

RATINGS HANDICAPPING SYSTEM

Guiding Principles:

Effective 1 August 2020

These Guiding Principles are subject to ongoing review by the Handicapping Working Group & HRNZ Board.

A. GENERAL

1. The Ratings Handicapping System is designed to treat all horses as fairly as possible & to provide a fluid racing environment so horses can compete against those of similar ability.
2. These Guiding Principles of the Ratings Handicapping System operate in conjunction with the Handicapping Regulations.
3. All qualified horses start with a rating of 50 points.
4. Lowest possible rating is 40 points for non-winner & winners.
5. Highest possible rating is 120 points.
6. Non-winners will be displayed as an 'MR' followed by their rating points.
7. Race winners will be displayed with an 'R' followed by their rating points.
8. Any winning points are added to a horse's existing rating.
9. Any reference to 'stake' means to the total race stake advertised, as per the Official Programme.

B. RACE WINNERS

1. Winners of totalisator races receive a maximum of eight points.
2. A 2YO male horse winning its first totalisator race will not be rated above R50 but may be re-rated up to four points, if rated below MR50, except if said horse wins a Group or Listed race, in which case it will be rated above R50. For subsequent totalisator wins 2YO males will incur a four-point penalty.
3. A 2YO filly winning its first totalisator race will not be rated above R50 but may be re-rated up to three points, if rated below MR50, except if said horse wins a Group or Listed race, in which case it will be rated above R50. For subsequent totalisator wins 2YO fillies will incur a three-point penalty.
4. A 3YO male horse will receive a five-point penalty for every win, except where the Race Winner' Matrix prescribes fewer points & be capped at a maximum of R54 following its first totalisator race win.
5. A 3YO filly will receive a four-point penalty for every win, except where the Race Winner' Matrix prescribes fewer points & be capped at a maximum of R53 following its first totalisator race win.
6. 4YO & older Male winners of non-win (MR) totalisator races (or a horse winning its first race) will receive eight points to a maximum rating of R54.
7. 4YO & older Mare winners of non-win (MR) totalisator races (or a horse winning its first race) will receive seven points to a maximum rating of R53.
8. All race-winning 4YO & older male horses will be rated in accordance with the Race Winners' Matrix.
9. All race-winning 4YO & older mares will be subject to a 1-point concession from the Race Winners' Matrix up to a Rating of R70. Wins by mares rated above R70 will be rated in accordance with the Race Winners' Matrix.
10. Horses that have won two or more totalisator races (including Rating Penalty Free races) will not be permitted to drop to a Rating lower than R45.
11. These Guiding Principles run in conjunction with the Race Winners' Matrix as at 1 August 2020. *See the HRNZ Official Documents page.*

C. PLACED OR UNPLACED HORSES

1. Horses placing second, third, fourth or fifth in an Official Race will have no change made to their Rating, except for those horses that finish fifth in fields with eight starters or less that are not Group or Listed races who will lose one rating point.

2. Unplaced (sixth to last & also fifth in a race with eight starters or less that is not a Group or Listed race) Non-Win (MR) and up to R60 race-winning horses will lose one (1) point.
3. Handicappers may re-rate unplaced horses (5th to last) up to a maximum of three points if the horse in question is rated from R61 to R80 and has had three unplaced starts since its last win or re-rating.
4. Handicappers may re-rate unplaced horses (5th to last) up to a maximum of three points if the horse in question is rated from R81 to R99 & has had two unplaced starts since its last win or re-rating.
5. Unplaced (5th to last) horses rated R100 or greater may be re-rated by the Handicappers up to a maximum of three points.
6. *For the purposes of re-rating horses rated above R60, Handicappers may treat unplaced horses as those placing 5th to last, not 6th to last.*

D. OTHER CONDITIONS & EXEMPTIONS

1. Winners of Junior Driver Only Rating Penalty Free races or races won that carry a Rating Penalty Free status if driven by a Junior Driver condition, receive no re-rating penalty. A horse shall only win one such Rating Penalty Free drivers' race in its career. These concessions are reserved for horses that are 4YO & older. *Refer to point 10 of the Handicapping Regulations for more information.*
2. There are no Ratings concessions for Invited Drivers races, other than those races/series specifically exempted by the HRNZ Board. Special drivers' series races (World Drivers Championship) may be Rating Penalty Free, at HRNZ Board discretion.
3. Claiming horses racing in Claimers only races receive no point increases. Horses placing sixth to last will be treated in line with the Guiding Principles.
4. Claiming horses may start in any race within their own rating band, if they are within the conditions of the said race. Claiming conditions may also be added to Ratings races.
5. 2YO Trotters – no male shall be rated higher than R65. No filly shall be rated higher than R60.
6. 2YO Pacers - no male shall be rated higher than R75. No filly shall be rated higher than R70.
7. 3YO Trotters - no male shall be rated higher than R85. No 3YO filly shall be rated higher than R80.
8. 3YO Pacers - no male shall be rated higher than R95. No filly shall be rated higher than R90.
9. Racing Clubs will have the ability to programme races based on conditions: i.e. non-winners, winners of one race, money won, unplaced, age etc.
10. Dead-heats – no points increases by horses dead-heating for first in an Official Race. A non-winner that dead-heats for first race shall remain a non-winner (MR).
11. Official Non-Tote races - these will be rated under Guiding Principles; however the Rating of these races will be subject to Handicappers' Discretion.
12. Any non-winner (MR) winning an Official Non-Tote race up to a stake of \$5,000 will remain a Non-winner for Handicapping purposes.
13. The only races permitted to be run as Official Non-Tote races up to \$2000 will be 2YO trotting races.
14. As per the Handicapping Regulations 2YO horses may compete in 2YO only races without being qualified, as long as they have passed to the satisfaction of a Stipendiary Steward at the starting method for the particular race they have entered.
15. Should a 2YO race prior to being qualified it will not carry a Rating until such time that it is qualified.
16. Disqualified Horses: in the event a horse is disqualified for any reason other than a racing incident it shall be re-rated to receive 0 (zero) Rating points for the race that it concerns.
17. Horses racing as Claimers will be subject to a Rating Review on 1 August & 1 February. To be eligible for a Rating Review, a Claimer must have been registered as such for a constant period of no less than three months prior to the re-rating date & raced as a claimer for a minimum of three starts within a similar period. Horses that have been claimed within that period & not re-registered as claimers will not be considered for re-rating. Horses claimed within said period & re-registered as a claimer with 14 days of being claimed will be considered for re-rating. Claimers whose ratings are reviewed are not guaranteed to be re-rated.
18. Imported or returning horses from overseas will be re-rated by the Handicapper as if they had raced in New Zealand under the Ratings system.
19. Any horse returning to racing from an elongated break (over four months) may be eligible for re-rating by the Handicappers, upon application by connections.
20. At the end of each racing season horses identified by the Handicappers as being rated as uncompetitive or considered to be disadvantaged in relation to other horses may be subject to re-rating.