

METROPOLITAN HANDICAPPING SYSTEM

This handicapping system for the Metropolitan Meetings conducted at Tabcorp Park Menangle will be in place for a minimum trial period of three months during which it will be assessed against these quantifiable measures:

- Wagering turnover and prices as compared to the period July to September 2016;
- Field sizes and nominations as compared to July to September 2016; and
- Stakeholder satisfaction and participation.

The handicapping system is based on the total earnings of the nominated horses in their last five starts (excluding MO win dollars in the last five starts) which will determine the race, of four probable races, in which the horse will be drawn.

The dollars earned in their last five starts (excluding MO win dollars in their last five starts) will also provide the barrier draw order.

The handicapping system, which has the support of the majority of the trainers who regularly compete at Tabcorp Park Menangle, also allows only for a maximum ten starters in each mobile start race as well as a single starting line (no horses to commence from the second row).

The handicapping system was initially proposed by the United Harness Racing Association (UHRA) primarily representing trainers and drivers and was subsequently tested by HRNSW before being considered by the members of the Harness Racing Industry Consultation Group (HRICG).

The HRICG comprises representatives from the UHRA, the NSW Breeders and Owners Associations as well as the NSW Harness Racing Club (Club Menangle), other TAB Clubs and the Clubs which conduct less than five meetings.

CONDITIONS

1: Nominated horses will be banded into divisions (races) based on the prizemoney earned last 5 starts in a descending order with the exclusion of MO first prize money won in the last 5 starts.

2: The races will be identified as Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4. If sufficient nominations are received races titled Level 5 and Level 6 may be included on the race programme (at the discretion of the conducting Club).

3: To be eligible to compete in the lowest Level conducted at the Metropolitan meeting horses must have had their four (4) most recent race starts in NSW.

4: Each of the divisions will consist of 10 starters and 2 emergencies which will be also drawn into the fields. The 2 emergencies will be drawn in the next lower Level.

- 5: All starters will commence from the front row of the mobile barrier.
- 6: All divisions will be drawn based on dollars earned in the last 5 starts (Note Condition 10) in descending order (12 down to 1).
- 7: Horses drawn as emergencies must take the place of a withdrawn horse up to the official scratching time of 9.00am on the day of the race meeting.
- 8: The nominations for the entire race meeting will not be displayed for consideration by participants.
- 9: In the event of an extension of nominations for a particular race nominated horses cannot be withdrawn.
- 10: The win prize money earned when winning a MO race in the last 5 starts will not be considered in either field selection or barrier selection.
- 11: In the event there is a Mares only race programmed and conducted all mares will be considered for the Mares race in the first instance.
- 12: Mares will receive a 20% discount on prize money earned in the last 5 starts with respect to barrier draw only.
- 13: An eligible Concession Driver will be given a 20% discount on prize money earned in the last 5 starts in respect to barrier draw only, however, the use of a Concession Driver must be notified at the time of the nomination. (The 20% discount will not be applied until after the horse has been allocated into a Level)
- 14: Only one 20% discount on prize money earned in the last 5 starts will be permitted.

PRIZE MONEY

- 15: Prize money for each Level is as follows:

Level 1 - \$30,000
Level 2 - \$22,000
Level 3 - \$14,000
Level 4 - \$11,000
Level 5 - \$8,000
Level 6 - \$7,000

16: Where another Feature race is programmed (and conducted) which offers prize money of \$30,000 or more at Tabcorp Park Menangle or at another NSW track for horses assessed M1 or better within two days of a meeting the Levels of prize money will be as follows:

- Level 1 - \$24,000
- Level 2 - \$18,000
- Level 3 - \$14,000
- Level 4 - \$11,000
- Level 5 - \$8,000
- Level 6 - \$7,000

In such circumstances it is possible that only the first three Levels of races will be conducted.

17: The prize money split for races conducted under this handicapping system only will be as follows:

- 1st - 50%
- 2nd - 18%
- 3rd - 12%
- 4th - 6%
- 5th - 4%
- 6th - 2%
- 7th - 2%
- 8th - 2%
- 9th - 2%
- 10th - 2%

RACE DISTANCES

18: Races will be contested over the 1609 metres distance, however, as near as possible taking Feature races into account, the 2300 metres distance will be contested on a near to three to one cycle.

OTHER RACES AT METROPOLITAN MEETINGS

19: All other mobile start races at the Metropolitan meeting will have maximum fields of 10 plus two emergencies where nominations allow inclusive of Trotters races. Emergencies will be permitted to scratch in accordance with HRNSW Policies and Procedures and not be compelled to start.

20: In all other mobile races all starters will start from the front row inclusive of Trotters.

21: The nominations for the entire race meeting will not be displayed for consideration by participants. In the event of an extension of nominations for any race on the programme the originally nominated horses cannot be withdrawn.

22: Other grades of races such as MO, Mares (on rotation), Trotters, C3 to 5 and Aged and established Feature races will continue to be programmed. Horses can be nominated for the Metro System races and if drawn in those races (top 42) these events will take precedence other than mares (Note Condition 11).

OTHER RACES AT OTHER TABCORP PARK MENANGLE MEETINGS

23: If there is an excess number of horses nominated for the Metropolitan meeting but races are not drawn to accommodate these horses, said horses will be drawn into races (size of field not less than 8 horses) to be conducted on the next following Midweek meeting (at the discretion of the NSW Harness Racing Club). These proposed fields will be notified to the respective trainers as soon as practicable. In such circumstances trainers will be allowed the absolute discretion of remaining in those drawn fields up to the close of nominations for that particular Midweek meeting. No other horses will be added to these notified races unless those horses nominated and failed to gain a start at the immediately preceding Metropolitan meeting. The prize money for these races will be the equivalent of the standard prize money offered at the Midweek meeting. The maximum field size will be 12.

24: Claiming Races will not be programmed at Metropolitan meetings however a single race up to a claiming value of \$15,000 will be programmed at all Tabcorp Park Menangle Midweek meetings.

25: Fields sizes and barrier configurations for mobile events at Midweek Tabcorp Park Menangle meetings will continue to include 12 horses for pacers and 14 horses for trotters.

In adopting this Handicapping System it has been acknowledged by the UHRA & HRICG that total overall wagering turnover may be at risk however to balance that possibility competitive racing inclusive of a reduction in prohibitive odds-on favourites and stakeholder satisfaction is the optimum outcome.

***HRNSW at its absolute discretion may amend or alter these Conditions.**

HOW IT WORKS

RACE FIELD SELECTION CRITERIA

Events are open to all horses.

Horses will be ranked based on the prizemoney won in the last five (5) race starts less any prizemoney won when winning a MO event in the last five (5) race starts.

Level 1

Ranked 1st to 10th plus horses ranked 11th and 12th as emergencies

Level 2

Ranked 11th to 20th plus horses ranked 21st and 22nd as emergencies

Level 3

Ranked 21st to 30th plus horses ranked 31st and 32nd as emergencies

Level 4

Ranked 31st to 40th plus horses ranked 41st and 42nd as emergencies

To be eligible for Level 4 events a horse must have had its last 4 starts in NSW.

All emergencies are compelled to race in the highest Level when there is a scratching, inclusive of the lowest Level.

PRIZEMONEY THRESHOLDS

	Prizemoney	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th-10th
Level 1	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$5,400	\$3,600	\$1,800	\$1,200	\$600
Level 2	\$22,000	\$11,000	\$3,960	\$2,640	\$1,320	\$880	\$440
Level 3	\$14,000	\$7,000	\$2,520	\$1,680	\$840	\$560	\$280
Level 4	\$11,000	\$5,500	\$1,980	\$1,320	\$660	\$440	\$220

BARRIER DRAWS

Barrier draws for all events are based on PBD/\$L5 (preferential barrier draw based on prizemoney won in the last five (5) starts).

Horses will receive the following concessions in the Barrier Draw (but will not move from the respective Level):

Mares 20% discount on prizemoney won in the last five (5) starts

Concession Drivers 20% discount on prizemoney won in the last five (5) starts

Mares cannot obtain a 40% concession with a Concession Driver.