

Policy: 602.3
Effective: 1 April 2010
Revised: 27 April 2010
Subject: Graduation Class and Penalty Free Programming
Reference: *HRNSW Board Meeting – 29 January 2010*
Australian Handicapping Rules
Harness Racing Act 2009
HRNSW Board Meeting – 27 April 2010

GRADUATION CLASS AND PENALTY FREE PROGRAMMING

1. PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

- 1.1 This policy outlines the manner in which Graduation “R” and Penalty Free events are to be programmed at TAB and non-TAB meetings.
- 1.2 This policy has been updated as a result of the change to the national handicapping rules that require a horse to take a “R” penalty for a “C” class win and to minimise short price favourites
- 1.3 The policy ensures that the Graduation and Penalty Free system provides a genuine avenue for out of form horses and those of lesser ability, while still giving owners of superior horses an opportunity to maximise their returns

2. AUTHORITY

The overall responsibility for the application of this policy rests with each individual race club. HRNSW shall take all steps required to ensure that this policy is known, understood and applied.

3. PRINCIPLES

The following Graduation / Penalty Free races may be programmed:

- 2R0
- 2R1+ (with a condition)
- 3R0 (with a condition)
- 3R1+ (with a condition)
- R0 (with a condition)
- R1+ (selected/divided by HRNSW handicappers)
- Claimer (claiming price)
- Heats using R class for qualification into a final carrying a C class penalty

4. REVIEW NOTES

The review of Graduation and Penalty Free programming was primarily undertaken for two reasons:

- (i) To eliminate the prevalence of very short priced favourites
- (ii) To encourage better horses through the C class system while not limiting their earning capacity in Graduation / Penalty Free races due to the changes to the national handicapping rules

Fundamental to accomplishing this outcome is:

- (i) Placing conditions on all age and R0 races (with the exception of 2R0 as it is not required)
- (ii) Programming a standard R1+ which will be selected and or divided (depending on the respective requirements) at the discretion of the HRNSW handicappers for the purpose of:
 - (a) Providing the best possible wagering product
 - (b) Encouraging “form” horses into C class races as they will always be eligible for an R1+ regardless of how many of those C class races they win

5. TIER 3 GRADUATION MEETINGS

From 1 July 2010, TAB race meetings funded at Tier 3 prize money levels will:

- (i) Consist only of \$3,000 “R” races except in the case of a programmed “Final”, which may carry a “C” penalty. The additional funds for such race(s) will be supplied by the Club and cannot be offset by reducing prize money of the remaining “R” races.
- (ii) Include 1% unplaced prize money (\$30).