

## Rated At The Time Of Series (RATTOS) – Concept Document

As well as the large focus on age group and feature racing following the change in horses' birthday, HRNZ is committed to ensuring an appropriate level of opportunities and targets for those horses below the leading lights that generate so much of the income for the sport.

In an effort to create "goal" races for those horses that regularly make up the fields at venues throughout New Zealand, the architect team has developed a series of restricted races that will provide appealing targets, at elevated stake levels but not come at too much cost to the industry.

For the purposes of this concept the country will be split into three regions with races for Rating Horses up to R60 (or a rating to be determined) at time of qualifying commencement. The three regions are: North Island, Greater Canterbury, South of the Waitaki River (SOTWR).

The series of races commence in 2022, with four series in the North Island, six series in Greater Canterbury, four series South Of The Waitaki River. These series will be for four-year-old and older open sex and mares – pacers and trotters. All RATTOS race series races will be run for an estimated stake between \$14,000-\$20,000. The stake of the races will be based in the existing level of funding, then factoring in the budgeted top up of \$5000 per race.

The conditions and application of this series will be determined by the nature of eligibility. Initially this will be an HRNZ funded scheme. Longer term it is envisaged if this is run as a NZSSB administered race series, then work will be required to determine the optimum payment structure. Initially mooted as a \$150-\$300 entry fee payable as a December 3YO or older horse, prior to the commencement of the year in question.

The proposed make-up of the targeted racedays is listed below. The intention is to spread events between clubs, times of the season and also ensure an appropriate mix of venues.

### OPEN RATING RACE FINALS

**North Island:** 2x Waikato BOP Harness, (3 pacing races, 1 trotting race)

**Greater Canterbury:** 1x Methven TC, 1x Rangiora TC, 1x Ashburton TC (3 pacing races, 2 trotting races)

**South Of The Waitaki River:** 1x Winton HRC, 1x Invercargill HRC (3 pacing races, 1 trotting race)

#### Pacing Finals - three races

Top 42 pacing qualifiers (or 39 if track safety number permits) for each pacing series will be split by ratings. Each race will have a maximum of 14 starters and be a Preferential Barrier Draw based on Rating.

#### Trotting Finals - two races Greater Canterbury, one race in North Island and SOTWR

Top 28 trotting qualifiers for each pacing series will be splits by ratings. Each race will have a maximum of 14 starters and be Special Handicaps, determined in advance.

### MARES RATING RACE FINALS

**North Island:** 2 x Waikato BOP Harness (2 pacing races, 1 trotting race)

**Greater Canterbury:** Ashburton TC, Methven TC, Rangiora HRC (2 pacing races, 1 trotting race)

**South Of The Waitaki River:** Invercargill HRC, Winton HRC (2 pacing races, 1 trotting race)

### **Pacing Finals – two races**

Top 28 pacing fillies and mares' (or 26 if track safety number permits) qualifiers for each series are splits by ratings. Each race will have a maximum of 13 starts and special hcp.

### **Trotting Final – one race**

Top 14 trotting fillies and mares' qualifiers for each series are splits by ratings. Each race will have a maximum of 14 starts and be a Special Handicap.

The RATTOS racing series represents 52 races with \$5000 funding per race.

### **QUALIFICATION:**

- For horses aged four-year-old and older.
- Horses will accrue points in relation to the starts they have over the qualification period linked to their performance.
- To be eligible to contest a RATTOS Final a horse must have had a minimum of **three** starts in the region it is competing over the qualifying time period.
- All race winners (R rated) shall be ranked ahead of non-race winners (MR rated)
- To determine the finalists the appropriate number of top-ranked horses per series are determined then split into fields of either 13 or 14, depending on track safety limits.
- Each individual race series will include all horses eligible that are Rated R60 and below (including non-win and unqualified horses).
- Each start a horse has within the qualification period is multiplied by the number of wins (x1), and the number of seconds (x0.5), number of thirds (x0.33) and number of fourths (x0.25). The four figures are then aggregated to give a RATTOS score, which will place the horse in the RATTOS rankings at the conclusion of the qualifying period.
- A start and end qualifying date will be entered into the database and updated points reports will be generated by HRNZ.
- In the event of a tie for any position that will be decided by counting back to the horse with highest rating, if a tie still exists then the horse with the most lifetime wins

Horses will be able to compete in more than one concurrent inter-regional series, providing they satisfy the qualification criteria.

Should any Open or Mares series be run concurrently then any mares would only be permitted to contest one RATTOS final.

This is an initial concept document and much more work is required, including liaison with clubs, sharpening up series details and conditions.

### **SUPER RATINGS FINALS DAY**

In association with the RATTOS Ratings days through the country, there will be a Ratings Final Day or 'Super Day' linked into the conclusion of the Country Championship at Addington on 16 April.

This Ratings Final Day will play host to six \$30,000 feature races for the same group of horses as above. There will be four Open Pacing races and two Open Trotting races.

These races will be conducted using the same base conditions as above, including being limited to 4YO & Older horses. Mares will not be split apart from male horses for the purposes of this event.

Super Finals Day consists of six races that are subject to an additional \$10,000 funding per race.

## **REVIEW**

One of the key issues to consider when looking to implement new races and series is whether they can successfully blend into the fabric of the existing racing pattern/structure.

If the result of introducing new series means horses are denied racing opportunities, then that must be measured against the greater good created by the additional opportunities at higher stake levels for those fortunate enough to qualify for the respective finals/races.

The more races that are introduced the harder it is to blend them into the existing racing structure. HRNZ must be careful not to flood meetings with new races, which will detract from the normal/standard opportunities that are available to run-of-the-mill horses.

The longer lead-in there is to these proposed series the more bedded in the changes to the Handicapping System will be, thus creating less inequality within the Ratings of the horses competing.

We must also bear in mind that the current or future R60 rating level will be a greater than what been the case previously, moving forward. With horses not rising in rating for their first win, essentially horses require an extra win to get the R60.

The aforementioned rating adjustment must be taken into account when consideration Country Cups races and the above series will be running together for larger parts of the racing year.

*Footnote: RATTOS is a working title and is subject to change, along with the naming of the higher funded "super finals" day.*