

# RATINGS HANDICAPPING SYSTEM

## Guiding Principles:

Effective 2 August 2021

These Guiding Principles are subject to ongoing review by the 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. Any horse winning its first totalisator race will not incur any rating penalty (points increase) but will lose its MR (Non-Winners) rating, which will be replaced by an R (Race Winners) rating.
3. A 2YO male winning its first totalisator race as a Group or Listed race will incur a four-point penalty.
4. A 2YO filly winning its first totalisator race as a Group or Listed race will incur a three-point penalty.
5. A 3YO male winning its first totalisator race as a Group or Listed race will incur a five-point penalty.
6. A 3YO filly winning its first totalisator race as a Group or Listed race will incur a four-point penalty.
7. All subsequent wins to a 2YO male horse's first totalisator race win will incur a four-point penalty.
8. All subsequent wins to a 2YO filly's first totalisator race win will incur a three-point penalty.
9. All subsequent wins to a 3YO male horse's first totalisator race win will incur a five-point penalty.
10. All subsequent wins to a 3YO filly's first totalisator race win will incur a four-point penalty.
11. All race-winning 4YO & Older male horses will be rated in accordance with the Race Winners' Matrix.
12. All race-winning 4YO & Older mares will be subject to a one-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.
13. 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.
14. These Guiding Principles operate in conjunction with the Race Winners' Matrix as at 2 August 2021. *See the HRNZ, Official Documents web page.*

### C. PLACED OR UNPLACED HORSES

1. A horse placing second, third or fourth in an Official Race, which is not a Group or Listed race will have no change made to its Rating.
2. A horse placing fifth to last (including all other official placings) in an Official Race, which is not Group or Listed race will lose one rating point.
3. A horse placing second, third, fourth or fifth in an Official Race, which is a Group or Listed race will have no change made to their Rating.
4. A horse placing sixth to last (including all other official placings) in an Official Race, which is Group or Listed race will lose one rating point.

5. Handicappers may re-rate unplaced horses (5th to last, including Group and Listed races) 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.
6. Handicappers may re-rate unplaced horses (5th to last, including Group and Listed races) 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.
7. Unplaced horses (5th to last, including Group and Listed races) rated R100 or greater may be re-rated by the Handicappers up to a maximum of three points.

#### **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 winning Claimers Only Races receive no re-rating penalty. All other placegetters will be treated in line with Section C of 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, at the approval of HRNZ.
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 rating penalty increases will be given to 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: will be rated in line with the Guiding Principles. However, the Rating of these races may 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 a stake of \$2000 will be 2YO trotting races.
14. As per the Handicapping Regulations 2YO horses may compete in 2YO only races without being qualified, if they have passed to the satisfaction of a Stipendiary Steward at the starting method for the 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.