

26th June 2019

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Ratings Handicapping System – ‘No Discretion’ Trial (July – September 2019)

In the months of July, August and September 2019, the Ratings Handicapping System will see a trial of ‘No Discretion’.

This trial, approved by the HRNZ Special Committee on 26th June 2019, is designed to remove the uncertainty for connections around their horse’s rating points and to alleviate the perceived inconsistencies with the application of discretion.

The ‘No Discretion’ trial will also further simplify the Guiding Principles of the Ratings Handicapping System, which is a positive by-product of the change.

Complementing the trial is the Race Winners’ Matrix, which will determine the amount of points each race winner will receive excepting any applicable concessions. The Matrix will allow industry participants to know exactly how many rating points each winner will receive.

Within the ‘No Discretion’ Trial, there will be no discretion available for unplaced (6th to last) Non-Win and up to R60 horses; they will drop a standard one point.

Notwithstanding this is a trial of no discretion, there does remain a small element of discretion provided for out-of-form horses rated above R60 that have had three unplaced starts (6th to last) since last winning or being re-rated. Horses that meet the aforementioned criteria are able to be dropped additional points.

There have also been minor changes to the concessions that apply to fillies and mares, 2YOs and 3YOs, while the rating caps for 2YO and 3YO pacing and trotting fillies have been reduced.

The current trial of enhanced 2YO concessions will run in conjunction with the ‘No Discretion’ Trial.

The full updated Guiding Principles are available online at hrnz.co.nz under [Official Information](#), along with the Race Winners’ Matrix.

There will be an interim review in early September, which will determine what steps will follow the initial ‘No Discretion’ Trial.

Andrew Morris
Handicapper