

POINTS HANDICAPPING SYSTEM TRIAL IN THE NORTH ISLAND

1 AUGUST 2016

As notified last month, HRNZ is to trial the introduction of a Points based Handicapping system in the North Island from 1 August 2016.

Over the last month there have been some minor changes to the proposed system as previously outlined, based on further consideration and industry feedback. HRNZ has and continues to give priority to amending its computer systems to cater for this, which will be run parallel to the existing system in the South Island.

Pleasingly progress has been made in developing the computer systems to cater for this and new ratings assessments for all horses that have raced in the North Island in 2015/16 will be advised in early July.

Outlined below are the latest Guiding Principles for the Points system. It is stressed that these continue to be reviewed in the development of the new system. As this process moves through towards implementation, some anomalies are being found that are subject to minor change to ensure a more effective system at commencement of the trial.

Proposed Guiding Principles:

- All horses start with a rating of 50 points
- Lowest possible rating is 35 points
- Maximum possible rating is 130 points
- Winners of races < \$9K will receive 8 points
- Winners of races >= \$9K will receive 10 points
- Winners of premier races (\$20K minimum) will receive between 10 - 12 points
- Winners of Group/Listed races will receive between 10-15 points
- Handicapper discretion to vary any winner's points allocation
- Placed (2nd, 3rd, 4th) horses receive 0 points - though discretion for Handicapper to vary rating up or down if warranted
- Unplaced horses (5th to last) will lose at least 1 point
- Handicapper discretion to decrease losing horses up to 3 points if warranted
- Winners of junior or invited drivers races receive half points - minimum of 4 points
- A horse can win one such drivers' race in its career at half points
- 2YO's racing their own age group in races up to \$15K receive half points - minimum of 4 points
- 2YO's will still be eligible for this concession if nominated for a 2YO race and transferred to another race
- 3YO's will receive half points for every second win in races for stakes under \$15K - minimum of 4 points
- Fillies and Mares racing their own sex in races up to \$15K receive half points - minimum of 6 points
- Claimers racing in Claimers only races receive no points - up or down
- Claimers can start in any race within their own rating band if in the conditions of the said race
- Clubs will still have the ability to programme races based on some conditions, ie maiden races (non-winners), winners of one race.

- Special drivers' series races (World Drivers Championship) can be exempt for points at HRNZ Board discretion
- Deadheats – points halved between deadheaters
- Any owner/trainer unhappy with the Handicapper's points allocation following a race can appeal in writing to HRNZ's Chief Executive who will co-ordinate a review by the Northern Handicapping Review Group (Rob Lawson, John Green, Darrin Williams)

Reassessment of the Current Horse Population:

- All non-exported horses that have raced in the North Island in the 2015/16 season will be reassessed by the end of June 2016
- To be undertaken by Andrew Morris and Kevin Smith - peer reviewed by the Northern Handicapping Review Group as per above
- Horses given a points rating from their last win or reassessment - equating C0 with 50 points, C1 with 58 points, C2 with 66 points, C3 with 73 points, C4 with 80 points, C5 with 86 points, C6 with 92 points, C7 with 97 points, C8 with 102 points, C9 with 106 points and OC with 110 points. OC major race winners may be rated higher
- Ratings will also be produced based on the Guiding Principles commencing from a horse's first race start. These two numbers (ratings) created will act as the starting point for ratifying or re-rating the horse population
- Any South Island horse looking to travel to North Island can contact HRNZ at any time to get their assessed points rating
- List of all horses' points to be maintained on HRNZ website - pending full development (automation) within HRNZ Infohorse system
- During North Island trial, HRNZ Infohorse will effectively maintain concurrently horses' assessments per the current Handicapping system

Concession Junior Drivers Claim System

- Horses driven by Junior drivers declared at time of nomination will be able to compete in races below their rating band as follows:
 - Junior has 0 to 10 career wins - 6 points rating claim
 - Junior has 11 - 20 career wins – 4 points rating claim
 - Junior has 21 to 30 career wins - 3 points rating claim
 - Junior has 31 to 50 career wins - 2 points rating claim
- Horses still receive full points allocation from the race
- Details and practicalities of this to be reviewed in July 2016