



NZTR June 2012 6 monthly Handicap Review summary:

Review Group: NZTR representatives David Jewell, Dean Nowell, Brett Scelly and Ross Gove; NZ Trainers Association representatives David Haworth and Tony Pike; Regional Programming representatives Andrew Castles, Tony Enting, Brent Wall and Tim Mills.

Summary of major issues highlighted:

- 1. Movement of horses out of their grade for placings** –*submission not to re-rate horses outside of their current rating band when placed 2nd, 3rd etc in a race in that band.*

Not supported: statistics confirmed of the 74 horses YTD that had been taken out of grade for placings that had subsequently started, 46 (62%) had won or been placed in the higher grade including Benchmark races at their subsequent starts, while 11 (15%) had moved back into grade. It was agreed that the adoption of the Benchmark system for all Ratings based races and an expectation that horses taken out of grade for a placing will have their ratings re-assessed if they are not competitive in the higher grade will address this issue. The Review group did acknowledge the requirement for the NZTR handicappers to ensure that while ratings were being increased for wins and placings, it was critical that a horses' rating was also seen to be coming down as quickly.

- 2. Expand the benchmark system with all R85/R75 and potentially R65 races programmed as Benchmarks** – *had general support of Regional Programming groups albeit with some concerns about application of Benchmarks in R65 grade?*

Supported: NZTR Board has supported recommendation that from 1 August 2012 all Rating 85; Rating 75 and Rating 65 Handicap races be programmed as Benchmark Handicaps. The introduction of Benchmark handicap conditions would provide an option for R75 and R85 horses that were re-rated out of the band for placings and would also support increased programming opportunities for all eligible horses.

Benchmark 65 Handicaps: from 1 August 2012 the conditions for all Rating 65 Benchmark Handicap races will be that only a one (flat) win horses rated R66 and above would be eligible to utilize the Benchmark provision in a Benchmark R65 race.

Note – this means that any horse that has won 2 or more races that has a rating of R66 or above would not be eligible to start in a Rating 65 Benchmark Handicap. Any horse that has won two or more races and had a rating of R65 or below would continue to be eligible to contest a R65

Benchmark Handicap, but where its rating was increased to (say) R68 for a subsequent placing in a R65 event it would only be eligible to start in a R75 or above race.

The recommendation to restrict the R65 Benchmark condition to one win (or less) horses was introduced to provide a Benchmark R65 opportunity for the one win horse that is currently seen to be penalized for being taken out of its rating band without winning. Restricting eligibility will also ensure that the majority of one win R65 horses continue to have the opportunity to compete in this R65 grade without higher rated 2-3 win horses becoming eligible to contest the new R65 Benchmark event.

- 3. Review the current requirement for Clubs to programme a prescribed number of apprentice rider only races and also accommodate the provision of a race on every programme where no claims are available – Regional Programming submission seeking to address racing policy anomalies, which historically have been subject to regional exemptions.**

Supported: the meeting recommended that the current NZTR Racing Policy requiring Clubs conducting more than one race meeting annually to programme at least one race restricted to apprentice riders only be reviewed. Presently Clubs that conduct two or more meetings are required to programme at least one race restricted to apprentice riders for every four meetings or part thereof that they conduct. In practice NZTR Regional Programming committee exemptions have been adopted to schedule apprentice rider races on a regional, rather than Club basis, with Regions conducting a number of races restricted to apprentice riders only on the one programme to support greater participation by apprentice riders. It was the recommendation of the meeting that the Racing policy be amended to allow each region to become responsible for the programming of an agreed number of races for apprentice riders.

The Meeting **further recommended** that the NZTR Racing Policy (5.2) that states unless an exemption is provided, Clubs are required to programme a minimum of one race at each meeting that is designated as a race in which allowances may not be claimed should be amended to reflect the following -

- Allowances are claimable in all races at Industry or T2 Feature meetings (providing there is not a black type race programmed).
- Premier and Feature licences are required to have at least one race in which apprentice allowances cannot be claimed.

Note – Regional Programming committees have been providing an exemption for every Industry licence not to have to schedule a race where apprentice claims are not required. Clubs conducting Feature or Premier licence have programmed at least one race where no claims are provided. Given the increase in the number of T2 midweek Feature licences and the recommendation to provide Benchmark races for all Ratings based handicaps, it was agreed that there should be no requirement for Clubs to have a race where no claims were allowed at T2Feature meetings next season. The Rules of Racing provide that there are no allowances in any Group or Listed race. Where a Group or Listed race is conducted on a Feature or Premier day, Clubs would continue to have the option to also programme an Open Handicap where no claims are provided.

- 4. F&M allowances – the submissions did not identify any major issues around the 2kg F&M allowance adopted last year - *the question was raised about what NZTR's policy should be if Australia moves to 1.5kg from the current 2kg F&M allowance which has been signaled?***

Status quo: keep under review if Australian authorities revisit the Fillies and Mares allowance.

Statistics provided by NZTR confirmed that there has been a small increase in participation by mares with F&M representing 48.5% of total starters for the period 14 Nov-13 May 2012 compared with F&M representing 47.5% of starters for the same period last year.

In the six months to 13 May 2012, Fillies and Mares comprised 8212 (48.5%) of the 16,934 starters and had won 761.5 (48%) of the 1588 races conducted. Males comprised 8722 (51.5%) of all starters and had won 826.5 (52%) of races. In the same period last year before the Fillies and Mares allowance change was increased, F&M comprised 8220 (47.5%) of 17,304 starters and had won 773 (49.2%) of the races, while Males comprised 9084 (52.5%) of starters and had won 797 (50.8%) of the races.

The review group noted that there had been an increase in the number of Mares starting and winning in the higher grades. Across 129 Open class races in the period under review there were 859 (65%) Male starters vs 462 (35%) Female starters. Males had won 77 (59.7%) of the races and Mares had won 52 (40.3%) – in the same period last year Males represented 69.6% of all starters in Open class and had won 66.9% of the races, while Mares represented 30.4% of starters and had won 33.1% of races. It was noted that across 231 Rating 75 races year to date Males represented 61.2% of starters and had won 59.7% of races vs Mares that represented 35% of starters and had won 40.3% of races.

- 5. Provision of a weight allowance for 3YO's from May – *concern around 3YO having to carry 59kg topweight in R65 in May against older horses- request to review 3yo allowance provision.***

Not supported: the allowance for three year olds competing against older horses was increased as part of the Handicap Review last year to provide three year olds with an allowance of 2.5kg (was 1.5kg) between August and October; 1.5 (was 1kg) between November and January; the 0.5kg allowance for three year olds between February and April was not changed. No age allowance is provided for three year olds competing against older horses from May.

- 6. Policy to rate all horses as mature males given the implications for three year olds where they may not necessarily carry sufficient ratings points to gain start in WFA or major Handicaps at times?** *Review if there is a requirement for handicapper to have discretion to adjust 3YO ratings for ballot purposes in Black type races.*

Not supported: Handicap Review Group debated the requirement to introduce a discretionary clause for ballot purpose around major Group One Handicap and WFA races to ensure three year old Group race winners ratings were not precluded from gaining a start. One recommendation was to provide the ability for the handicapper to allocate additional ratings points for ballot purposes based on a weight for age differential for a major handicap race and/or a provision based around prizemoney clauses. It was generally agreed that with all three year olds currently being domestically rated as mature males, a Group One winning three year old in the Spring as a rule should be in a position to gain a start in most Group One Handicaps. The meeting was not supportive of a discretionary clause being adopted without further review.

- 7. Review of the points system for trials – decision to only allocate points to unraced trials winners penalises opportunities for horses for the purpose of field selection that had previously started at the races and gone back to trials and had won a trial.**

Supported: meeting agreed to recommend to the NZTR Board that for the purpose of field selection trials winners with a rating of 45 should receive 2pts for a trials win from 1 August 2012. Note – points for trials wins are not cumulative.

- 8. Increase the number of Set Weight and/or Set Weight and penalty open races or provide 0-1 & 0-2 SW races as alternative programming option.**

Not supported: meeting did not believe there was any requirement to expand the current number of classes and/or introduce additional Set Weight or SWP Open grade race.

- 9. Spread of weights not sufficient – revert to 52kg minimum**

Not supported: meeting did not believe that there was scope to reduce minimum weights (currently 54kg for all Rating based races and Open handicaps, other than Black type races and Open Handicaps on Premier days, which have a 53kg minimum weight.) Meeting discussed the opportunity to increase the minimum topweight to 60kg in line with recent changes in Victoria but this was not supported at this time.

Meeting also discussed and supported the handicappers using their greater discretion to allocate a higher weight to the designated 59kg topweight in Open handicaps where appropriate to ensure that there is a bigger spread in the weights for races where there would be a significant variance in the ratings of a large number of horses at the bottom of the weights.

10. Review scope of rating increases applied to horses winning out of their grade?

Status quo: meeting did not see this as an issue while acknowledging the lack of depth in some Open races – including some Group and Listed events potentially had created some anomalies. It was agreed that the handicappers should be encouraged to provide some commentary around the weighting of major races and significant re-ratings. The introduction of the handicappers website blog and releases around major black type handicap races was an excellent medium to achieve a greater understanding of the issues.

Supporting Information:

1: Review of Horses moved out of grade for placed performances – 9 January to 6 June 2012

In the period 9 January-6 June a total of 89 individual horses have been re-rated out of their current ratings band for a placed performance, representing 90 different performances (Outrageous Fortune has moved out of the same band twice for placed performances).

These figures do not include Black Type, Two-year-old or Jumping races.

These 90 starts represent an average movement of 4.29 horses per week moving out of a ratings band for a placed performance during this time.

Of those 90 individual performances:

- 16 have not started subsequently
- 74 have had subsequent starts

Of the 74 that have started subsequently:

- **19** have placed at a higher level (**25.68%**)
- **27** have won at a higher level (**36.49%**)
- **1** has placed at the original level (**1.35%**)
- **11** have moved back to the original ratings band (**14.86%**)
- **16** are still in the higher ratings band (**21.62%**)

Overall **46** horses (or 62.17%) have won or placed at a higher level after being taken out of a ratings band for a placed performance and a further 14.86% subsequently dropped back.

2: Summary of North Island apprentice races scheduled this season

North			Central			
Venue	Date	Race	Venue	Date	Race	
Ruakaka	24-Aug	MDN 1400	Awapuni	4-Aug	MDN 1600	
Waikato	16-Sep	MDN 1400				MDN 1400
	12-Jan	MDN 1400	Otaki	23-Sep	MDN 1400	
Tauranga	29-Sep	MDN 1400			10-Nov	MDN 1200
Te Aroha	19-Oct	MDN 1600	Hawke's Bay	13-Oct	MDN 1200	
Waipa	13-Nov	MDN 1580			24-May	MDN 1200
Cambridge	20-Nov	MDN 1400				MDN 2100
Rotorua	1-Dec	MDN 1400	Waipukurau	4-Dec	MDN 1600	
Auckland	11-Dec	MDN 1600 R65 1600				R65 1600
Paeroa	13-Jan	MDN 1150 R65 2200	Taranaki	19-Jan	2yo MDN 1200	
Matamata	20-Jan	MDN 1400 R65 1400				MDN 1200
Paeroa	3-Feb	MDN 1670				MDN 1400
						MDN 1600
Counties	26-Feb	MDN 2200 MDN 1600				MDN 2000
Waipa	30-Apr	2yo MDN 1150		R65 1400		
		MDN 1580		R75 1200		
		R65 1150		R75 1800		
		R65 1150				
	R65 1580					
		R65 2000	Wanganui	2-Feb	MDN 1600	
		R75 1400				R65 1600
		R75 2000		14-Jun	MDN 2040	
		MDN 1400			MDN 1200	
			Woodville	23-Feb	MDN 2100	
					MDN 1400	
			Marion	1-Mar	MDN 1400	
					R65 1200	
			Egmont	12-Mar	MDN 1600	
					MDN 2000	
			Wairarapa	26-Mar	MDN 1400	
					R65 2200	
Northern		27 Races				
Central		30 Races				

Note- Regional Programming committees have been looking to programme two or more apprentice riders races on majority of occasions to assist with the scheduling of apprentice riders. This season the Regional Programming committees as a trial scheduled midweek meetings at Taranaki and Waipa where all races on the programme have been for apprentice riders only. The South Island Regional Programming group has not been required to programme any races restricted to apprentice riders only given the number of available apprentices in the region.

Handicap Review stats - June 2012

1: Season	Male	Female	Total	2: Hcp Review period	Male	Female	Total
1-Aug 11 to 31 May 12	2758	2492	5250	14-Nov 11 to 13-May 12	2133	1996	4129
1 Aug 11 to 31 May 11	2821	2456	5277	14-Nov 10 to 13 May 11	2260	1980	4240
Variance	-63	36	-27	Variance	-127	16	-111
Percentage variance	-2.30%	1.40%	-0.50%	Percentage variance	-6.00%	0.80%	-2.70%

1: For entire YTD season (Aug-May) total starters down 27 horses (-0.5%) compared to same period 2010-11 with female starters up 1.4%

2: For Period since handicap policy changes (Nov-May) starters are down 111 (2.7%) with 16 more female starters in this same period.

Race Programming and Handicapping Summary FY11 v FY12 (14-Nov to 13-May)

14-Nov-11 to 13-May-12	Races	Starters	Male Starters	Female Starters	Male Winners	Female Winners	Male Starters	Female Starters	Male Winners	Female Winners	Average Starters	Races <8 Starters	% Races <8 Strts
Maiden	486	5,488	2,822	2,666	265.0	221.0	51.4%	48.6%	54.5%	45.5%	11.3	41	8.4%
Rating 65	353	3,785	2,022	1,763	180.0	173.0	53.4%	46.6%	51.0%	49.0%	10.7	49	13.9%
Rating 75 (R66-R75)	231	2,382	1,306	1,076	124.0	107.0	54.8%	45.2%	53.7%	46.3%	10.3	42	18.2%
Rating 85 (R76-R85)	113	1,075	658	417	62.0	51.0	61.2%	38.8%	54.9%	45.1%	9.5	31	27.4%
Rating 95 (R86-R95)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Open	129	1,321	859	462	77.0	52.0	65.0%	35.0%	59.7%	40.3%	10.2	32	24.8%
2YO	65	594	298	296	38.0	27.0	50.2%	49.8%	58.5%	41.5%	9.1	21	32.3%
3YO	38	389	240	149	23.0	15.0	61.7%	38.3%	60.5%	39.5%	10.2	8	21.1%
Jumps & Jumps Hwts	10	66	61	5	9.0	1.0	92.4%	7.6%	90.0%	10.0%	6.6	8	100.0%
Special Conditions	66	752	422	330	44.5	21.5	56.1%	43.9%	67.4%	32.6%	11.4	4	6.1%
Sub-Total (Open Sex Races)	1,491	15,852	8,688	7,164	822.5	668.5	54.8%	45.2%	55.2%	44.8%	10.6	236	16.0%
Male Restricted Races	4	34	34	-	4.0	-	100.0%	-	100.0%	-	8.5	1	25.0%
Female Restricted Races	93	1,048	-	1,048	-	93.0	-	100.0%	-	100.0%	11.3	7	7.5%
Total	1,588	16,934	8,722	8,212	826.5	761.5	51.5%	48.5%	52.0%	48.0%	10.7	244	15.5%

15-Nov-10 to 13-May-11	Races	Starters	Male Starters	Female Starters	Male Winners	Female Winners	Male Starters	Female Starters	Male Winners	Female Winners	Average Starters	Races <8 Starters	% Races <8 Strts
Maiden	465	5,424	2,958	2,466	249.0	216.0	54.5%	45.5%	53.5%	46.5%	11.7	29	6.2%
Rating 65	35	411	218	193	12.5	22.5	53.0%	47.0%	35.7%	64.3%	11.7	-	0.0%
Rating 75 (R66-R75)	348	4,147	2,172	1,975	160.0	188.0	52.4%	47.6%	46.0%	54.0%	11.9	20	5.7%
Rating 85 (R76-R85)	187	1,856	1,035	821	102.0	85.0	55.8%	44.2%	54.5%	45.5%	9.9	37	19.8%
Rating 95 (R86-R95)	98	857	566	291	69.0	29.0	66.0%	34.0%	70.4%	29.6%	8.7	39	-
Open	136	1,336	930	406	91.0	45.0	69.6%	30.4%	66.9%	33.1%	9.8	36	26.5%
2YO	61	561	285	276	25.5	35.5	50.8%	49.2%	41.8%	58.2%	9.2	16	26.2%
3YO	38	404	230	174	20.0	18.0	56.9%	43.1%	52.6%	47.4%	10.6	9	23.7%
Jumps & Jumps Hwts	13	119	110	9	13.0	-	92.4%	7.6%	100.0%	0.0%	9.2	4	30.8%
Special Conditions	90	1,011	539	472	51.0	39.0	53.3%	46.7%	56.7%	43.3%	11.2	6	6.7%
Sub-Total (Open Sex Races)	1,471	16,126	9,043	7,083	793	678	56.1%	43.9%	53.9%	46.1%	11.0	196	13.3%
Male Restricted Races	4	41	41	-	4.0	-	100.0%	-	100.0%	-	10.3	1	25.0%
Female Restricted Races	95	1,137	-	1,137	-	95.0	-	100.0%	-	100.0%	12.0	7	7.4%
Total	1,570	17,304	9,084	8,220	797.0	773.0	52.5%	47.5%	50.8%	49.2%	11.0	204	13.0%

Variance FY12 to FY11 14-Nov to 13-May	Races	Starters	Male Starters	Female Starters	Male Winners	Female Winners	Male Starters	Female Starters	Male Winners	Female Winners	Average Starters	Races <8 Starters	% Races <8 Strts
Maiden	21	64	(136)	200	16.0	5.0	(3.1%)	3.1%	1.0%	(1.0%)	(0.4)	12	2.2%
Rating 65	318	3,374	1,804	1,570	167.5	150.5	0.4%	(0.4%)	15.3%	(15.3%)	(1.0)	49	13.9%
Rating 75 (R66-R75)	(117)	(1,765)	(866)	(899)	(36.0)	(81.0)	2.5%	(2.5%)	7.7%	(7.7%)	(1.6)	22	12.4%
Rating 85 (R76-R85)	(74)	(781)	(377)	(404)	(40.0)	(34.0)	5.4%	(5.4%)	0.3%	(0.3%)	(0.4)	(6)	7.6%
Rating 95 (R86-R95)	(98)	(857)	(566)	(291)	(69.0)	(29.0)	-	-	-	-	-	(39)	-
Open	(7)	(15)	(71)	56	(14.0)	7.0	(4.6%)	4.6%	(7.2%)	7.2%	0.4	(4)	(1.7%)
2YO	4	33	13	20	12.5	(8.5)	(0.6%)	0.6%	16.7%	(16.7%)	(0.1)	5	6.1%
3YO	0	(15)	10	(25)	3.0	(3.0)	4.8%	(4.8%)	7.9%	(7.9%)	(0.4)	(1)	(2.6%)
Jumps & Jumps Hwts	(3)	(53)	(49)	(4)	(4.0)	1.0	(0.0%)	0.0%	(10.0%)	10.0%	(2.6)	4	69.2%
Special Conditions	(24)	(259)	(117)	(142)	(6.5)	(17.5)	2.8%	(2.8%)	10.8%	(10.8%)	0.2	(2)	(0.6%)
Sub-Total (Open Sex Races)	20	(274)	(355)	81	29.5	(9.5)	(1.3%)	1.3%	1.3%	(1.3%)	(0.3)	40	2.6%
Male Restricted Races	0	(7)	(7)	0	0.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	(1.8)	0	0.0%
Female Restricted Races	(2)	(89)	0	(89)	0.0	(2.0)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	(0.7)	0	0.2%
Total	18	(370)	(362)	(8)	29.5	(11.5)	(1.0%)	1.0%	1.3%	(1.3%)	(0.4)	40	2.5%

Summary of Starters by Ratings band by Region by month:												
RATING	REGION	JUN		JUL		AUG		SEP		OCT		NOV
50-59	Northern	377		302		299		405		439		<i>November 2011 stats excluded given Ratings band changes that were introduced on November 14th</i>
	Central	214		163		140		229		212		
	Southern	110		105		80		131		177		
	Other	1		3		1		5		3		
	TOTAL	702	45.9%	573	45.2%	520	42.6%	770	45.0%	831	42.2%	
60-70	Northern	235		211		197		266		294		
	Central	175		141		123		187		178		
	Southern	140		86		79		99		148		
	Other	3		1		0		2		1		
	TOTAL	553	36.2%	439	34.6%	399	32.7%	554	32.3%	621	31.6%	
71-80	Northern	83		77		85		121		177		
	Central	67		59		60		82		93		
	Southern	35		32		38		35		59		
	Other	2		2		1		1		1		
	TOTAL	187	12.2%	170	13.4%	184	15.1%	239	14.0%	330	16.8%	
81-90	Northern	24		20		26		49		49		
	Central	20		19		18		25		36		
	Southern	13		10		13		12		22		
	Other	1		1		2		2		2		
	TOTAL	58	3.8%	50	3.9%	59	4.8%	88	5.1%	109	5.5%	
>90	Northern	15		16		29		30		38		
	Central	11		15		21		22		26		
	Southern	3		6		10		9		12		
	Other	0		0		0		1		1		
	TOTAL	29	1.9%	37	2.9%	60	4.9%	62	3.6%	77	3.9%	
TOTAL	1529		1269		1222		1713		1968			
Summary of Starters by Ratings band since November 2011 Hcp changes were introduced:												
RATING	REGION	DEC		JAN		FEB		MAR		APR		MAY
45-55	Northern	451		431		377		344		387		433
	Central	243		275		206		234		196		194
	Southern	207		167		142		156		142		128
	Other	5		4		6		4		3		4
	TOTAL	906	45.5%	877	44.7%	731	43.4%	738	41.3%	728	39.5%	759
56-65	Northern	246		246		211		220		232		258
	Central	147		151		112		118		149		155
	Southern	128		115		112		122		127		125
	Other	1		1		2		1		1		3
	TOTAL	522	26.2%	513	26.1%	437	26.0%	461	25.8%	509	27.6%	541
66-75	Northern	143		150		139		142		138		132
	Central	97		90		83		78		82		91
	Southern	71		67		73		74		73		49
	Other	2		3		0		0		1		1
	TOTAL	313	15.7%	310	15.8%	295	17.5%	294	16.4%	294	15.9%	273
76-85	Northern	76		67		58		75		85		60
	Central	30		38		23		41		45		33
	Southern	30		30		28		38		36		28
	Other	1		1		2		1		1		0
	TOTAL	137	6.9%	136	6.9%	111	6.6%	155	8.7%	167	9.1%	121
85+	Northern	60		66		63		77		63		43
	Central	32		31		19		23		47		29
	Southern	23		28		28		39		35		28
	Other	0		2		0		1		1		1
	TOTAL	115	5.8%	127	6.5%	110	6.5%	140	7.8%	146	7.9%	101
TOTAL	1993		1963		1684		1788		1844		1795	