occur for particularly strong reasons. The NZPC also strongly suggests that if possible, the sponsor's name should be used in conjunction with the registered race name rather than replace it.

# SECTION 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 CONSTITUTION & CONVENTION

The New Zealand Pattern Committee (NZPC) is constituted in Rule 506 of the Rules of Racing. It is an independent committee jointly convened by New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Association Inc. (NZTBA) and New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Inc. (NZTR). The secretariat of the NZPC is provided by NZTR.

### 1.2 COMPOSITION & SCHEDULE

**1.2.1** The NZPC is comprised of eight voting members, viz. a Chairman who is appointed by NZTR after consultation with NZTBA, three nominees of NZTBA, three nominees of NZTR and one nominee of NZTBA to represent the thoroughbred auction companies. The personnel appointed to the Pattern Committee are expected to have the expertise and experience to exercise flexibility and discretion whilst continually maintaining a review of appropriate levels of Black Type opportunity for horses of different age, sex and aptitudes, throughout the total New Zealand racing scene. Committee appointments are made in December each year and take effect for the following calendar year.

**1.2.2** The NZPC meets twice per year, usually in the second or third week of August when primary statistical data becomes available and (by teleconference) in early November to review the prestige jumping races. Each year the NZPC conducts a robust review of its procedures and criteria and holds a frank discussion of all matters considered relevant.

**1.2.3** A NZPC member has a conflict of interest with respect to the review process when that member, or their spouse, partner or immediate family member, is an office-bearer or management employee of a New Zealand racing club or of an organisation currently sponsoring a black-type race. Any member having disclosed a conflict of interest will not be debarred from participating in any discussion during the review. If consensus amongst committee members is not apparent regarding a particular race under review and the Chairman calls for a vote, then any member having a conflict of interest relating to that race will forfeit their right to vote on that particular race and may be asked to leave the room during the voting process.

**1.2.4** The NZPC for the past season comprised :

Chairman:	Mr Matthew Goodson, Auckland
NZTR Nominees:	Mr Bruce Sherwin, Cambridge
	Mr Neville McAlister, Wellington

Mr Jeff McCall, Christchurch  
NZTBA Nominees: Ms Michelle Saba, Karaka  
Mr Andrew Stewart, Cambridge  
Mr Mark Freeman, Wellington  
Auction House: Mr Danny Rolston, Cambridge

### **1.3 OBJECTIVES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

The function of the NZPC is to annually review the best races in New Zealand for horses of different ages, gender and aptitudes and to produce a list of races worthy of black type status in sales catalogues in line with international standards, and to rate those races as (in descending order of importance) G1, G2, G3 and Listed. Further, it is to produce a list of Prestige Jumping Races in NZ.

It is the responsibility of the NZPC to conduct that review in a manner that conforms to international standards and utilises clear and consistent criteria. It also has a duty to communicate its findings in an Annual Report to be circulated to interested parties in September each year.

The NZPC must remain aware that the integrity and international credibility of our Pattern system is crucial to the national thoroughbred industry. The NZPC makes recommendations to Clubs where it feels that the pattern of racing could be improved with the introduction of a particular type of race or races.

### **1.4 INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES**

The NZ list of Pattern races and their groupings are required to conform to the APC Ground Rules drawn up by the Asian Pattern Committee. The list is then submitted through the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) to the International Grading and Race Planning Advisory Committee (IRPAC), who in turn recommends the list to be ratified by the Society of International Thoroughbred Auctioneers (SITA). The list is then published along with all other approved national lists in the annual International Cataloguing Standards and International Statistics booklet ("Blue Book"). Retention of New Zealand's inclusion in Part One of the Blue Book is considered crucial to the national thoroughbred industry.

### **1.5 REVIEW PROCESS**

There is no appeal process available against the decisions of the Committee in respect of any race or races. However, application may be made to a Review Panel for a review of the Committee's list as outlined under Rules 506 (9)-(12) of the NZ Rules of Racing. An application for a review does not apply in respect of a warning.

## **SECTION 2**

# **HISTORY**

### **2.1 BLACK TYPE**

Pattern (or stakes or black type) races are those that differentiate prestige races from others. The purpose of Pattern races is to confer additional status (and therefore implied value) to the placegetters in those races. The first three finishers in designated Pattern races receive bold typeface in sales catalogue pedigrees. The appearance of black type in catalogues had its origins in North American catalogues in the 1950s. It was first adopted outside of North America by New Zealand in 1970. In the early 1970s Europe adopted the black-type system for their Pattern races and other countries followed.

### **2.2 GROUP DESIGNATIONS**

Black type races are rated (in descending order of importance) with the designations Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 and Listed. Group designations grew out of the European Pattern Race System in the early 1970s. It was quickly adopted in North America and then gradually adopted throughout the rest of the thoroughbred world, including New Zealand in 1984-85.

### **2.3 INTERNATIONAL UNIFORMITY**

In 1981 the International Cataloguing Standards Committee (ICSC) was formed to oversee the publication (Blue Book) of all lists of black type races worldwide and promote uniformity of standards. In 2007 ICSC transferred responsibility for this role to the International Grading and Race Pattern Committee (IRPAC). In 2012, the Asian Pattern Committee (APC) was granted an overseeing governance role over all the domestic graded stakes jurisdictions in the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) region, including New Zealand.

### **2.4 NEW ZEALAND DEVELOPMENTS**

Originally, New Zealand's black type races were determined by the senior pedigree compiler at the then sole auction house. From about the mid-1970s, the task was done by a committee of representatives of NZTBA, the auction house and the New Zealand Racing Conference (NZRC), the predecessor of NZTR. The Committee was overseen by the NZRC. In 1995, a complete review of the process was undertaken, resulting in the current structure of the NZPC being implemented. In 2012, the Committee was renamed from New Zealand Graded Stakes Committee to New Zealand Pattern Committee.

## **2.5 REGISTERED RACE NAMES**

In 2001, Registered race names were introduced to enable a race to be identified over a period of years, regardless of the changes that may be made to its race-day name. The Registered Race-names provide the historical link to the current race-name and sponsor. The APC also prescribes that all Group races must have a permanent element within the race-name.

The NZPC approved several changes this year but only did so after some debate around the strength of the case for changing them. There should be no expectation that the name will be changed as a matter of course.

The NZPC strongly believes that a sponsor race name should be used in combination with the Registered race name whenever possible.

## **SECTION 3**

# **OPERATING PROCEDURES**

### **3.1 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS**

The NZPC compares New Zealand's list of Pattern races to those of other countries in Part 1 of the Blue Book in order to ensure the international credibility of the black type in our sales catalogues.

#### **3.1.1 Number of Pattern races**

As a target, the NZPC aims for the number of Pattern races in New Zealand to be approximately 5% of the estimated number of flat races run during the season. This is in line with most other racing jurisdictions and is considered appropriate for New Zealand.

#### **3.1.2 Pyramid model**

With regard to the allocation of group designators to New Zealand's Pattern races, the NZPC endeavours to establish and maintain the widely accepted "pyramid" model used by most countries in Part 1 of the Blue Book. The ideal pyramid has more Group 2 races than Group 1 races, and the total number of Group 3 races ideally exceeds the combined total of Group 1 and Group 2 races.

#### **3.1.3 Category opportunities**

The NZPC oversees the full range of horse categories (age, gender, distance aptitude) so that all horses might have adequate opportunities to compete for black type status.

### **3.2 CRITERIA**

#### **3.2.1 Quality**

The paramount criterion applied by the NZPC is established quality of the field over time.

#### **3.2.2 Race conditions**

In the overall pattern, weight-for-age is given higher priority than set weights, which is given higher priority than set weights and penalties, which is, in turn, given higher priority than handicap conditions.

All black type races for 2YOs and 3YOs are to be run at set weights or set weights and penalties.

In line with international trends, it is unlikely that further handicap races will be elevated to G1 status.

Races for which entry is restricted to horses sold at a particular sale or sales are not eligible for group status. Furthermore, to be granted (R) Listed status, such a race must achieve a standard of quality equivalent to a group race.

### **3.2.3 Prizemoney**

Black type races must be run for a stake that meets or exceeds minimum levels that are subject to annual review by NZTR. This may not apply for the first year in which a race is promoted or if NZTR determines that the stake of a race which is upgraded should not be changed.

### **3.2.4 The Pattern**

The NZPC considers each race's timing and place within the pattern of racing.

### **3.2.5 Continuity**

Continuity on the list and with a particular Pattern grading is considered desirable, so long as that continuity is credible and does not compromise the integrity of the Pattern.

### **3.2.6 Miscellaneous**

Other criteria may be considered if deemed to be relevant, e.g. historical importance, regional factors, impact of adverse weather, opportunities for various aptitude categories, etc.

## **3.3 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES**

### **3.3.1 World Best Racehorse Rankings (WBRR)**

The NZPC has adopted the end of season World Best Racehorse Rankings (WBRR) as its primary statistical assessment tool. This rating averages the first four finishers in a race, as rated for their peak performance during the season, after taking into account the additional 4lb allowance if fillies or mares fill any of those placings. The NZPC may also choose to consider the average rating of the four highest rated starters in the race if it considers that circumstances deem that to be appropriate.

A race's Rating for the season is evaluated by the NZPC in conjunction with that race's Pattern Race Rating (PRR). This is an average of the three most recent renewals' Race Ratings.

### **3.3.2 New Zealand handicap ratings**

The NZPC also has at its disposal the NZ race day handicap ratings for the starters in all races reviewed. Given their different basis of determination and use, the NZPC did not consult these in the season under review.

### **3.3.3 Full field results**

The NZPC also has the official result files of all races reviewed, along with the number and quality of black type performers (covering the current and previous season) in each race.

## **3.4 UPGRADING / DOWNGRADING**

**The following guidelines should be read in conjunction with the APC Ground Rules which are available at:**

[https://loveracing.nz/OnHorseFiles/Downloads/Resources/Revised%20APC%20Ground%20Rules%20\(February%2026%2C%202019\).pdf](https://loveracing.nz/OnHorseFiles/Downloads/Resources/Revised%20APC%20Ground%20Rules%20(February%2026%2C%202019).pdf)

### **3.4.1 Conditions for gaining black type**

(A) For a race to gain entry to the Pattern, a position must be available within the desirable number of Pattern races for New Zealand. The race must have achieved in its recent renewals a level of quality higher than that of the lower rating races already on the list catering for a similar category of horse.

(B) It must also have been run under the same terms and conditions, distance and timing for two consecutive previous renewals. (This may be deviated from in the most exceptional circumstances).

It is not necessary for a host club to make a submission for entry to the black type system. The NZPC maintains a “watch list” of all unrestricted races, along with selected age group races and reviews that list every year.

### **3.4.2 Conditions for maintaining status**

Other than continuing to meet the field quality criterion, some other conditions must also be maintained. A race may be subject to re-assessment by the NZPC if there are changes proposed in terms of one or more of:

- (a) The distance (100m or more for races below 1600m and 200m or more for races of 1600m or above)
- (b) The date - more than 2 weeks (previously 2 months)
- (c) The stake
- (d) The venue

- (e) The host club
- (f) The race conditions

Each change or combination thereof is considered on a case-by-case basis and must be notified by the host club to the NZPC at the earliest opportunity. The NZPC reminds clubs of the importance of this requirement if they wish to retain their race's black type status.

To assist clubs with this requirement, the NZPC has requested that NZTR put in place a clear process for clubs to follow, including a timetable that fits with programming requirements.

If a scheduled black type race is not programmed by its host club, or, if having programmed it, the host club declines to run the race prior to the calling of nominations, then NZTR may at its discretion re-allocate the race to another club willing to run the race under the same terms and conditions within the current pattern. If a black type race has had nominations called for, then the club must run the race, regardless of the number of acceptors.

### **3.4.3 Conditions for downgrading a race (Warning Process)**

- (a) The warning process changed slightly from the 2019/20 season onwards to make it consistent with the APC Ground Rules. Those Rules specify that a race may be placed on Warning if it fails to meet its tolerance threshold for two consecutive editions and it may then be downgraded if it fails for a third time. Conversely if a race under Warning meets its tolerance level, the Warning may be removed.
- (b) When a race is being considered for downgrading, a written Alert (previously a First Warning) will typically be given to the host club in the first instance where the race fails to meet its rating threshold. Except in exceptional circumstances, the race will not be downgraded until it has been run with a Warning (previously a Second Warning).
- (c) Where a club has already had an Alert in respect of a race, the Alert may be maintained, removed or progressed to a Warning.
- (d) Where a Warning is already in place in respect of a race, the Warning may be removed, or the race may be downgraded.
- (e) Under the APC Ground Rules, as revised in 2018, races that are G3 and lower are automatically downgraded if they are more than 3lb below their required parameter in each of the last three seasons, unless a material change in conditions is proposed, in which case, the relevant Racing Authority (that is the NZPC) may choose to give it one final year in which it must achieve its Annual Race Rating. Voluntary downgrades by a country may still occur. The NZPC warning system is consistent with these requirements.

(f) Changes to the Ground Rules in 2018 now mean that if G1 and G2 races fail to meet their tolerance threshold in three consecutive editions, the merits of the race are considered and voted upon by the APC. Previously, any downgrade had to be approved by a majority of two or more countries, but this now requires a simple majority of one country. The affected country cannot vote. Any upgrade of a race to G1 must be approved by a simple majority. Special factors may be considered and the NZPC has chosen to recognise these at times. These include the ratings of the top 4 rated starters as opposed to the first 4 finishers; the number of G1 winners in the preceding 18 months; unusual track conditions; and the effect on the shape of the Pattern.

(g) The APC recently promulgated changes to the threshold tolerances that were applied retrospectively from the 2016/17 season onwards. These require G1 races required to be within a tolerance threshold of 3lb (formerly 5lb) of their benchmark, while G2 and lower are unchanged at the same 3lb threshold.

(h) Stayers' moratorium. Following global concern at the downgrading of staying races and the subsequent impact on the breed, the APC followed global peers and implemented a downgrade moratorium on all Pattern distance races for 3-year-olds at 2400m plus and older horses at 2600m plus. This was subsequently loosened to 2400m plus for all age groups and is set to expire at the end of the 2020/21 season.

(i) Pattern races scheduled for the early part of the season and carrying a Warning that have already been advertised in Thoroughbred Racing Monthly (TRM) prior to the August meeting of the NZPC, will carry disclaimers in TRM noting that the club and NZTR each reserves the right to alter the conditions of the race including the stake and/or the black type status of the advertised race if it is downgraded by the NZPC.

(j) Pattern races run for a stake below the minimum prescribed level will be automatically downgraded for that running irrespective of any warning level attached to the race. This may not apply for the first year in which a race is promoted or if NZTR determines that the stake of a race which is upgraded should not be changed.

(k) The required warning period is also not applicable where a race has undergone significant change (as detailed in 3.4.2 above). Such a change may be approved by the NZPC at its discretion with or without the imposition of a (greater) warning level.

(l) The Covid-19 crisis is seeing the APC Ground Rules evolve rapidly. APC has determined that the normal review process will be followed for the 2019/20 season just finished but that no races will be downgraded unless the relevant national Pattern Committee has a strong view that this should occur.

(m) If a race was not run during the 2019/20 season, then this season is to be ignored. Accordingly, if a race was on a Warning or Alert after its 2018/19 edition, then that Warning or Alert remains.

(n) Where a race was run in the 2019/20 season, the race is to be assessed on the best three performances over the last four years. The lowest rated race in the last four years can be ignored. This means that if a race rated poorly in 2019/20, and would have otherwise received an Alert, Warning or Downgrade, no such action has been applied. For clarity, these races are highlighted within this report. However, if a race achieved a high rating in 2019/20, then that edition can still be considered. This has seen the NZPC remove a number of Alerts and Warnings although no Upgrades have been applied.

(o) There is some potential for further changes to the APC Ground Rules given the dynamic nature of the Covid-19 crisis and differing global responses. The duration and permanency of these changes remains to be determined.

#### **3.4.4 Conditions for upgrading a race**

(a) For a race to be considered for upgrading, the NZPC must be satisfied that a vacancy exists in the relevant category above;

(b) It must have achieved in its recent renewals a level of quality higher than that of the lower rating races in the category above catering for a similar category of horse; and

(c) It must also have been run under the same terms and conditions, distance and timing for two consecutive previous renewals. (This may be deviated from in the most exceptional circumstances);

(d) Under the APC Ground Rules, races shall be eligible for promotion if the race under consideration achieves both a Pattern Race Rating (average of last 3 years) and an Annual Race Rating for the last year equal to or above the required parameter. Note that being eligible for promotion does not require the NZPC to make such a promotion given the other factors above. This is particularly the case where a race serves as an established lead-in to another race with a higher Pattern rating.

(e) For a race to be upgraded to G1, it must be approved by a majority of the APC. The proposing country cannot vote.

The NZPC invites clubs to make submissions for their races to be upgraded, but a submission is not a prerequisite for upgrading and the NZPC will upgrade races without submissions where appropriate.

### **3.4.5 Rules governing Group 1 and Group 2 races**

- (a) Decisions relating to Group 1 and 2 races are ultimately taken by the Asian Pattern Committee (APC).
- (b) A race may be eligible for promotion to Group 1 or 2 if the race under consideration achieves both a Pattern Race Rating (average of last 3 years) and an Annual Race Rating for the last year equal to or above the required parameter.
- (c) The upgrading/downgrading of a race to/from Group 1 must be approved by a majority of the APC. The affected country may not vote.
- (d) The downgrading of a race from Group 2 must be approved by a majority of the APC. The affected country may not vote.
- (e) If the Annual Race Rating of a Group 1 race is more than 3lb (previously 5lb) below its parameter for each of the previous three years, the APC 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.
- (f) If the Annual Race Rating of a Group 2 race is more than 3lb below its parameter for each of the previous three years, the APC 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. Previously, the changes to G2 races were automatic rather than subject to a vote.

### **3.4.6 Other factors**

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

- (a) The ratings of the four highest rated horses to start (as well as the first four to finish).
- (b) The number of starters to have won a Group 1 race in the prior 18 months. Note that this criterion was previously over the two previous seasons. The NZPC has voted to change this from 2017/18 onwards to be consistent with the APC Ground Rules.
- (c) The iconic or historical significance of some races of national importance including, but not necessarily restricted to, the national three-year-old Classics.
- (d) The effect on the overall pattern of racing and the shape of the “pyramid” (ref. 3.1.2, above).

## SECTION 4

# COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1** Historically, the NZPC has believed that the New Zealand “pyramid” has been somewhat top-heavy and has not met international expectations. The 2020/21 season will see a pyramid of 21 G1 races; 27 G2; 43 G3 and 56 Listed. While still not entirely satisfactory, it is gradually moving towards an acceptable shape and will likely continue to evolve in this direction.
- 4.2** It is the responsibility of a Club to notify the NZPC where a significant change in conditions is contemplated. Changes in one or more of the distance, timing and conditions can result in an entirely different race being conducted. Although the NZPC is sympathetic to programming and other issues, the integrity of the system is paramount.
- 4.3** For the 2020/21 season, the Committee supports the Minimum Stakes Levels adopted by NZTR and set out below:

<b>Status</b>	<b>Minimum Stake</b>
Group 1	\$200,000
Group 2	\$100,000
Group 3	\$70,000
Listed	\$50,000

- 4.4** Appreciation is expressed to those involved with making submissions, the majority of whom follow the guidelines advised to clubs. Those submissions assist the Committee with its deliberations, particularly where they contain new information and context about the race performance.
- 4.5** The NZPC is fully aware of concerns regarding the Pattern Race Ratings and downgrades of NZ’s staying handicaps which have great historical significance, public appeal and linkages to the type of horse bred by the NZ breeding industry. That said, it is critical for the international credibility of the NZ Pattern that our races conform to international norms as governed by the APC on behalf of IRPAC. In recent years, NZ’s traditional staying handicaps have struggled to meet these norms and have been under considerable downgrade pressure.
- The NZPC supports the APC’s downgrade moratorium for all races of 2400m+. Importantly, it was agreed that such races should also demonstrate that a clear strategy is in place to improve their ratings (eg

prizemoney and programming). The NZPC has previously been concerned that such strategies were not immediately obvious for affected races in NZ but sound steps such as the ongoing development of the Dunstan series and the attraction of several Australian horses were noted.

The NZPC notes that the moratorium is currently set to expire at the end of the 2020/21 season. The NZPC is concerned that a core reason for staying races struggling to make their mark across the region may be an unintended bias in the ratings system. In NZ and Australia, staying horses often also race at lesser distances and tend to receive ratings that reflect their lesser genetic affinity for such distances. However, once the horse then races at its ideal distance of 2400m+, its rating would still seem to be impacted via a degree of reference to its lower rating over shorter distances.

- 4.6** No new races were introduced into the schedule of Pattern races for 2020/21. A number of unlisted races met the theoretical requirements for promotion but the NZPC requires that any promotions meet a clear gap in the Pattern and a very high bar is created by the percentage of Pattern races being will above that which is ideal.

With the total number of flat races being projected to fall in 2020/21, the ratio of Pattern races will rise to be well above the ideal target of 5%. Consequently, any new races introduced to the Pattern will need to be offset by deletion of the weakest Listed races. With only 3 Listed races being on Warning in the 2020/21 season, this will likely be a process that evolves at an unsatisfactorily slow pace if left to itself.

While the rating of each NZ Pattern race justifies its status with respect to the APC Ground Rules, the NZPC now views the percentage of Pattern races as unacceptably high if confidence in the integrity of NZ black type is to be maintained. Accordingly, the NZPC has requested that a thorough review be carried out over the period ahead with a view to reducing the percentage of Pattern races to a more acceptable level. We also note that the APC intends to review its processes in the coming year.

A review may result in the downgrade of weaker Listed races if there are unlisted races that are materially stronger from a ratings perspective and which would improve the overall Pattern if promoted – even if the downgraded races are meeting their minimum benchmarks. One option is to use a higher tolerance level than APC benchmarks. Any decisions are some distance from being made and any changes would only occur following significant consultation.

The NZPC has raised with NZTR the issue of prizemoney being tied to a race's Pattern status and therefore being reduced if a race is downgraded. This may not be appropriate in all circumstances such as if a downgraded race is a major regional target, has considerable historic importance or wide public appeal.

**4.7** Fillies & mares (3YO & older) as a group are not particularly well catered for, especially through the summer period. In total, they have only 13 black type opportunities excluding races limited to 3yo fillies only. They have only two black type opportunities beyond a mile, both in the autumn. They also have only two black type opportunities at less than 1600m between late November and mid-May. It is noted by the Committee that other comparable racing jurisdictions seem to provide many more black type opportunities for the fillies and mares category and the NZPC would like to see every major carnival in NZ programme at least one race for this category with a view that some may grow into black type races. Promotions in the short term are problematic given the high overall percentage of Pattern races but this will likely evolve in the medium term.

**4.8** In line with international expectations, the NZPC will continue to use horse ratings provided by the World Best Racehorse Rankings as our primary statistical assessment tool. This meets requirements by the APC, set out in their Ground Rules, which are available at:

[https://loveracing.nz/OnHorseFiles/Downloads/Resources/Revised%20APC%20Ground%20Rules%20\(Febuary%2026%2C%202019\).pdf](https://loveracing.nz/OnHorseFiles/Downloads/Resources/Revised%20APC%20Ground%20Rules%20(Febuary%2026%2C%202019).pdf)

**4.9** The NZPC has a degree of concern with the WBRR ratings assigned to some NZ 2yo and 3yo races. As a starting point, these ratings tend to be at the bottom end of global norms unless the horses perform well overseas in the same season. This has been a particular problem in 2019/20 as the Covid-19 crisis limited these later season opportunities.

Further, many NZ horses are exported following their 3yo season and at times achieve markedly higher ratings as older horses, implying an improbable degree of improvement. This issue is beginning to be recognised but requires further attention. The NZPC is a strong supporter of the APC Ground Rules but it is a difficult task to apply them across different jurisdictions. Critical review and evaluation can only lead to improvement and increased confidence in their accuracy across the region.

## SECTION 5

# SUMMARY

**5.1.1** As a result of the review, the number of black type races for 2020-21 compared with previous seasons is as follows:

Status	2020/21	2019/20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
Group 1	21	21	21	21	22	22	22
Group 2	27	27	26	25	25	22	21
Group 3	43	44	44	44	38	40	39
Listed	56	58	59	60	63	63	65
Total	<b>147</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>147</b>
PJR	14	14	14	13	13	12	12

- *The number of Prestige Jumping Races will be confirmed at the NZPC meeting in late October.*

**5.1.2** The 2020-21 list includes no changes from the season just concluded other than the one-off removal of 3 Pattern races due to a slight condensing of the programme due to the Covid-19 crisis.

## **5.2 Warnings/Alerts Removed**

**Wellington RC, Telegraph (G1)** – Warning removed and revert to no Warning or Alert, with the race meeting its tolerance threshold of 112. The race has been somewhat unlucky in recent years, in that it has had strong depth but a mixed composition of its first four finishers. If anything, the field had slightly less depth this season but achieved its threshold in what was a solid edition won by Avantage.

**Wellington RC, Thorndon Mile (G1)** - Warning removed and revert to no Warning or Alert, with the race meeting its tolerance threshold of 112. The relatively low ratings of this race in recent years do raise concern about whether it can hold its status in the longer term, but it benefitted from 4 of the 5 highest rated horses being in the first 4 finishers.

**Canterbury JC, Stewards Stakes (G3)** – Alert removed and revert to no Warning or Alert, with the race rating of 103.75 surpassing the tolerance threshold of 102. The depth of the field was also notable.

**Canterbury JC, New Zealand Cup (G3)** – Alert removed and revert to no Warning or Alert, with the race rating of 103.5 surpassing the tolerance threshold of 102. The race is also subject to the moratorium on staying race downgrades.

**Counties RC, Jim & John Evans Metric Mile (L)** - Alert removed and revert to no Warning or Alert, with the race rating of 104.75 easily surpassing the tolerance threshold of 100 and showing last year's low rating to be an aberration.

**Canterbury JC, Canterbury Breeders Stakes (G3)** – Alert removed and revert to no Warning or Alert, with the race rating of 99 surpassing the tolerance threshold of 97. While this race has generally met its tolerance threshold, it has been some years since it has met its required benchmark of 100.

### 5.3 Alerts/Warnings Maintained

**Canterbury JC, CJC Champagne Stakes (L)** – Alert maintained. The race was not run this season.

**Auckland RC, Championship Stakes (G2)** – Alert maintained. The race was not run in the 2019/20 season.

**Southland RC, Southland Guineas (L)** – Alert maintained. The race rating of 95.75 was below the 97 threshold and would have seen a move to Warning but for the 2019/20 rules. This follows a rating of 93 in the previous edition. The race will need to strengthen if it is to hold its place in the Pattern.

**Waikato RC, International Stakes (G1)** – Warning maintained. This year's edition was concerningly weak and rated 109.75 versus a threshold of 112. Unlike previous years, which featured strong depth but mixed ratings for the top 4 finishers, this year's field was weak and the rating was not improved by an analysis of the top 4 starters. This race would have been subject to a vote regarding potential downgrading if not for the Covid-19 moratorium this season. As NZ's richest WFA race at \$400,000, the NZPC is of the view that the race merits being retained at the G1 level but it urgently requires a stronger edition to confirm its status. The NZPC discussed a degree of congestion in the 3yo calendar at this time of year in relation to the impact on this race. If the Waikato Guineas was not run, then there would be a stronger possibility of the best 3 year olds tackling this race at WFA either as a target in its own right or as a pathway to the NZ Derby. A notable deficiency of the current NZ Pattern is the very limited degree to which NZ 3 year olds race against their older peers under WFA conditions.

**Auckland RC, Auckland Cup (G1)** – Warning maintained. This race is subject to the APC distance race downgrade moratorium. As has been the case for a number of years, the race failed to meet its 112 threshold by some distance, with an outcome of 108.75. The highest rating in the race was a sex-adjusted 111 to the 4<sup>th</sup> placegetter and subsequent Sydney Cup winner, Etah James. This illustrates a wider issue. The NZPC remains concerned that staying horses may not be attracting appropriate ratings when racing at their optimum distance as their ratings seem to be assessed with reference to the horse's inferior performance over middle distances. The Cup's continuation as a G1 event clearly requires a continuation of the moratorium. The NZPC notes that steps have been taken to improve the race, with the attraction of Australian horses and the continued development of the Dunstan Series.

**Canterbury JC, Coupland's Bakeries Mile (G2)** – Alert maintained. This race rated 103.25 versus the threshold of 107 to fail for the second year in a row. Notwithstanding the attractive \$220k purse, the field lacked a degree of depth. Analysing the top 4 starters would have improved the rating to moderately above the threshold but stronger editions are clearly required in the season ahead.

**Auckland RC, Easter Stakes (G2)** – Warning maintained. The race was not run due to Covid-19.

**Racing Rotorua, Rotorua Cup (G3)** – Warning maintained. The race was not run due to Covid-19.

**Otago RC, Dunedin Gold Cup (L)** – Alert maintained. The rating of 95.5 fell below the threshold of 97 and would have seen a move to Warning but for Covid-19. Analysing the top 4 starters led to no improvement. The NZPC is conscious of the history and broad appeal of the race but it may be better placed outside the Pattern if the stake can be maintained.

**Riverton RC, Riverton Cup (L)** – Warning maintained. The race was not run due to Covid-19.

**Canterbury JC, CJC Great Easter Stakes (L)** – Warning maintained. The race was not run due to Covid-19.

#### **5.4 Races Below Tolerance Threshold But No Alert Due to 2019/20 Rules**

**Auckland RC, Ellerslie Sires Produce Stakes (G1)** – the race rating of 106 fell below the 107 tolerance threshold for the first time in some years. The field was unusually small and lacked depth outside the top 3 rated horses. It is one of many races whose rating may have suffered

from horses being unable to potentially improve their rating later in the season.

**Wellington RC, Wakefield Challenge Stakes (G2)** - the race rating of 100.5 fell below the 102 tolerance threshold for the first time in some years. The field lacked depth outside the winner and may have been impacted to a degree by horses being unable to potentially improve their rating later in the season.

**Matamata RC, Matamata Breeders Stakes (G2)** - the race rating of 96.5 fell below the 97 tolerance threshold for the first time in some years. Typically, this race has rated in the 104-105 region, well above its required benchmark level of 100. Outside the top 3 placegetters, the field lacked depth and may have been impacted to a degree by horses being unable to potentially improve their rating later in the season.

**Canterbury JC, CJC Welcome Stakes (L)** –the race rating of 91.25 fell slightly below the 92 threshold. This race has been volatile in recent years.

**Canterbury JC, NZ 2000 Guineas (G1)** –the race rating of 111.5 fell slightly below the 112 threshold. The race has consistently flirted with this threshold in recent years but the NZPC is concerned that a number of winners have subsequently rated very highly in their 4yo season. The impact of Covid-19 in affecting the opportunity for horses to potentially improve their rating in the latter part of the season reverberated through the races that they contested earlier in the year.

**Wellington RC, Levin Classic (G1)** –the race rating of 109.5 was clearly below the 112 threshold. The race has consistently flirted with this threshold in recent years. The impact of Covid-19 affected the opportunity for horses to potentially improve their rating in the latter part of the season. That said, the small field of 6 starters lacked depth outside the first 3 home and the race may be better placed in mid-March to remove its proximity to the \$1m Karaka 3yo race. It would provide an autumn target for the numerous horses that do not target the Oaks or Derby.

**Auckland RC, NZ Derby (G1)** – the race rating of 110.75 fell below the 112 threshold. The race has consistently surpassed this threshold in recent years and the NZPC felt that the rating did not perhaps do full justice to the quality of horses contesting the race in what was widely regarded as a strong 3yo crop. The impact of Covid-19 in affecting the opportunity for horses to potentially improve their rating in the latter part of the season reverberated through the races that they contested earlier in the year.

**Hawkes Bay RI, Hawkes Bay Guineas (G2)** –the race rating of 103 was well below the 107 threshold. The race rating has been volatile in recent years. In common with many other 3yo races, the rating may

have been affected to a degree by the impact of Covid-19 on the opportunity for horses to potentially improve their rating in the latter part of the season.

**Waikato RC, Sartan Memorial (G2)** - the race rating of 106.25 was slightly below the 107 threshold. In common with many other 3yo races, the rating may have been affected to a degree by the impact of Covid-19 on the opportunity for horses to potentially improve their rating in the latter part of the season.

**Waikato RC, Waikato Guineas (G2)** - the race rating of 103 was well below the 107 threshold. This followed two very strong prior editions. There were only 6 starters and the first two finishers by some distance were the fillies Two Illicit and Travelling Light. The NZPC questions whether this race has a logical place in the calendar as it clashes with the Sir Tristram Fillies Classic, G2 and is closely followed by the Avondale Guineas, G2 as an increasingly preferred Derby lead-in. It may also detract from having 3yo starters in the International Stakes, G1 which is under some pressure to retain its status.

**Wellington RC, Wellington Guineas (G2)** - the race rating of 105.25 was below the 107 threshold. In common with many other 3yo races, the rating may have been affected to a degree by the impact of Covid-19 on the opportunity for horses to potentially improve their rating in the latter part of the season.

**Wanganui RC, Wanganui Guineas (L)** - the race rating of 88.75 was significantly below the 97 threshold. The race was run on a heavy track and the 9l margin by the winner Cooga Doon heavily impacted the ratings of those horses further back. It remains an important early spring target but has now failed its threshold in two of the last three editions.

**Otago RC, Dunedin Guineas (L)** –the race rating of 95.5 was below the 97 threshold. The top 4 finishers were easily the 4 highest rated horses and it was a weak edition of the race.

**Auckland RC, Galaxy Stakes/Zabeel Classic (G1)** –the race rating of 110 was below the required threshold of 112. This follows a number of years where the race rated well above the threshold and close to the 115 benchmark. While the field had solid numbers, it lacked a couple of the higher rating multiple G1 winners that have bolstered it in the past and would normally be expected in a G1 race. The starters were all well proven, so it is not obvious that Covid-19 had an adverse impact on horses not being able to improve their ratings later in the season.

**Otago RC, White Robe Lodge WFA (G3)** –the race rating of 94.75 was significantly below the 102 threshold. This race has consistently rated amongst the weakest of NZ's G3 races although it had reached

its threshold in the previous two seasons. It has been some years since it rated at the 105 benchmark.

**Auckland RC, Railway (G1)** –the race rating of 110.75 was below the required threshold of 112. This follows a number of years where the race rated at or above the threshold. Analysing the top 4 starters would have just lifted the race to the threshold but this edition was a little light on depth compared to previous years.

**Auckland RC, Avondale Cup (G2)** – the race rated 105.25 versus the threshold of 107. The rating did suffer by being won by the lightly weighted Polzeath. There was solid overall depth and it was notable that the Sydney Cup winner, Etah James finished third.

**Tauranga RC, Japan/NZ International Trophy (G2)** – the rating of 105 was below the 107 threshold. This followed two solid editions in previous seasons. Occasionally this race has suffered from an unseasonable heavy track but this year's edition was run on a dead surface and the field lacked genuine G2 depth.

**Canterbury JC, Winter Cup (G3)** –the rating of 97.75 was well below the 102 threshold. This followed solid editions in previous seasons. While the race attracted 18 starters, there was a slight lack of quality compared to previous seasons, with an average of the top 4 starters also just failing to reach the threshold.

**Marton JC, Marton Metric Mile (G3)** –the rating of 100.25 was below the 102 threshold. This followed solid editions in previous seasons. Looking at the top 4 starters would have seen the race just meet its threshold but it lacked the depth of previous seasons.

**Auckland RC, Concorde Handicap (G3)** - the rating of 100.75 was below the 102 threshold. The small field lacked a degree of depth and it remains to be seen if its placement on Karaka Million night will see the race hold its rating.

**Matamata RC, Matamata Cup (L)** - the rating of 96 was below the 97 threshold. The race was unusually weak due in part to being run on a heavy track.

**Waikato RC, Westminster Handicap (L)** – the rating of 95.75 fell below the threshold of 97. This is likely a one-off weak edition, with the field lacking depth beyond Media Sensation and Ferrando. This race has previously rated very strongly.

**South Canterbury RC, Timaru Cup (L)** – the rating of 94.25 fell below the threshold of 97. This was a weak edition that lacked depth outside of the winner, Who Dares Wins.

**Canterbury JC, South Island Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes (G3)** – the rating of 94.25 fell below the 97 threshold. While the race had 13 starters, it lacked depth. The NZPC notes that this race has consistently been at the weak end of G3 races in the category and that its three year average rating now sits below the threshold at 96.33.

## 5.5 Other Race Comments

**Auckland RC, Uncle Remus Stakes (L)** – raced on Boxing Day over 1400m, this race is an important starting point for summer and autumn 3yo campaigns. It has rated 110.25 and 109.75 in its two editions since being upgraded into the Pattern. This compares to the Group 3 benchmark of 105, so a further demonstration of consistent strength could see it be a candidate for upgrading.

**Auckland RC, Soliloquoy Stakes (G3)** – this spring race for 3yo fillies has continued to rate consistently well, with a Pattern race rating of 106.25 versus the G3 benchmark of 100 and G2 benchmark of 105. However, 3yo fillies are well catered for in the Pattern and this race is not demonstrably superior to existing G2 races at this point.

**Auckland RC, 3YO Salver (Championship Prelude Stakes) (L)** – the NZPC approved a move of this 2100m race from mid-December to 10 January.

**Wellington RC, Desert Gold Stakes (G3)** – this mid-January target for 3yo fillies continues to perform consistently well, with a Pattern race rating of 106.33 versus the G2 benchmark of 105. However, 3yo fillies are well catered for in the Pattern and this race is not demonstrably superior to existing G2 races at this point.

**Wairarapa RC, Wairarapa Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes (L)** – This race has continued to rate consistently well, with a Pattern race rating of 101.58 versus the Listed benchmark of 95 and the G3 benchmark of 100. The NZPC views the race as being best left as a strong Listed race at this point but any further strengthening could see it become a candidate for promotion.

**Taupo RC, 3yo fillies race, mid-August (unlisted)** – the NZPC acknowledges that this race is rating extremely well, with the last three editions being 106.5, 105 and 104.5 compared to a Listed benchmark for 3yo fillies of 95. While the race is very much a stepping-stone and the fillies tend to achieve their best ratings in other races later in the season, its early season placement on generally good track conditions makes it likely to continue to rate well. It will be a strong candidate for promotion when there is room in the Pattern.

## 5.6 Other Decisions and Comments

Where not specifically acknowledged in this report, the NZPC thanks those clubs who made submissions regarding their races.

While the number of races to be run in the 2020/21 season is evolving as the ramifications of the Covid-19 crisis become clearer, the NZPC is concerned that the percentage of Listed races has drifted well above 6%. While these races may be meeting their required tolerance levels, the high percentage may diminish the perception of the quality of NZ black type. Accordingly, the NZPC has requested that a review be conducted either by a Pattern Review Committee or a sub-committee of the NZPC, with a view to rationalising and strengthening the Pattern. It is the NZPC's intention that any changes would only follow significant consultation.

The Asian Pattern Committee is launching a review of its procedures during 2020. NZ looks forward to contributing to this, particularly regarding the ratings applied to 3 year old horses in Australia and NZ and the assessment of staying races.

The NZPC considered and approved a request from the Auckland Racing Club to change several registered race names. The G1 WFA 2000m race on Boxing Day will now be the Zabeel Classic. The G1 WFA 2000m race in early March will now be the New Zealand Stakes. The Championship Stakes Prelude has had several changes over time but will now be known as the Gingernuts Salver. The Alison Stakes will become the Balmerino Stakes.

While the reasons for the changes were accepted in each case, the NZPC did express concern that registered race names should stand the test of time and only occur for particularly strong reasons. The NZPC also strongly suggests that if at all possible, the sponsor's name should be used in conjunction with the registered race name rather than replace it.

## 5.7 Summary of warnings and alerts

Status	Warnings Maintained	Warnings & Alerts Issued	Alerts Maintained	Warnings and Alerts Removed
<b>Group 1</b>	2	0	0	2
<b>Group 2</b>	1	0	2	0
<b>Group 3</b>	1	0	0	3
<b>Listed</b>	1	0	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

## 5.8 Alerts Maintained

G2	Championship Stakes		Auckland RC
G2	Couplands Bakeries Mile		Canterbury JC
L	CJC Champagne Stakes		Canterbury JC
L	CJC Great Easter Stakes		Canterbury JC
L	Dunedin Gold Cup		Otago RC
L	CJC Great Easter Stakes		Canterbury JC

## 5.9 Alerts Removed

G3	Stewards Stakes		Canterbury JC
G3	New Zealand Cup		Canterbury JC
G3	Canterbury Breeders' Stakes		Canterbury JC
L	Jim & John Evans Metric Mile		Counties RC

## 5.10 Warnings Maintained

G1	International Stakes		Waikato RC
G1	Auckland Cup		Auckland RC
G2	Easter Stakes		Auckland RC
G3	Rotorua Cup		Racing Rotorua
L	Riverton Cup		Riverton RC

## 5.11 Warnings Removed

G1	Telegraph		Wellington Racing Club
G1	Thorndon Mile		Wellington Racing Club

## SECTION 6

# 2019-20 NEW ZEALAND CLASSIFICATIONS RACE RATINGS

(including F&M allowance, where relevant)

6.1 Two-Year-Olds		Current	Minimum expected
Ellerslie Sires Produce	G1	106	110
Manawatu Sires Produce	G1	Not run	110
Wakefield Challenge Stakes	G2	100.50	105
Matamata Breeders Stakes	G2	96.50	100
Eclipse Stakes	G2	102.75	100
Taranaki 2YO Classic	G3	99.75	100
Matamata Slipper	G3	103.25	100
Wellesley Stakes	L	95	95
CJC Welcome Stakes	L	91.25	95
Counties Challenge Stakes	L	102.75	95
Karaka Million	L	103	95
Great Northern Champagne	L	Not run	95
CJC Champagne Stakes	L	Not run	95
Star Way 1000-Wentwood Gr.	L	Not run	95
Great Northern Foal Stakes	L	Not run	95
Triton Stakes	L	Not run	95
Ryder Stakes	L	Not run	95
6.2 Three-Year-Olds			
NZ 2000 Guineas	G1	111.50	115
Levin Classic	G1	109.50	115
NZ Derby	G1	110.75	115
NZ 1000 Guineas	G1	108.50	110
NZ Oaks	G1	108.75	110
Hawke's Bay Guineas	G2	103	110
Sarten Memorial	G2	106.25	110
Great Northern Guineas	G2	108.50	110
Waikato Guineas	G2	103	110
Avondale Guineas	G2	107.75	110
Wellington Guineas	G2	105.25	110
Championship Stakes	G2	Not run	110
Eight Carat Classic/Ladies	G2	108.50	105
Royal Stakes	G2	103.25	105
Lowland Stakes	G2	105.75	100
Sir Tristram Fillies Classic	G2	105.75	105
Bonecrusher Stakes	G3	104.50	105

Northland Breeders Stakes	G3	102.75	105
John Griggs Stakes	G3	104.25	105
Wellington Stakes	G3	102.25	105
Mongolian Khan Trophy	G3	103.75	105
Manawatu Classic	G3	Not run	105
Cambridge Breeders	G3	Not run	105
Canterbury Stakes	G3	104.75	105
Eulogy Stakes	G3	101	100
Desert Gold Stakes	G3	107	100
Sunline Vase	G3	103	100
Soliloquy Stakes	G3	106.25	100
Wanganui Guineas	L	88.75	100
Trevor Eagle Memorial	L	103.25	100
Mufhasa Stakes	L	104.75	100
Northern Guineas Prelude	L	103.25	100
Uncle Remus Stakes	L	109.75	100
Gore Guineas	L	97.75	100
Karaka 3YO Mile	L	110.75	100
Dunedin Guineas	L	95.50	100
Southland Guineas	L	95.75	100
Sir Colin Meads Trophy	L	104.25	100
Trudy Thompson Memorial	L	95.50	95
Canterbury Belle Stakes	L	98.50	95
Oaks Prelude	L	97.75	95
NZ Bloodstock Insurance	L	Not run	95
NZ Bloodstock Airfreight	L	95.25	95
Warstep Stakes	L	Not run	95

### 6.3 Three Years & Older

Hawke's Bay Challenge Stks	G1	114.25	115
Horlicks Plate	G1	113	115
Ormond Memorial	G1	113	115
Captain Cook Stakes	G1	112.50	115
Galaxy Stakes	G1	110	115
International Stakes	G1	109.75	115
Waikato Sprint	G1	113.50	115
Otaki Maori WFA	G1	112.75	115
Second Century Stakes	G1	112.50	115
Railway Handicap	G1	110.75	115
Telegraph Handicap	G1	112	115
Thorndon Mile	G1	112	115
Auckland Cup	G1	108.75	115

NZ Thoroughbred Breeders	G1	Not run	110
Foxbridge Plate	G2	115	110
Thames Valley Stakes	G2	110.75	110
Manawatu Challenge Stakes	G2	109.75	110
Couplands Bakeries Mile	G2	103.25	110
ARC Rich Hill Mile	G2	107	110
Avondale Cup	G2	105.25	110
Japan/NZ International T.	G2	105	110
Awapuni Gold Cup	G2	Not run	110
Easter Stakes	G2	Not run	110
Auckland TB Breeders Stks	G2	106.75	105
Lady Norrie Stakes	G2	104.25	105
Westbury Classic	G2	106.50	105
Dulcie Stakes	G2	Not run	105
Arawa Stakes	G3	107.75	105
Alison Stakes	G3	108.75	105
Canterbury Gold Cup	G3	Not run	105
Winter Cup	G3	97.75	105
Marion Metric Mile	G3	100.25	105
G R Kelt Memorial	G3	107.75	105
Thompson Handicap	G3	104	105
Stewards Stakes	G3	103.75	105
New Zealand Cup	G3	103.50	105
Counties Cup	G3	103.25	105
Great Northern Challenge S.	G3	108	105
Concorde	G3	100.75	105
Waikato Gold Cup	G3	104	105
FC Johnstone Handicap	G3	108	105
Manawatu Cup	G3	105.75	105
City Of Auckland Cup	G3	105.50	105
Trentham Stakes	G3	107.25	105
Anniversary Hcp	G3	106	105
Wellington Cup	G3	102.50	105
Taranaki Stakes	G3	107.25	105
Darley Plate	G3	108.75	105
Rotorua Cup	G3	Not run	105
White Robe	G3	94.75	100
Canterbury Breeders Stakes	G3	99	100
Cuddle Stakes	G3	106.25	100
South Island Breeders Stks	G3	94.25	100
Manawatu Breeders Stakes	G3	Not run	100
Rotorua Stakes	G3	Not run	100
NZ St Leger	L	101	100
AG Challenge Stakes	L	Not run	100
Jim & John Evans Metric M.	L	104.75	100
Matamata Cup	L	96	100

Rotorua Challenge Plate	L	98.75	100
Spring Classic	L	97.50	100
Feilding Cup	L	98.50	100
Westminster Handicap	L	95.75	100
Metropolitan Trophy	L	101.50	100
Pegasus Stakes	L	103.25	100
Counties Bowl	L	107.50	100
Levin Stakes	L	99.40	100
Newmarket Hdcp	L	106	100
James Hazlett Stakes	L	97.75	100
Timaru Cup	L	94.25	100
Marton Cup	L	103	100
Timaru Stakes	L	101.25	100
Dunedin Gold Cup	L	95.50	100
Kaimai Stakes	L	100	100
Lightning Handicap	L	103.25	100
Flying Handicap	L	Not run	100
Riverton Cup	L	Not run	100
Hawkes Bay Cup	L	Not run	100
City of Napier Sprint	L	Not run	100
CJC Geo. Adams (Tattersall)	L	Not run	100
Anzac Handicap	L	Not run	100
CJC Great Easter Stakes	L	Not run	100
Marton 1600	L	Not run	100
Wanganui Cup	L	103.50	100
Opunake Cup	L	Not run	100
Wairarapa TB Breeders Stks	L	100.25	95
Tauranga Classic	L	Not run	95

**Nb.** The right-hand column (Minimum expected) is the expected rating figure for that grade of race. All races have a 3lb tolerance which must be attained at least once every 3 seasons to avoid down-grading.