

## **HRNSW RACE PROGRAMMING & HANDICAPPING – GUIDELINES (FROM 1 JANUARY 2020)**

The purpose of the Race Programming & Handicapping Guidelines is to facilitate transparency in relation to the programming, handicapping and field selection of races conducted in New South Wales. These Guidelines are to be read in conjunction with other HRNSW Racing Policies and relate to Menangle Midweek, A, B, C Classification & Non TAB Meetings.

### **PROGRAMMING**

#### **Standard Eight (8) Race Program – A, B & C Classification Meetings**

The following races may formulate a standard race program:

##### **2YO**

On rotation within a Region:

- 0 lifetime wins, or;
- no more than 1 lifetime win, or;
- no more than 2 lifetime wins, or;
- open to all 2YO's.

***No Driver Concessions & No Mares Concessions***

from time to time races are to be written for Fillies and/or Colts & Geldings

##### **3YO**

On rotation within a Region:

- 0 lifetime wins, or;
- 3YO with no more than 1 lifetime win, or;
- 3YO with no more than 1 win this season, or;
- 3YO up to 55.

***No Driver Concessions & No Mares Concessions***

from time to time races are to be written for Fillies and/or Colts & Geldings

##### **3YO+**

- 0 lifetime wins
- no more than 2 lifetime wins

***No Driver Concessions & No Mares Concessions***

#### **HRNSW Rewards Series Heats & Finals**

##### **4YO+**

On rotation within a Region:

- 0 lifetime wins, Also eligible horses whose only wins are in a HRNSW Rewards Series Heat – up to a Maximum of 2 wins.

***No Driver Concessions & No Mares Concessions***

#### **Fillies & Mares**

On rotation within a Region:

- Fillies & Mares Up to 60, Up to 63, Up to 65

***Driver Concessions Apply***

## Open Age

Set races based on the following thresholds:

- Up to 45, Up to 47, Up to 48, Up to 49, Up to 50, Up to 53 & Up to 55.

### ***No Driver Concessions & No Mares Concessions***

- Up to 57, Up to 60, Up to 63, Up to 65, Up to 67, Up to 70, Up to 75, Up to 80, Up to 90, Up to 120.

### ***Dual Concessions Apply***

## **Claimers in Ratings Events**

Connections can nominate their Claiming horse with a price of \$3,500 or \$5,000 in the Up to 60, Up to 63, Up to 65, Up to 67, Up to 70, Up to 75, Up to 80, Up to 90 Ratings Points races (depending on the individual race meeting program) through HarnessWeb and are to advise their horses' Claiming Price in the Comments Box (i.e. \$5,000 Claiming Price).

\$3,500 Claimers will be considered for both eligibility and in the Barrier Draw as a horse with 60 National Rating Points

### ***No Driver Concessions & No Mares Concessions***

\$5,000 Claimers will be considered for both eligibility and in the Barrier Draw as a horse with 65 National Rating Points

### ***No Driver Concessions & No Mares Concessions***

Claiming Events Claiming Race Programming in the Metropolitan Area will remain unchanged with ***No Driver Concessions & No Mares Concessions***:

- Menangle Tuesday Claiming Price of \$14,000 (GST Inclusive) (PBD/\$L5)
- Menangle Tuesday Claiming Price of \$9,000 (GST Inclusive) (PBD/\$L5)
- Penrith Thursday Claiming Price of \$6,000 (GST Inclusive) (PBD/\$L5)
- Bankstown Friday Claiming Price of \$6,000 (GST Inclusive) (PBD/\$L5)

## **Trotters in Pacing Races**

### 50 or less remain the same number of National Rating Points

Trotters with National Rating Points of 50 or less will be considered for both Race Field Selection and in the Barrier Draw at the same number of points (i.e. a Trotter with National Rating Points of 47 can nominate for an Up to 55 National Rating Points race and will be considered as a 47 National Rating Points horse). **Driver & Mare Concessions are not Applicable**

### 51 to 90 reduced to 50 National Rating Points

Trotters with National Rating Points between 51 and 90 will be considered for both Race Field Selection and in the Barrier Draw as a horse with 50 National Rating Points. (i.e. a Trotter with 86 National Rating Points can nominate for an Up to 55 National Rating Points race and will be considered as a 50 National Rating Points horse). **Driver and Mare Concessions are not Applicable.**

### 91 to 120 reduced by 40 National Rating Points

Trotters with National Rating Points between 91 and 120 will receive a 40 point reduction with respect to Race Field Selection and in the Barrier Draw. (i.e. a Trotter with 100 National Rating Points can nominate for an Up to 69 National Rating Points race and will be considered as a 60 National Rating Points horse). **Driver and Mare Concessions are not Applicable.**

## **SEMI FEATURE EVENTS**

Club Semi Feature Events may be programmed at race meetings (where the prizemoney and trophies exceed \$2,000 over the base prizemoney – includes Heats for Finals) and in such cases these races will replace the same Ratings event on the program. In these instances the barrier draw will be indicated prior to the close of nominations.

## **FIELD SELECTION**

- Race Series covered under separate HRNSW, Club or Futurity Policies will be selected in line with such Policies.
- All Race Fields (excluding Feature Events (see definition below), Futurities and races approved from time to time by HRNSW) are to be selected based on dollars won in the last five (5) starts.
  - A Classification Meetings are to be exclusively selected top down.
  - B Classification Meetings are to be selected on an alternate basis between top down and bottom up.

However, with respect to race field selection in any event programmed with a back between 30 and 55:

- a) In the first instance the starters and ballots will be decided based on dollars won in the last five (5) starts (i.e. there are 34 nominations, the highest 30 earners in the last five (5) starts will be the starters), then;
  - b) from highest to lowest based on National Rating Points Fillies & Mares will be drawn into fields against other Fillies & Mares, then;
  - c) from highest to lowest based on National Rating Points Colts, Entires & Geldings and Fillies & Mares that were not selected in the Fillies & Mares event will be drawn into fields
- If there are multiple horses on the same National Rating Points for the last position in a race field then horses shall be ranked based on dollars won in the last five (5) starts in descending order (highest to lowest).

### Exclusions

- Horses having their first start are guaranteed a start at A, B, C & Non-TAB Classification Meetings in races conducted for the base prizemoney (i.e. \$6,500, \$6,000, \$4,500 and \$2,000).

### Feature Events

- A Feature Event is a race valued at \$50,000 or more.
- Feature Events are to be selected by the HRNSW Handicapping Panel as below.
  - a) The HRNSW Handicapping Panel will refer to the following information when making their selections:
    - I. The best credentialed horses
    - II. Class of race contested
    - III. Class of opposition in races contested
    - IV. Current figure form

b) Further consideration may be made in accordance with:

- I. Margins beaten
- II. Mile rate (relative to the track)
- III. Interference received

c) Multiple stable runners can be drawn as the only selection criteria is overall form.

d) The HRNSW Handicapping Panel's selections will be peer reviewed by a three (3) person Panel consisting of the Chief Executive, the Chief Steward and the Manager – Industry Development prior to the determination of the final field. *A Peer Review must be undertaken by a minimum of two (2) persons.*

### All Meetings

Ten (10) Starters will be drawn into every mobile start race.

Twelve (12) Starters will be drawn into every standing start race.

### Emergencies

Emergencies are drawn into races where there is only one Division of the race conducted.

## **CONCESSIONS**

### **Driver Concessions**

Driver Concessions can be used in all races, except;

- a) 2YO races
- b) 3YO races
- c) HRNSW Rewards Series
- d) Where the back of the race is 55 National Rating Points or lower
- e) Where it is stipulated in the race conditions that they do not apply

A Concession **MUST** be made when nominating the horse in HarnessWeb.

If you assign a Concession Driver and the Concession NOT claimed dot is highlighted **then a Concession will not be Claimed.**

To Claim a Concession with an assigned driver simply assign your Driver and Select Concession Claimed and your Concession will be Claimed based on the Number of Points your Driver can Claim.

To Claim a Concession without an assigned driver Select Concession Claimed and then select the number of Points you wish to Claim.

Search Driver

Driver Details

Concession

- Concession NOT claimed
- Concession claimed

Concession Claim

–
3
5

101 to 250 Claimed Wins  
0 to 100 Claimed Wins

Driver Concessions in NSW are based on the following table:

*Term 7 years from attainment of an initial B Grade Drivers.*

**Races ≤\$14,999**

Ratings Deduction	Driver
5	0-100 total wins
3	101-250 total wins

**Mares Concessions**

A mare receives a Ratings deduction of 5 points in all races, except;

- a) 2YO races
- b) 3YO races
- c) HRNSW Rewards Series
- d) Where the back of the race is 55 National Rating Points or lower
- e) Where it is stipulated in the race conditions that they do not apply

*A mare's concession is automatic in all races where a claim can be applied.*

A mare can utilise a double claim in all eligible races by having a Concession Driver engaged.

*For example:*

*A mare nominates for a \$6,500 race and has 75 Ratings Points, she will automatically drop to 70 with a mares concession and then connections engage a driver that has won 160 races meaning she will drop another 3 Ratings Points. She will therefore be assessed as a 67 rating horse.*

**BARRIER DRAWS**

Barrier Draws are to rotate between:

- a) Preferential Barrier Draw Ratings Points (PBD/NR),
- b) Random Barrier Draw (RBD),
- c) Preferential Draw Sex (PBD/SEX),and;
- d) Preferential Barrier Drawn based on dollars won in the last 5 starts (PBD/\$L5).

The Barrier Draw will be stipulated in the race program.

*An example of a Preferential Barrier Draw Ratings Points (PBD/NR) is as below:*

*An Up to 69 National Rating Points race is drawn as follows:*

Draw	Rating
1	62 (67 rated Mare)
2	63
3	64 (74 rated Mare with a 5 Rating Deduction Driver)
4	64
5	65 (\$5,000 Claiming Price)
6	65
7	68
8	68 (73 rated horse with a 5 Rating Deduction Driver)
9	68
10	69 (72 rated horse with a 3 Rating Deduction Driver)

## **NOMINATIONS/ACCEPTANCES**

All nominations **MUST** be lodged via HarnessWeb, no other form of nominating will be accepted.

Trainers who do not have the digital capacity to nominate may however do so through the Club Secretary who will email the nominations to the HRNSW Handicappers fifteen (15) minutes prior to the close of nominations. These persons must make application to and be approved by HRNSW in the first instance.

**Note:** HRNSW Handicappers will not accept nominations direct from Trainers who must utilise HarnessWeb, Club Secretaries.

Connections will be limited to nominating an individual horse for a maximum of two (2) races at a meeting.

Connections are encouraged to leave a preference in HarnessWeb for one race over the other.

Trainers must declare Concession Driver Claims when nominating, no Concession Driver Claims will be accepted after the close of nominations.

Connections will be able to view the nominations on HarnessWeb for a period of 30 mins prior to accepting for a race (between 9:30am and 10:00am).

Horses cannot be SCR from the meeting, however can be withdrawn from one (1) race if nominated in two (2) races.

### **Stable Doubles**

If a trainer does not want to start two horses in the same race then it **MUST** be noted in the comments box when nominating.

*For example:*

A trainer who has multiple horses nominated for a race and who doesn't want their horses to race against each other **MUST** note in the comments box "only 1 runner" and indicate which horse is preferred to start.

## **SPLITTING OF RACES**

Owner, Trainer and Driver multiples are not considered when splitting races, the only consideration is National Rating Points. All horses will be selected based on their dollars won in the last five (5) starts and then split into races based on their National Rating Points (horses with an unfulfilled engagement will only gain a start after all horses that do not have an unfulfilled engagement are listed as starters).

**Note:** A trainer with two or more horses nominated for a race will be obliged to start all horses selected in a Division if they are grouped together based on National Rating Points, unless the trainer has submitted a note in the comments section of HarnessWeb.

*For example:*

*A trainer nominates for an Up to 55 Rating Points event*

<b>Division 1</b>		<b>Division 2</b>	
<b>Horse</b>	<b>Ratings Points</b>	<b>Horse</b>	<b>Ratings Points</b>
<i>A</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Trainer Jones</i>		<i>Trainer Jones</i>	
<i>B</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>E</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>Trainer Jones</i>		<i>Trainer Jones</i>	
<i>F</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>G</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>Q</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>H</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>I</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>J</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>47</i>

In this example Trainer Jones has requested in the comment box only one (1) starter in each Division.

Horse **A** would be included in Division 1 and Horse **E** is removed.

However due to Trainer Jones's Horse **E** being removed Horse **K** would be elevated from Division 2 up to Division 1 but Horse **K** also would be removed due to Trainer Jones requesting only one (1) starter.

Trainer Jones's horse **O** would however gain a start in Division 2.

Trainer Jones may stipulate the order in which of his four horses he would prefer to gain a start in the first instance.

### **Note:**

A second division may only be conducted to assist with a standard eight (8) race program or if funded from the Unplaced Unfunded Prizemoney Fund.

Notwithstanding the above examples, races selected Bottom Up will be in the opposite order to such examples.

## **SPLITTING OF HEATS FOR FINALS**

Horses will be selected based on dollars won in the last five (5) starts and then split based on National Rating Points.

*For example:* Twenty horses are nominated which will require two fields and thus the horse with the highest National Rating Points will be drawn in Heat 1 and second highest National Rating Points in Heat 2 etc.

Heat 1	Heat 2
1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8
9	10
11	12
13	14
15	16
17	18
19	20

*For example:* Thirty Horses are nominated which will require three fields and thus these will be split as follows:

Heat 1	Heat 2	Heat 3
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15
16	17	18
19	20	21
22	23	24
25	26	27
28	29	30

The same methodology would be adopted for additional Heats (Four, Five or Six).

**Note:** For Heats into Finals the use of the comment box to provide for only one horse per Heat will not be an option for trainers.

## **EXTENSION OF NOMINATIONS**

Nominations are to be extended for individual races only, not the entire meeting.

When nominations are extended HRNSW will send Trainers within the Region a SMS as per the below example:

HRNSW: Penrith nominations extended until 12:00pm (time may vary) for codes PEC15051802 (7 nominations received) & PEC15051805 (6 nominations received)

Trainers who wish to enter a horse are able to nominate via HarnessWeb within the prescribed time or further necessary extension.

Club Secretaries will **NOT** be provided with a printout of horse nominations, they will be provided with the number of horses nominated for each race and the names of trainers who regularly race at the track who have not nominated.

Club Secretaries may make direct contact with trainers to attract additional horses when insufficient horses are nominated for individual races.

Club Secretaries must nominate horses electronically via email to the HRNSW Handicappers prior to the close of extended nominations.



All late nominations will be considered for a start in line with the Race Field Selection Policy, which stipulates the original nominations are assured a start.

*For example:*

There were seven (7) original nominations for the Up to 49 Ratings Points event. Five (5) late nominations are received within the extension period. The Handicappers will select the three (3) remaining starters from the five (5) late nominations based on dollars won in the last five (5) starts.

### **DELETED RACES**

Where a race is deleted from a programme trainers will be given the opportunity to nominate their horse(s) in another race on the programme (which may be out of class), if that race has position(s) available. This will be undertaken by the Club Secretary in order of Ratings Points from the horses nominated in the deleted race.

*For example:*

The HRNSW Rewards Series Heats with five (5) nominations is deleted from the programme. These horses would be eligible to compete in the Up to 55 National Rating Points race which has nine (9) nominations. The Club Secretary would be provided with the list of eligible horses from the deleted race in Rating Points order (highest to lowest).

Horse A	49
Horse B	48
Horse C	46
Horse D	44
Horse E	43

The Club Secretary would then contact the trainers in order commencing with Horse A (the highest on Rating Points) until the position is taken in the field. A maximum 10 minutes will be allowed for contact and decision before the Club Secretary will proceed to the next horse in order. Therefore it is possible that the trainer of Horse C may take the position after a period of 20 minutes if the trainers of Horses A and B decline the opportunity.

The Club Secretary will not be provided with the names of those horses nominated in the Up to 55 National Rating Points race.

### **STANDARD RACE MEETINGS**

Eight (8) races constitutes a standard race meeting (other than where indicated in the Race Dates Calendar), however additional 'guaranteed' races may extend the number of races to ten (10), taking into consideration the 10.30pm curfew for night meetings.

### **GENERAL**

#### **Ballots**

Where a horse has been balloted from a race in NSW which is conducted for the base prizemoney and is selected based on Highest to Lowest dollars won in the last five (5) starts that horse will be guaranteed a start at the next nomination in a base prizemoney funding race. Tabcorp Park Menangle and Feature Races (above base funding) are not included. An unfulfilled engagement is not classified as a ballot.

*For example:* Horse 'Jones' is nominated for Penrith on July 5 and is not selected in a field and is nominated at Penrith on July 12 it will be guaranteed a start at the July 12 meeting.

#### **Prior Commitment**

Horses which are not engaged at a meeting held prior to the meeting being formed will be given preference at that meeting over horses which have an unfulfilled engagement other than races which carry prizemoney of \$15,000 or more.

*For example:* Horse 'Jones' is engaged at Penrith on July 5 or Bankstown on July 6 therefore it will not be drawn into a field at Menangle on July 10 before another horse which is not engaged in either Penrith or Bankstown. Naturally if there are insufficient nominations horse 'Jones' if nominated would be selected in the Menangle field.

## Review

These Guidelines are under continuous review with stakeholders and may be amended by HRNSW if necessary after further consultation.

## National Rating Points Matrix (from 1 September 2019)

Race Stake \$	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th - Last
0 - 3,000	2	0	0	0	0	-1
3,001 - 4,999	3	1	0	0	0	-1
5,000 - 8,499	4	1	0	0	0	-1
8,500 - 14,999	5	1	0	0	0	-1
15,000 - 49,000	6	2	1	0	0	-2
50,000 +	7	2	1	0	0	0

## Rating Review Team

Harness Racing Australia has instigated a Rating Review Team.

The Rating Review Team meets on an as needs basis to discuss any issues that have been raised by stakeholders with respect to the National Rating Points implementation.

Any change to the Australian Handicapping Rules may require an amendment to these guidelines.

**HRNSW has proposed the following to the Rating Review Team for Harness Racing Australia Executive consideration:**

### *Imported Horses*

Imported horses are to be assessed the same as Australian horses:

1. Assessed to 30 April 2019 based on the former Australian Handicapping Rules and then adjusted based on the last five (5) race starts.
2. The Rating is then adjusted based on each start from 1 May 2019.

### *2YO & 3YO Commencement Points*

- 2YO's commence on 35 points.
- 3YO's commence on 45 points.

# NSW PRIZEMONEY DISTRIBUTION

28 June 2019

HARNESS Racing New South Wales has today announced that the percentage prizemoney distribution for non-futurity races will be altered as of July 1 to accommodate the introduction of the National Rating Handicapping System.

As the National Rating Handicapping System attracts rating points for the second-placed horse and in races with prizemoney above \$15,000, the third-placed horse also attracts rating points a redistribution of the prizemoney was required.

The National Rating Handicapping System also allows for prizemoney through to the fifth-placed horse as horses through to fifth do not receive a reduction in rating points.

Prior to the implementation date of the percentage redistribution HRNSW only provided prizemoney above 2 per cent through to the fourth-placed horse therefore an adjustment to the distribution was also required.

The prizemoney distribution for races up to \$50,000 will be as follows:

- First 52%
- Second 18%
- Third 12%
- Fourth 6%
- Fifth 4%
- All other starters 2% each

The percentage prizemoney distribution for futurity races such as the NSW Breeders Challenge, Bathurst Gold Crown and Australian Pacing Gold or races \$50,000 and above are not affected by this decision of the HRNSW Board.

<b>\$6,500</b>							
<b>Place</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Prizemoney</b>	<b>Owner \$</b>	<b>Trainer \$</b>	<b>Driver \$</b>	<b>Driver Fee</b>	<b>Total</b>
1st	52.00%	\$3,380.00	\$2,886.00	\$253.50	\$169.00	\$71.50	<b>\$3,380.00</b>
2nd	18.00%	\$1,170.00	\$952.25	\$87.75	\$58.50	\$71.50	<b>\$1,170.00</b>
3rd	12.00%	\$780.00	\$611.00	\$58.50	\$39.00	\$71.50	<b>\$780.00</b>
4th	6.00%	\$390.00	\$269.75	\$29.25	\$19.50	\$71.50	<b>\$390.00</b>
5th	4.00%	\$260.00	\$156.00	\$19.50	\$13.00	\$71.50	<b>\$260.00</b>
6th	2.00%	\$130.00	\$58.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$71.50	<b>\$130.00</b>
7th	2.00%	\$130.00	\$58.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$71.50	<b>\$130.00</b>
8th	2.00%	\$130.00	\$58.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$71.50	<b>\$130.00</b>
9th	2.00%	\$130.00	\$58.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$71.50	<b>\$130.00</b>
10th	2.00%	\$130.00	\$58.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$71.50	<b>\$130.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102.00%</b>	<b>\$6,630.00</b>	<b>\$5,167.50</b>	<b>\$448.50</b>	<b>\$299.00</b>	<b>\$715.00</b>	<b>\$6,630.00</b>