

## **HRNSW RACE HANDICAPPING – GUIDELINES April 3 2020**

The purpose of the Handicapping Guidelines is to facilitate transparency in relation to the 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.

### **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 be selected based on dollars won in the last five (5) starts.  
If there are multiple horses on the same (dollars last 5) for the last position in a race field then horses shall be ranked based on (National Ratings Points)

### Exclusions

- Horses having their first three starts 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). Excluding 2yo Races

### 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.

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*

d) Further consideration may be made in accordance with:

- IV. Margins beaten
- V. Mile rate (relative to the track)
- VI. Interference received

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

f) 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.

## **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) Where the back of the race is 55 National Rating Points or lower
- d) 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.*

### Three Year Olds Concessions

Three year olds will be able to claim a deduction of 5 National Rating Points when racing in open age events.

A floor of 50 rating points has been implemented – whereby a 3yo shall not drop below 50 rating points in races when the concession is applied.

3yo Concession can be claimed in races below 55 Rating Points (unless otherwise stated)

3yo concession can be claimed in conjunction with a Driver or Mares claim but not both. Therefore the maximum concession that can be claimed is 10 rating points.

*A 3yo concession is automatic in all races where a claim can be applied.*

## 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 Dollars won in the last five starts (\$L5). All horses will be selected based on their dollars won in the last five (5) starts and then split into races based on their Dollars won in the last five starts (\$L5) (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, Dollars won in the last five starts (\$L5) unless the trainer has submitted a note in the comments section of HarnessWeb.

### **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.

## **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.

### **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. Excluding Trotters receiving a ballot from a Menangle Midweek meeting they will be guaranteed a start at their next nomination at a Menangle Midweek meeting (This excludes Foundation Trot heats). 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.

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### **APPROVED AUSTRALIAN HANDICAPPING RULE AMENDMENTS (Effective 9 March 2020)**

#### **National Rating Points Matrix**

<b>Race Stake \$</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>6th-Last</b>
0-2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
2,001-3,499	1	0	0	0	0	-1
3,500-4,999	2	0	0	0	0	-1
5,000-5,999	3	0	0	0	0	-1
6,000-9,999	4	0	0	0	0	-1
10,000-14,999	5	1	0	0	0	-1
15,000-49,999	6	2	1	0	0	-2
50,000+	7	2	1	0	0	0

#### **Ratings Exempt Races upon importation**

It was approved that the ratings exempt races in overseas jurisdictions will not be considered as ratings exempt in Australia for the purpose of determining a horse's rating.

#### **-2 Drop back**

It was approved to modify the -2 drop back provided to horses who finish 6<sup>th</sup> to last in \$15000 to \$49999 category races to be restricted according to the rating of the horse at the time of before the race.

Accordingly, the -2 provision shall be provided for according to the following table.

<b>Horse National Rating</b>	<b>30 - 55</b>	<b>56 - 69</b>	<b>70 - 120</b>
<b>Reduction</b>	0	-1	-2

#### **Two Year Old starting point**

It was approved to modify the commencement points of 2yo horses to 35 points rather than 40 points upon entering the racing population.

#### **Three Year Old Concession**

It was approved that State Governing Bodies (SGB) may be permitted to program races which provide a five (5) ratings point concession to 3yo horses when they compete against open aged horses. In addition a floor of 50 points will also be implemented – whereby a 3yo shall not drop below 50 ratings points if the concession is applied in such races.

#### **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.



# 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>