

Harness Ratings Based Handicapping Changes to Procedures & Policies

As participants would be aware changes to the process for field compilation were put in place from 18 February 2019. From ORI's perspective these have worked well and we thank harness industry participants for working with this office to introduce the changes.

Now with the imminent introduction of Ratings Based Handicapping which will commence from 1 July 2019, a few areas have been highlighted as needing change which we have noted below.

- ORI has formally adopted the Australian Handicapping Rules effective 1 July 2019 which are published on the Harness Racing Australia website (<http://www.harness.org.au/rules/AUSTHCPR.PDF>). Participants must make every effort to obtain an understanding of that document as it is referenced in the new ORI Harness Handicapping Schedule & Procedures document.
- ORI – Handicapping Policies have been updated in accordance with the Ratings Based Handicapping System. (Please refer to the attached list)
- Participants **must** make themselves aware of the contents of the new document as it has changed significantly.
- The Office of Racing Integrity (ORI) will continue to compile fields on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- **Field Selection Points** will continue to be used to determine which horses get a start in a race unless otherwise stated in race conditions.
- **Ballot Points** will be maintained however will form part of Field Selection Points through the automated system in Harvey. As it is not possible to manually load the Ballot Points earned to date into Harvey, those points will not be added to the Field Selection Points of any horse on the Ballot List as at 1 July 2019. The benefits of this will be that participants will know the exact number of points horses have earned.

Please make yourself aware of Clause 6 – Field Selection Points and Clause 7 – Ballot Points in ORI's Handicapping Schedule.

PROCEDURES FROM 1 JULY 2019

- When **one** meeting is programmed for compilation:
 - Fields for a single meeting will be compiled on a Tuesday with nominations closing at 9.30 am for release by 5.00pm
 - Any extended nominations will be advised by SMS and open for approximately 1 ½ hours.
- When **two** meetings are programmed for compilation:
 - **Fields for the PRIMARY meeting scheduled will be compiled on Tuesday with nominations closing at 9.30 am, release by 5.00pm**
 - Any extended nominations will be advised by SMS and open for approximately 1 ½ hours.
 - Results from trials will already be completed and recorded in Harvey. It is suggested that trainers notify ORI if they believe the ODM/ODS status shown is incorrect prior to nominations closing through the nomination comments in HarnessWeb or on the fax nomination form.
 - **Fields for the SECONDARY meeting scheduled will be compiled on Wednesday with nominations closing at 9.30 am, release by 5.00pm**
 - Any extended nominations will be advised by SMS and open for approximately 1 ½ hours.
 - Results from trials will already be completed and recorded in Harvey. It is suggested that trainers notify ORI if they believe the ODM/ODS status shown is incorrect prior to nominations closing through the nomination comments in HarnessWeb or on the fax nomination form.

John King
24 June 2019

HARNES HANDICAPPING SCHEDULE – RATINGS BASED HANDICAPPING

Please note that there have been changes made to the following areas in the ORI Harness Handicapping Schedule with respect to the introduction of Ratings Based Handicapping.

1. Definitions
5. Horse Eligibility
6. Field Selection Points
7. Ballot Points
8. Race Field Selection
Racing in Advance of Rating
Division of Races
10. Unfulfilled Engagements
11. Concessions
Fillies & Mares
Drivers

Out of Class Racing – Clauses moved to Field Selection and Ballot clauses and renamed “Racing in Advance of Rating”

Non Winners Races – Removed as defined in the Australian Handicapping Rules (Maiden Races)

12. Claiming Races
13. General Conditions Heats and Final/Consolation
 - 13.5 – Removal of the ability to use a driver concession in a Final even if it wasn’t used in a Heat.
 - 13.8 – Eligibility from heat to final clause changed.
 - 13.15 – New clause
14. General Conditions for Preludes
 - 14.5 – Exception removed.

Information regarding the following matters has been moved to a Procedures Section –

- Colours Notification
- Driver Notification
- Gear Amendments
- Horses Leave a Trainers Care
- Scratchings
- Stable Returns
- Trial Nominations