

HRNSW HANDICAPPING – GUIDELINES – Effective 1 January 2021

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 ALL meetings other than Metropolitan classification meetings.

FIELD SELECTION

Automatic Field Selection Points

- All races at Metropolitan meetings and races with a value of \$30,000 or more will NOT be selected by Automatic Field Selection Points.
- Fields for all other races will be selected in accordance with the Automatic Field Selection Points (field selection points)
- Fields will be selected in descending points score order (from the top down)
- Horses earn field selection points in accordance with the following table
- ***Field Selection Points***

| Placing | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10+ |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| Points | 10 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

- A bonus of four (4) points is added to a horse's Field Selection Points for all Metro races
- A horse will be awarded six (6) field selection points if it is balloted. These ballot points will be treated as a points scoring performance and will replace such horse's current lowest point scoring performance of their last five starts. This will not be applicable under the following scenarios:
 - *A manual field selection race*
 - *When a horse has an unfulfilled engagement*
 - *A race selected in ascending points score order*
 - *When a horse is a late nomination*
 - *When a horse is deemed ineligible at acceptance time*
 - *When a horse is balloted from a race having gained a start in another race on the same day*
 - *When a horse is balloted from a race having already been balloted from another race on the same day*
 - *If the horse is declared an emergency but is scratched prior to declaration of final scratching's*
- If the race is declared a 'no-race' or is abandoned
- These points will be credited to a horse's field selection points total after the running of the race meeting from which the horse has been balloted
- When a horse qualifies to race it will be initially allotted a point's score of 24 points (4 gifted starts x 6 points). The points score of a newly qualified horse will then be calculated in the same manner as for a horse with a racing history, that is, by considering the horse's last five points scoring performances and discarding the least points scoring performance so that the total of the remaining four points scoring performance becomes the points score used in the Automatic Field Selection
- In the event of two or more horses being equal with the same points score, a countback will determine which horse gains a start, with preference given to the horse which earned the highest points at its last start. If both/all horses earned the same points, this procedure will be repeated through each previous start. If both/all horses cannot be separated, a random ballot will be determine which horse/s gain a start.
- For any field selected under the Automatic Field Selection System, with more than one horse being on 24 points, unraced horses will take preference over horses also on 24 points who have had one or more race starts.
- Horses without an engagement will be selected in a field in preference to horses with an unfulfilled engagement other than races which carry prizemoney which exceeds \$14,500 and races conducted at Metropolitan classification meetings.

Metropolitan Classification Meeting

A Metropolitan classification meeting is a meeting conducted at Tabcorp Park Menangle or at another NSW track sanctioned by HRNSW from time-to-time.

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 minimum of two (2) people from a four (4) person Panel consisting of the Chief Executive, the Chief Steward, Manager - Integrity and the Manager – Industry Development prior to the determination of the final field.

CLUB FEATURE EVENTS

Club Feature Events may be programmed at race meetings where the prizemoney exceeds \$14,500 (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.

All Meetings

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

Fourteen (14) Starters will be drawn into every standing start race.

Emergencies

Emergencies will only be drawn into races where the prizemoney exceeds \$14,500.

SPLITTING OF RACES

Owner, Trainer and Driver multiples are not considered when splitting races.

- All races up to a National Rating of 55 will be split on dollars won in the last 5 starts (\$L5)
- Races with a National Rating above 55 will be split by National Ratings (with the exception of the Metropolitan area)
- Races with a National Rating above 55 in the metropolitan area (Penrith, Bankstown, Goulburn & Menangle Mid-week meetings) will be split on dollars won in the last 5 starts (\$L5)

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

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 Licence.

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.

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.

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 (provided it is designated in the race program of 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 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)
- All other meetings 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.**

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.

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.

EXTENSION OF NOMINATIONS

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

When nominations are extended HRNSW may send Trainers within the Region a SMS.

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

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 directly 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.

DRIVER DECLARATIONS

Drivers where possible are to be declared at the time of nominations. Concession Drivers are to be declared the day following the release of the fields. Dual drivers in a race are to be declared no later than 10.30am two days prior to the day of the race meeting.

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 nine (9), taking into consideration the intended near 10.30pm curfew for night meetings.

Review

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

APPROVED AUSTRALIAN HANDICAPPING RULE AMENDMENTS (Effective 9 March 2020)

National Rating Points Matrix

| Race Stake \$ | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | 6th-Last |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| 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 |

* Note: A horse that finishes 6th to last in a race with stakemoney in the range of

\$15,000 - \$49,999 shall have its Rating adjusted as follows:

- (a) NR 30-55 adjusted by 0 rating points,
- (b) NR 56-69 reduced by -1 rating point,
- (c) NR 70-120 reduced by -2 rating points.

National 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.