

RATINGS HANDICAPPING SYSTEM

Guiding Principles:

Effective 1 August 2024

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 fairly & 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 & 35 points for race winners (R rated).
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.
10. The racing season refers to 1 January to 31 December.

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 - subject to clauses 3, 4, 5, and 6 in this section.
3. A 2YO male winning its first totalisator race as a Group or Listed race will incur a five-point penalty.
4. A 2YO filly winning its first totalisator race as a Group or Listed race will incur a four-point penalty.
5. A 3YO male winning its first totalisator race as a Group or Listed race will incur a six-point penalty.
6. A 3YO filly winning its first totalisator race as a Group or Listed race will incur a five-point penalty.
7. All subsequent wins to a 2YO male horse's first totalisator race win will incur a five-point penalty or fewer if specified by the Race Winners Matrix.
8. All subsequent wins to a 2YO filly's first totalisator race win will incur a four-point penalty or fewer if specified by the Race Winners Matrix.
9. All subsequent wins to a 3YO male horse's first totalisator race win, unless Group or Listed, will incur a six-point penalty or fewer if specified by the Race Winners Matrix. Group & Listed races will be rated per the Race Winners' Matrix.
10. All subsequent wins to a 3YO filly's first totalisator race win, unless Group or Listed, will incur a five-point penalty or fewer if specified by the Race Winners Matrix. Group & Listed races will be rated per the Race Winners' Matrix, taking into consideration the mares' concession up to R70.
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 & Group or Listed race-winning 3YO Fillies will be subject to a one-point concession from the Race Winners' Matrix, up to a Rating of R70, excepting races run for an advertised stake of \$8,000 or less, where no fillies and/or mares' concession will apply. Wins by mares rated above R70 will be rated in accordance with the Race Winners' Matrix.
13. These Guiding Principles operate in conjunction with the Race Winners' Matrix as of 1 August 2024. *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, unless the field has six starters or less, in which case the fourth placed horse will drop one point.
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, unless the field has six starters or less, in which case the fifth placed horse will drop one point.
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 & Listed races) up to a maximum of three points if the horse in question is rated from R55 to R70 & has had three unplaced starts since its last win or re-rating.
6. Handicappers may re-rate unplaced horses (5th to last, including Group & Listed races) up to a maximum of three points if the horse in question is rated from R71 to R89 & has had two unplaced starts since its last win or re-rating.
7. Unplaced horses (5th to last, including Group & Listed races) rated R90 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 per racing season. 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 (Championships) may be Rating Penalty Free, at HRNZ Board discretion.
3. 4YO & older race-winning horses winning a race with an advertised stake greater than \$8,000, driven by a Junior Driver with 50 career wins or less (at the start of that race day) will receive half the rating penalty, unless the win results in a Rating Penalty Free win, which takes precedence. The prescribed half penalty concessions are as follows: races worth 7 or 8 points to the winner discounts to 4 points, 5 or 6 points discounts to 3 points, 3 or 4 points discounts to 2 points, 2 points discounts to 1 point, there is no discount for a 1-point win.
4. 4YO & older race-winning horses winning a totalisator race driven by a Junior Driver in races with an advertised stake of \$8,000 or less will receive a Rating Penalty reduction from the standard five-point penalty (see Race Winners' Matrix). The reduced penalties are as follows: for Junior Drivers that have zero to 25 career wins (at the start of that race day) a two-point reduction in rating penalty will apply. For Junior Drivers that have 26 or more career wins (at the start of that race day) a one-point reduction in rating penalty will apply - unless the win results in a Rating Penalty Free win, which takes precedence. There will be no fillies or mares' concession applied to totalisator races with an advertised stake \$8,000 or less.
5. Additional Rating Penalty Free conditions may be applied to races for race-winning horses aged 3YO & older, in extraordinary circumstances. Such conditions will only apply to Extraordinary Rating Penalty Free races, as approved by the HRNZ Board or Heats & Finals Conditions. *Refer to point 12 of the Handicapping Regulations for more information.*
6. 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.
7. 2YO Trotters – no male shall be rated higher than R65. No filly shall be rated higher than R60.
8. 2YO Pacers - no male shall be rated higher than R75. No filly shall be rated higher than R70.
9. 3YO Trotters - no male shall be rated higher than R85. No 3YO filly shall be rated higher than R80.
10. 3YO Pacers - no male shall be rated higher than R95. No filly shall be rated higher than R90.

11. Clubs will have the ability to programme races based on conditions: i.e., non-winners, winners of one race, money won, unplaced, age etc.
12. 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).
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. The only races permitted to be run as Official Non-Totes up to a stake of \$2,000 will be 2YO trotting races.
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. 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.
18. 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.
19. On 1 August & 1 January each year horses identified by the Handicappers as being rated uncompetitively or considered to be disadvantaged in relation to other horses may be subject to re-rating.