

## **METROPOLITAN HANDICAPPING SYSTEM – AMENDMENTS**

The primary discussion amongst stakeholders in relation to a recent review of the Metropolitan Handicapping System was for the introduction of a weekly race for M1 horses.

During this discussion supplementary amendments were put forward and discussed and they are to be trialled between the months of April and June.

### **M1 Races**

There will be one (1) M1 event programmed every week for \$20,000.

*Where there is also a Mares race programmed and a Mare is dually nominated, a Mare will be drawn in the Mares race in the first instance.*

The top 10 prizemoney earners in the last five (5) starts (plus one (1) emergency) will be drawn into the field.

There are no Mares or Driver Concessions.

The 50% discount for a M0 win in the last five (5) starts does not apply.

The Barrier Draw will be PBD/\$L5.

Balloted M1 horses (these are the horses with prizemoney in the last five (5) starts below 10<sup>th</sup> on the list of acceptors) will be drawn into the Metropolitan Handicapping System.

### **Metropolitan Handicapping System**

*Where there is also a Mares race programmed and a Mare is dually nominated, a Mare will be drawn in the Mares race in the first instance.*

### **Field Selection**

- Step 1: Process 25% discount for all horses with a Concession Driver claim.
- Step 2: Process 25% discount for all Mares (A Mares Concession will not occur if a Concession Driver claim was used in Step 1).
- Step 3: Process 50% discount for horses that won a M0 event in their last five (5) starts.
- Step 4: Process 50% discount for horses that won a M1 event in their last five (5) starts.
- Step 5: Divide horses into separate fields of ten (10), plus one (1) emergency, according to the revised prizemoney won in the last five (5) starts.

### **Barrier Draws**

- Step 1: Barrier Draw positions are based on the revised prizemoney won in the last five (5) starts.
- Step 2: The horse drawn in the widest position in the Level below will be drawn as an emergency in the race above, in Barrier 1.

## Prizemoney Thresholds

The existing Metro prizemoney levels are \$30,000, \$22,000, \$14,000 & \$11,000.

With the introduction of the M1, on known outcomes, there will be only three (3) divisions of the Metro System.

The existing total prizemoney allocation for four (4) Divisions is \$77,000, which with the M1 prizemoney set aside (\$20,000) will allow for \$57,000 prizemoney inclusive of a \$30,000 race, therefore a balance of \$27,000.

HRNSW & Club Menangle will provide supplementary prizemoney of \$7,000 during the Trial Period for the top three divisions. Where there is an alternate \$30,000 race at Tabcorp Park Menangle or an Open feature race at another Track, the top level prizemoney for the Metro System will be \$20,000.

The prizemoney during the three (3) month Trial Period is therefore:

- April 7    Level 1 = \$30,000, Level 2 = \$20,000 & Level 3 = \$12,000  
April 14    Level 1 = \$20,000 & Level 2 = \$12,000 *Renshaw Cup @ Penrith (\$50,000)*  
April 21    Level 1 = \$20,000 & Level 2 = \$12,000 *Schweppes Cup @ Bankstown (\$30,000)*  
April 28    Level 1 = \$50,000 (Bulli Cup), Level 2 = \$20,000 & Level 3 = \$12,000
- May 5    Level 1 = \$20,000 & Level 2 = \$12,000 *Ross Gigg Mile @ Newcastle (\$30,000)*  
May 12    Level 1 = \$20,000 & Level 2 = \$12,000  
May 19    Level 1 = \$30,000 (Ilsley Memorial Cup), Level 2 = \$20,000 & Level 3 = \$12,000  
May 26    Level 1 = \$20,000 & Level 2 = \$12,000
- June 2    Level 1 = \$30,000, Level 2 = \$20,000 & Level 3 = \$12,000  
June 9    Level 1 = \$30,000 (JD Watts Memorial), Level 2 = \$20,000 & Level 3 = \$12,000  
June 16    Level 1 = \$30,000 (Golden Mile) & Level 2 = \$20,000  
June 23    Level 1 = \$20,000 & Level 2 = \$12,000 (\$30,000 Frith Stakes –Open Mares)

For further information concerning the Metropolitan Handicapping System please go to [www.hrnsw.com.au](http://www.hrnsw.com.au) and click the following banner:



## **METROPOLITAN HANDICAPPING SYSTEM – AS AMENDED**

This handicapping system for the Metropolitan Meetings conducted at Tabcorp Park Menangle will be in place for a minimum trial period of three months (1 April 2018 to 30 June 2018) after which it will be assessed against these quantifiable measures:

- Wagering turnover and prices as compared to the periods:
  - a) July and August 2017,
  - b) October and November 2017; and,
  - c) December 2017 and 3 February 2018.
  
- Over all field sizes and nominations as compared to the periods:
  - a) July and August 2017,
  - b) October and November 2017; and,
  - c) December 2017 and 3 February 2018.
  
- Stakeholder satisfaction and participation.

### **M1 Races**

There will be one (1) M1 event programmed every week for \$20,000.

*Where there is also a Mares race programmed and a Mare is dually nominated, a Mare will be drawn in the Mares race in the first instance.*

The top 10 prizemoney earners in the last five (5) starts (plus one (1) emergency) will be drawn into the field.

There are no Mares or Driver Concessions.

The 50% discount for a M0 win in the last five (5) starts does not apply.

The Barrier Draw will be PBD/\$L5.

Balloted M1 horses (these are the horses with prizemoney in the last five (5) starts below 10<sup>th</sup> on the list of acceptors) will be drawn into the Metropolitan Handicapping System.

## Metropolitan Handicapping System

The handicapping system is based on the total earnings of the nominated horses in their last five starts (excluding 50% of MO win dollars and M1 win dollars in the last five (5) starts) which will determine the race of three probable races the horse will be drawn.

The dollars earned in their last five starts (excluding 50% of MO win dollars and M1 win dollars in their last five (5) 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 10 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.

### Field Selection

- Step 1: Process 25% discount for all horses with a Concession Driver claim.
- Step 2: Process 25% discount for all Mares (A Mares Concession will not occur if a Concession Driver claim was used in Step 1).
- Step 3: Process 50% discount for horses that won a M0 event in their last five (5) starts.
- Step 4: Process 50% discount for horses that won a M1 event in their last five (5) starts.
- Step 5: Divide horses into separate fields of ten (10), plus one (1) emergency, according to the revised prizemoney won in the last five (5) starts.

### Barrier Draws

- Step 1: Barrier Draw positions are based on the revised prizemoney won in the last five (5) starts.
- Step 2: The horse drawn in the widest position in the Level below will be drawn as an emergency in the race above, in Barrier 1.

### Prizemoney Thresholds

The former Metro Handicapping System prizemoney levels were \$30,000, \$22,000, \$14,000 & \$11,000.

With the introduction of the M1, on known outcomes, there will be only three (3) divisions of the Metro Handicapping System.

The existing total prizemoney allocation for four (4) Divisions is \$77,000, which with the M1 prizemoney set aside (\$20,000) will allow for \$57,000 prizemoney inclusive of a \$30,000 race, therefore a balance of \$27,000.

HRNSW & Club Menangle will provide supplementary prizemoney of \$7,000 during the Trial Period for the top three divisions. Where there is an alternate \$30,000 race at Tabcorp Park Menangle or an Open feature race at another Track, the top level prizemoney for the Metro System will be \$20,000.

The prizemoney during the three (3) month Trial Period is therefore:

April 7 Level 1 = \$30,000, Level 2 = \$20,000 & Level 3 = \$12,000

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June 2 Level 1 = \$30,000, Level 2 = \$20,000 & Level 3 = \$12,000

June 9 Level 1 = \$30,000 (JD Watts Memorial), Level 2 = \$20,000 & Level 3 = \$12,000

June 16 Level 1 = \$30,000 (Golden Mile) & Level 2 = \$20,000

June 23 Level 1 = \$20,000 & Level 2 = \$12,000 (\$30,000 Frith Stakes –Open Mares)

## **METROPOLITAN HANDICAPPING SYSTEM CONDITIONS**

- 1:** Nominated horses will be banded into Levels (races) based on the prizemoney earned in their last five (5) starts in a descending order with the exclusion of 50% of their MO and M1 first prizemoney won in the last five (5) starts.
- 2:** The races will be identified as Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3. If sufficient nominations are received races titled Level 4 and Level 5 may be included on the race programme (at the discretion of the conducting Club).
- 3:** Each of the divisions will consist of ten (10) starters and one (1) emergency which will be also drawn into the fields. The one (1) emergency will be drawn in the next lower Level.
- 4:** All starters will commence from the front row of the mobile barrier.
- 5:** All divisions will be drawn based on dollars earned in the last five (5) starts (Note Condition 9) in descending order (11 down to 1).
- 6:** If engaged at the race meeting in another race, horses drawn as the emergency must take the place of a withdrawn horse up to the official scratching time of 9.00am on the day of the race meeting.
- 7:** The nominations for the entire race meeting will not be displayed for consideration by participants.
- 8:** In the event of an extension of nominations for a particular race nominated horses cannot be withdrawn.
- 9:** 50% of win prizemoney earned when winning a MO or a M1 race in the last five (5) starts will not be considered in either field selection or barrier selection.
- 10:** 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.
- 11:** In the event there is a MO or M1 race programmed all horses (except Mares, refer to Condition 10) will be considered for the MO or M1 race in the first instance.
- 12:** An eligible Concession Driver will be given a 25% discount on prizemoney earned in the last five (5) starts, however, the use of a Concession Driver must be notified at the time of the nomination. (The 25% discount will be applied prior to the horse being allocated into a Level)
- 13:** Mares will receive a 25% discount on prizemoney earned in the last five (5) starts. (The 25% discount will be applied prior to the horse being allocated into a Level)
- 14:** Only one 25% discount on prizemoney earned in the last five (5) starts will be permitted.

## **PRIZEMONEY**

**15:** Prizemoney for each Level is as follows:

- Level 1 - \$30,000
- Level 2 - \$20,000
- Level 3 - \$12,000
- Level 4 - \$9,000
- Level 5 - \$9,000
- Level 6 - \$9,000

**16:** Where another Feature race is programmed (and conducted) which offers prizemoney of \$30,000 or more at Tabcorp Park Menangle or at another NSW track for horses assessed M1 or better within two (2) days of a meeting the Levels of prizemoney will be as follows:

- Level 1 - \$20,000
- Level 2 - \$12,000
- Level 3 - \$9,000
- Level 4 - \$9,000
- Level 5 - \$9,000
- Level 6 - \$9,000

In such circumstances it is possible that only two (2) Levels of races will be conducted.

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 50%
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 18%
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12%
- 4<sup>th</sup> – 6%
- 5<sup>th</sup> – 4%
- 6<sup>th</sup> – 2%
- 7<sup>th</sup> – 2%
- 8<sup>th</sup> – 2%
- 9<sup>th</sup> – 2%
- 10<sup>th</sup> – 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 three to one cycle, however only when a \$30,000 Level 1 race is conducted.

## **OTHER RACES AT METROPOLITAN MEETINGS**

- 19:** All other mobile start races at the Metropolitan meeting will have maximum fields of ten (10) plus one (1) emergency (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 program the horses originally nominated cannot be withdrawn.
- 22:** Other grades of races such as MO, M1, Mares (on rotation), Trotters, C3 to C5 and Aged and established Feature races will continue to be programmed. Horses can be nominated for the Metro Handicapping System races and if drawn in those races (top 41) other than for Mares, MO and M1 races, these events will take precedence (Note Conditions 10 & 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 eight (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. Horses may be added to these notified races if required to create a field of not less than eight (8) horses which have earnings in their last five (5) starts not greater than the lowest amount of the balloted horses. For these Midweek Meeting races an adjustment will be made to the prizemoney earned in the last 5 starts if prizemoney has been earned since the most recent (by date) Metropolitan meeting conducted at Tabcorp Park Menangle. The prizemoney for these races will be the equivalent of the standard prizemoney offered at the Midweek meeting, however, the distribution of the prizemoney will be in accordance with that applied for the Metropolitan meeting. The maximum field size will be twelve (12).
- 24:** Claiming Races will not be programmed at Metropolitan meetings, however, a single race up to a claiming value of \$15,000, which may be divided if sufficient nominations are received, will be programmed at all Tabcorp Park Menangle Midweek meetings.
- 25:** Field sizes and barrier configurations for mobile events at Midweek Tabcorp Park Menangle meetings will continue to include twelve (12) horses for Pacers and fourteen (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.**