

**09/05/2023**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE N.Z. HARNESS RACING RATING SYSTEM FOR HANDICAPPING 2023**

**Purpose of the review:**

To conduct a thorough review of the current Handicapping system with the view of improving horse utilisation by;

- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the system and whether it is being used to its potential or not.
- Find solutions to the weaknesses to make the system more robust and fit for purpose.
- To give confidence to our participants that the system is fair.

**Outcome required:**

**To achieve the fairest and most equitable method of handicapping to ensure competitive racing throughout the country for all horses.**

HRNZ has appointed an independent working group to review the Handicapping system who will present the group's findings to the Board. The Board has requested representation from each HRNZ region to be on the Working Group.

**Independent Working Group:**

<b>Independent Chair Rob Lawson</b>
NI Rep- Jay Abernethy
Seddon Shields Rep- Tony Thomas
North of Waitaki/Canterbury Rep/ - Darrin Williams
Canterbury TDA Rep- Regan Todd
South of Waitaki Rep – Nathan Williamson

**Others to be consulted with:**

Andrew Morris	Handicapper
Kevin Smith	NI Handicapper
Various	Those involved in current programming e.g. Karen Blanchard, Jason Broad, Brian Rabbitt etc
Cameron Kirkwood	HRNZ Liaison
	Horse utilisation working group

Others as required to ensure appropriate industry representation	To be determined by Working Group
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**Process:**

Working Group to meet and do SWOT analysis of current handicapping system
<i>Check point: double check with HRNZ team to confirm / challenge and finalise the validity of findings with the group</i>
Communicate findings to wider participants on current status
Work through possible solutions to weaknesses, opportunities, and threats
Consult on possible solutions to wider participants
<i>Check point: check with HRNZ impact of any possible solutions with regards to necessary changes to regulations, IT Systems and Finance systems</i>
Finalise review paper and recommendations to the Board at July meeting

**Other considerations to be considered:**

Horse numbers	Tension between highly and lowly populated horse regions
Programming	Conditions v changes to ratings
Stakes	All levels impact on where horses race and why
Age Group Concessions	

**Costs** – any reasonable costs of the review to be met by HRNZ.

**Impact on Rules and Regulations and IT requirements** – it is imperative that changes required to HRNZ Rules and Regulations, IT or Finance Systems are identified and assessed as this could impact implementation dates.

**Timeframe Review to be presented to the HRNZ Board meeting July 18th 2023 (to be confirmed).**