

**Report of the
NEW ZEALAND PATTERN COMMITTEE**

**Group & Listed Race
Schedule for
2016/17 Season**

**following Review of
2015/16 Season**

20 SEPTEMBER 2016

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Pattern Review for races run in the 2015-16 season has been completed by the NZ Pattern Committee. The schedule of Group and Listed Races to be run in the 2016-17 season has now been confirmed.
2. There have been four changes made to the schedule of Pattern races for the 2016-17 season. The Auckland RC, Easter Stakes has been downgraded from G1 to G2. The Wellington RC, Wellington Cup has been downgraded from G2 to G3.

The Rotorua RC, Rotorua Stakes has been promoted from Listed to G3. The Auckland RC, 3yo 1300m run on 6 December 2015 has been promoted from unlisted to Listed status for the first time.

3. Under the revised schedule, the total number of Black Type flat races is 149, one more than last season. The NZPC holds some concern that with a slight fall in the number of races run, the percentage of Black Type races now sits at approximately 5.7%. For so long as existing Listed races are justified by their race ratings, there is little or no room for further promotions, requiring a conservative approach to be taken.
4. This was the fourth year that the NZPC has operated under the APC (Asian Pattern Committee) Ground Rules, which were approved by NZTR in consultation with the NZPC and the industry. As before, any race failing to attain the minimum race rating required in the last running is likely to be issued with a warning, and in many cases a second warning will be issued if the minimum rating has not been achieved in the past two runnings.
5. The race rating is determined by the peak World Thoroughbred Race Rating (WTRR) in the season for the average of the first four finishers in the race. Where a race fails to meet its required minimum rating, the average of the four highest rated starters may also be considered as a secondary measure. Note that the WTRR bears no relationship to the points-based domestic handicap rating and the two measures should not be confused.
6. The NZPC has some concern with relying on the WTRR ratings assigned to NZ 3yo races. They are inconsistent with the ratings achieved by the same horses overseas and frequently the horses achieve higher ratings as older horses. The NZPC is concerned that NZ 3yo races may be systematically under-rated. Accordingly, the NZPC requests NZTR to establish an expert review of the WTRR levels assigned to NZ 3yo horses and races in recent seasons. The NZPC is a strong supporter of the APC Ground Rules but it is a difficult task to apply them across different jurisdictions. Critical review and evaluation can only lead to improvement and increased confidence in their accuracy across the region.
7. The WTRR ratings used to evaluate race quality are appended as Section 6 of this Report.
8. There are currently 8 races with 1st warnings (17 last year) and 7 races with 2nd warnings (4 last year).

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 CONSTITUTION & CONVENTION

The New Zealand Pattern Committee (NZPC) is constituted in Rule 506 of the Rules of Racing. It is an independent committee jointly convened by New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Association Inc. (NZTBA) and New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Inc. (NZTR). The secretariat of the NZPC is provided by NZTR.

1.2 COMPOSITION & SCHEDULE

1.2.1 The NZPC is comprised of eight voting members, viz. a Chairman who is appointed by NZTR after consultation with NZTBA, three nominees of NZTBA, three nominees of NZTR and one nominee of NZTBA to represent the thoroughbred auction companies. The personnel appointed to the Pattern Committee are expected to have the expertise and experience to exercise flexibility and discretion whilst continually maintaining a review of appropriate levels of Black Type opportunity for horses of different age, sex and aptitudes, throughout the total New Zealand racing scene. Committee appointments are made in December each year and take effect for the following calendar year.

1.2.2 The NZPC meets twice per year, usually in the third week of August when primary statistical data becomes available and (by teleconference) in early November to review the prestige jumping races. Each year the NZPC conducts a robust review of its procedures and criteria and holds a frank discussion of all matters considered relevant.

1.2.3 A NZPC member has a conflict of interest with respect to the review process when that member, or their spouse, partner or immediate family member, is an office-bearer or management employee of a New Zealand racing club or of an organisation currently sponsoring a black-type race. Any member having disclosed a conflict of interest will not be debarred from participating in any discussion during the review. If consensus amongst committee members is not apparent regarding a particular race under review and the Chairman calls for a vote, then any member having a conflict of interest relating to that race will forfeit their right to vote on that particular race and may be asked to leave the room during the voting process.

1.2.4 The NZPC for the past season comprised :

Chairman:	Mr Matthew Goodson, Auckland
NZTR Nominees:	Mr Bruce Sherwin, Cambridge
	Mr Neville McAlister, Wellington

Mr Jeff McCall, Christchurch
Nztba Nominees: Mr Michael Martin, Auckland
Mr Andrew Stewart, Cambridge
Mr Mark Freeman, Wellington
Auction House: Mr Danny Rolston, Cambridge

1.3 OBJECTIVES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The function of the NZPC is to annually review the best races in New Zealand for horses of different ages, gender and aptitudes and to produce a list of races worthy of black type status in sales catalogues in line with international standards, and to rate those races as (in descending order of importance) Gr.1, Gr.2, Gr.3 and Listed. Further, it is to produce a list of Prestige Jumping Races in NZ.

It is the responsibility of the NZPC to conduct that review in a manner that conforms to international standards and utilises clear and consistent criteria. It also has a duty to communicate its findings in an Annual Report to be circulated to interested parties in September each year.

The NZPC must remain aware that the integrity and international credibility of our black type system is crucial to the national thoroughbred industry. The NZPC makes recommendations to Clubs where it feels that the pattern of racing could be improved with the introduction of a particular type of race or races.

1.4 INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

The NZ list of black type races and their groupings are required to conform to the APC Ground Rules drawn up by the Asian Pattern Committee. The list is then submitted through the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) to the International Grading and Race Planning Advisory Committee (IRPAC), who in turn recommends the list to be ratified by the Society of International Thoroughbred Auctioneers (SITA). The list is then published along with all other approved national lists in the annual International Cataloguing Standards and International Statistics booklet ("Blue Book"). Retention of New Zealand's inclusion in Part One of the Blue Book is considered crucial to the national thoroughbred industry.

1.5 REVIEW PROCESS

There is no appeal process available against the decisions of the Committee in respect of any race or races. However, application may be made to a Review Panel for a review of the Committee's list as outlined under Rules 506 (9)-(12) of the NZ Rules of Racing. An application for a review does not apply in respect of a warning.

SECTION 2

HISTORY

2.1 BLACK TYPE

Black type (or stakes) races are those that differentiate prestige races from others. The purpose of black-type races is to confer additional status (and therefore implied value) to the placegetters in those races. The first three finishers in designated black type races receive bold typeface in sales catalogue pedigrees. The appearance of black type in catalogues had its origins in North American catalogues in the 1950s. It was first adopted outside of North America by New Zealand in 1970. In the early 1970s Europe adopted the black-type system for their pattern races and other countries followed.

2.2 GROUP DESIGNATIONS

Black type races are rated (in descending order of importance) with the designations Gr.1, Gr.2, Gr.3 and Listed. Group designations grew out of the European Pattern Race System in the early 1970s. It was quickly adopted in North America and then gradually adopted throughout the rest of the thoroughbred world, including New Zealand in 1984-85.

2.3 INTERNATIONAL UNIFORMITY

In 1981 the International Cataloguing Standards Committee (ICSC) was formed to oversee the publication (Blue Book) of all lists of black type races worldwide and promote uniformity of standards. In 2007 ICSC transferred responsibility for this role to the International Grading and Race Pattern Committee (IRPAC). In 2012 the Asian Pattern Committee (APC) was granted an overseeing governance role over all the domestic graded stakes jurisdictions in the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) region, including New Zealand.

2.4 NEW ZEALAND DEVELOPMENTS

Originally, New Zealand's black type races were determined by the senior pedigree compiler at the then sole auction house. From about the mid-1970s, the task was done by a committee of representatives of NZTBA, the auction house and the New Zealand Racing Conference (NZRC), the predecessor of NZTR. The Committee was overseen by NZRC. In 1995, a complete review of the process was undertaken, resulting in the current structure of the NZPC being implemented. In 2012, the Committee was renamed from New Zealand Graded Stakes Committee to New Zealand Pattern Committee.

2.5 REGISTERED RACE-NAMES

In 2001, Registered Race-names were introduced to enable a race to be identified over a period of years, regardless of the changes that may be made to its race-day name. The Registered Race-names provide the historical link to the current race-name and sponsor. The APC also prescribes that all Group races must have a permanent element within the race-name.

SECTION 3 OPERATING PROCEDURES

3.1 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

The NZPC compares New Zealand's list of black type races to those of other countries in Part 1 of the Blue Book in order to ensure the international credibility of the black type in our sales catalogues.

3.1.1 Number of black type races

As a target, the NZPC aims for the number of black type races in New Zealand to be approximately 5% of the estimated number of flat races run during the season. This is in line with most other racing jurisdictions and is considered appropriate for New Zealand.

3.1.2 Pyramid model

With regard to the allocation of group designators to New Zealand's black type races, the NZPC endeavours to establish and maintain the widely accepted "pyramid" model used by most countries in Part 1 of the Blue Book. The ideal pyramid has more Group 2 races than Group 1 races, and the total number of Group 3 races should exceed the combined total of Group 1 and Group 2 races.

3.1.3 Category opportunities

The NZPC oversees the full range of horse categories (age, gender, distance aptitude) so that all horses might have adequate opportunities to compete for black type status.

3.2 CRITERIA

3.2.1 Quality

The paramount criterion applied by the NZPC is established quality of the field over time.

3.2.2 Race conditions

In the overall pattern, weight-for-age is given higher priority than set weights, which is given higher priority than set weights and penalties, which is, in turn, given higher priority than handicap conditions.

All black type races for 2YOs and 3YOs are to be run at set weights or set weights and penalties.

In line with international trends, it is unlikely that further handicap races will be elevated to Gr.1 status.

Races for which entry is restricted to horses sold at a particular sale or sales are not eligible for group status. Furthermore, to be granted (R) Listed status, such a race must achieve a standard of quality equivalent to a group race.

3.2.3 Prizemoney

Black type races must be run for a stake that meets or exceeds minimum levels that are subject to annual review by NZTR.

3.2.4 The Pattern

The NZPC considers each race's timing and place within the pattern of racing.

3.2.5 Continuity

Continuity on the list and with a particular grading is considered desirable, so long as that continuity is credible and does not compromise the integrity of the schedule.

3.2.6 Miscellaneous

Other criteria may be considered if deemed to be relevant, e.g. historical importance, regional factors, impact of adverse weather, opportunities for various aptitude categories, etc.

3.3 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES

3.3.1 World Thoroughbred Rating Classifications (WTR)

The NZPC has adopted the end of season World Thoroughbred Ratings (formerly referred to as ANZ Race Ratings) as its primary statistical assessment tool. This rating averages the first four finishers in a race, as rated for their peak performance during the season, after taking into account the additional 4lb allowance if fillies or mares fill any of those placings. The NZPC may also choose to consider the average rating of the four highest rated starters in the race if it considers that circumstances deem that to be appropriate.

A race's Rating for the season is evaluated by the NZPC in conjunction with that race's Pattern Race Rating (an average of the three most recent renewals' Race Ratings).

3.3.2 New Zealand handicap ratings

The NZPC also has at its disposal the NZ race day handicap ratings for the starters in all races reviewed. Given their different basis of determination, the NZPC did not consult these in the season under review.

3.3.3 Full field results

The NZPC also has the official result files of all races reviewed, along with the number and quality of black type performers (covering the current and previous season) in each race.

3.4 UPGRADING / DOWNGRADING

The following guidelines should be read in conjunction with the APC Ground Rules which are available at:

[http://www.nzracing.co.nz/Downloads/APC-RevisedGroundRules-29Nov%2011%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.nzracing.co.nz/Downloads/APC-RevisedGroundRules-29Nov%2011%20(3).pdf).

3.4.1 Conditions for gaining black type

(A) For a race to gain entry to the black type system a position must be available within the allowable number of black type races for New Zealand, (approximately 5% of races run). The race must have achieved in its recent renewals a level of quality higher than that of the lower rating races already on the list catering for a similar category of horse.

(B) It must also have been run under the same terms and conditions, distance and timing for two consecutive previous renewals. (This may be deviated from in the most exceptional circumstances).

It is not necessary for a host club to make a submission for entry to the black type system. The NZPC maintains a "watch list" of all unrestricted races run for a stake of (currently) \$40,000 or more, along with selected age group races and reviews that list every year.

3.4.2 Conditions for maintaining status

Other than continuing to meet the field quality criterion, some other conditions must also be maintained. A race may be subject to re-assessment by the NZPC if there are changes proposed in terms of one or more of:

- (a) The distance (100m or more for races below 1600m and 200m or more for races of 1600m or above)
- (b) The date (more than 2 months)
- (c) The stake
- (d) The venue
- (e) The host club
- (f) The race conditions

Each change or combination thereof is considered on a case-by-case basis and must be notified by the host club to the NZPC at the earliest

opportunity. The NZPC reminds clubs of the importance of this requirement if they wish to retain their race's black type status.

If a scheduled black type race is not programmed by its host club, or, if having programmed it, the host club declines to run the race prior to the calling of nominations, then NZTR may at its discretion re-allocate the race to another club willing to run the race under the same terms and conditions within the current pattern. If a black type race has had nominations called for, then the club must run the race, regardless of the number of acceptors.

3.4.3 Conditions for downgrading a race (Warning Process)

- (a) When a race is being considered for downgrading, a written warning will be given to the host club and the race will not be downgraded until it has been run with a second warning.
- (b) Where a club has already had a first warning in respect of a race, the warning may be maintained, lifted or progressed to a second warning.
- (c) Because a club is entitled to have two further renewals of a race at the status quo after the issue of a first warning, the NZPC will generally issue first warnings at the earliest sign of decline in the quality of a race.
- (d) Where a second warning has been issued, this may be maintained, removed completely, reverted to a first warning or the race may be downgraded.
- (e) Under the APC Ground Rules, races that are Group 2 and lower are automatically downgraded if they are more than 3lb below their required parameter in each of the last three seasons, unless a material change in conditions is proposed, in which case, the relevant Racing Authority (that is the NZPC) may choose to give it one final year in which it must achieve its Annual Race Rating. The NZPC ensures that the warning system is consistent with these requirements.
- (f) Pattern races scheduled for the early part of the season and carrying a second warning that have already been advertised in Thoroughbred Racing Monthly (TRM) prior to the August meeting of the NZPC, will carry disclaimers in TRM noting that the club and NZTR each reserves the right to alter the conditions of the race including the stake and/or the black type status of the advertised race if it is downgraded by the NZPC.
- (g) Pattern races run for a stake below the minimum prescribed level will be automatically downgraded for that running irrespective of any warning level attached to the race.

- (h) The required warning period is also not applicable where a race has undergone significant change (as detailed in 3.4.2 above). Such a change may be approved by the NZPC at its discretion with or without the imposition of a (greater) warning level.

3.4.4 Conditions for upgrading a race

- (a) For a race to be considered for upgrading, the NZPC must be satisfied that a vacancy exists in the relevant category above;
- (b) It must have achieved in its recent renewals a level of quality higher than that of the lower rating races in the category above catering for a similar category of horse; and
- (c) It must also have been run under the same terms and conditions, distance and timing for two consecutive previous renewals. (This may be deviated from in the most exceptional circumstances);
- (d) Under the APC Ground Rules, races shall be eligible for promotion if the race under consideration achieves both a Pattern Race Rating (average of last 3 years) and an Annual Race Rating for the last year equal to or above the required parameter. Note that being eligible for promotion does not require the NZPC to make such a promotion given the other factors above.

The NZPC invites clubs to make submissions for their races to be upgraded, but a submission is not a prerequisite for upgrading and the NZPC will upgrade races without submissions where appropriate.

3.4.5 Rules governing Group 1 races

- (a) Decisions relating to Group 1 races are ultimately taken by the Asian Pattern Committee (APC).
- (b) A race may be eligible for promotion to Group 1 if the race under consideration achieves both a Pattern Race Rating (average of last 3 years) and an Annual Race Rating for the last year equal to or above the required parameter.
- (c) The upgrading/downgrading of a race to/from Group 1 must be approved by a majority of two or more of the APC.
- (d) If the Annual Race Rating of a Group 1 race is more than 5lb below its parameter for each of the previous four years, the APC will consider the merits of the race, and vote on whether the race will be permitted to retain its Grade, or whether it will be downgraded.

3.4.6 Other factors

In assessing upgrades, admissions, downgrades or deletions of races to or from the schedule of black type races, the following factors may also be taken into account by the NZPC:

- (a) The ratings of the four highest rated horses to start (as well as the first four to finish).
- (b) The number of starters to have won a Group 1 race in the two most recent seasons.
- (c) The iconic or historical significance of some races of national importance including, but not necessarily restricted to, the national three-year-old Classics.
- (d) The effect on the overall pattern of racing and the shape of the “pyramid” (ref. 3.1.2, above).

SECTION 4 COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Historically, the NZPC has felt that the New Zealand “pyramid” has been somewhat top-heavy and has not met international expectations. This year has seen the downgrade of one G1 race and one G2 race combined with the upgrades of one race to G3 and one to Listed. This provides a pyramid of 21 G1 races; 25 G2; 40 G3 and 63 Listed. While still not entirely satisfactory, it is moving towards an acceptable shape.
- 4.2 It is the responsibility of a Club to notify the NZPC where a significant change in conditions is contemplated. Changes in one or more of the distance, timing and conditions can result in an entirely different race being conducted. Although the Committee is sympathetic to programming and other issues, the integrity of the system is paramount.
- 4.3 For the 2016-17 season, the Committee supports the Minimum Stakes Levels adopted by NZTR and set out below:

Status	Minimum Stake
Group 1	\$200,000
Group 2	\$100,000
Group 3	\$70,000
Listed	\$50,000

- 4.4** Appreciation is expressed to those involved with making submissions, the majority of whom follow the guidelines advised to clubs. Those submissions assist the Committee with its deliberations, particularly where they contain new information and context about the race performance.
- 4.5** The NZPC is fully aware of concerns regarding the Pattern Race Ratings and downgrades of NZ's staying handicaps which have great historical significance, public appeal and linkages to the type of horse bred by the NZ breeding industry. That said, it is critical for the international credibility of the NZ Pattern that our races conform to international norms as governed by the APC on behalf of IRPAC. In recent years, NZ's traditional staying handicaps have struggled to meet these norms and have been under considerable downgrade pressure. The NZPC is pleased to note that the APC has agreed to a review of the ratings of such races across the region. Regardless of the outcomes of this review, the NZPC understands that NZTR will recognise the iconic heritage significance of NZ's staying cups by continuing to fund these races at unchanged levels of prize-money which are significantly above the required minimums.
- 4.6** One new race was introduced into the schedule of black type races for 2016-17 due to extremely high ratings in its recent editions. Further opportunities may arise within the next year or two to promote more races into the black-type structure at Listed level. However, while the total number of flat races programmed each year continues to fall, the ratio of black type races has risen to be slightly above the ideal target of 5%. Consequently, any new events introduced to the Pattern will need to be offset by deletion of the weakest Listed races. Some open-age handicaps are struggling to hold their position, while the 3YO and Fillies/Mares categories appear to be somewhat under-represented. The Committee urges Clubs to identify gaps in the calendar for horses in those two categories, taking into account distance aptitudes and the provision of preparatory opportunities leading in to the established pattern races.
- Fillies & mares (3YO & older) as a group are not particularly well catered for, especially through the summer period. In total, they have only 13 black-type opportunities excluding races limited to 3yo fillies only. They have only two black type opportunities beyond a mile, both in the autumn. They also have only one black type opportunity at less than 1600m between late November and mid-May. It is noted by the Committee that other comparable racing jurisdictions seem to provide many more black type opportunities for the fillies and mares category and this Committee would like to see every major carnival in NZ programme at least one race for this category in the hope that some could grow into black type races.
- 4.7** In line with international expectations, the NZPC will continue to use horse ratings provided by the World Thoroughbred Ratings as our primary statistical assessment tool. This meets requirements by the APC, set out in their Ground Rules, which are available at

[http://www.nzracing.co.nz/Downloads/APC-RevisedGroundRules-29Nov%2011%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.nzracing.co.nz/Downloads/APC-RevisedGroundRules-29Nov%2011%20(3).pdf).

- 4.8 The NZPC has some concern with relying on the WTRR ratings assigned to NZ 3yo races. They are inconsistent with the ratings achieved by the same horses overseas and frequently the horses achieve higher ratings as older horses. The NZPC is concerned that NZ 3yo races may be systematically under-rated. Accordingly, the NZPC requests NZTR to establish an expert review of the WTRR levels assigned to NZ 3yo horses and races in recent seasons. The NZPC is a strong supporter of the APC Ground Rules but it is a difficult task to apply them across different jurisdictions. Critical review and evaluation can only lead to improvement and increased confidence in their accuracy across the region.

SECTION 5

SUMMARY

- 5.1 As a result of the review, the number of black type races for 2016-17 compared with previous seasons is as follows:

Status	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12
Group 1	21	22	22	22	22	22
Group 2	25	25	22	21	22	23
Group 3	40	38	40	39	36	33
Listed	63	63	63	65	65	68
Total	149	148	147	147	145	146
PJR	TBC*	12	12	12	11	12

* *The number of Prestige Jumping Races will be confirmed at the NZPC meeting in late October.*

- 5.2 The 2016-17 list includes the following changes to the previous season:

Upgrades

Rotorua S. L to G3 – conducted by Rotorua RC in mid-May. Despite being conducted on rain-affected tracks, this 1400m WFA fillies and mares race has comfortably exceeded the required rating benchmark of 100 in each of the last three seasons and has a Pattern Race Rating of 102.3. The NZPC has for some years identified the need to provide more opportunities for fillies and mares and it fits into the Pattern on this basis.

Auckland RC 1300m 3yo SW&P Unlisted to L – conducted in early December, this race has achieved ratings of 105 and 106 in its last two editions, these being in excess of the required G3 threshold. The race appears to fit into the programme ideally as a lead-up race to the Christmas period and has been won by Sofia Rosa and Volkstok'n'barrell in the last two years, with strong place-getters behind them. While the NZPC is concerned at the high overall percentage of NZ black type races, the high rating of this race could not be ignored.

Downgrades

Easter Stakes SWP, G1 to G2 – the 2015/16 rating of 109.2 and pattern race rating of 107.9 both fell below the tolerance threshold of 110. The race failed to meet the threshold in each of the four years under review. The NZPC did consider that the top four starters in the race have consistently rated above 110 in recent seasons and that this was a potential offsetting factor to some degree. All final decisions on G1 races are made by vote by the APC and given the failure of the race to meet its required benchmarks, the APC voted to downgrade to G2.

Wellington Cup Handicap G2 to G3 - the pattern race rating of 103.9 falls well below the benchmark of 110 and the tolerance threshold of 107. The race failed to meet the 107 mark for each of the last three seasons. 2016 marked the return to a distance of 3200m, and while the rating implications over a period of time remain to be seen, the race appears likely to meet the G3 benchmark of 105 and tolerance threshold of 102 in the future. The NZPC did take into account the review of staying ratings and races throughout the Asian region being carried out by the APC. However, in common with all races in the region of G2 or below that failed to meet their threshold, the race was downgraded under the APC Ground Rules. The NZPC understands that NZTR intends to continue to fund the race at unchanged levels, which should see a continuation of the iconic heritage status of the race in the calendar.

Comments On Other NZPC Decisions

Wakefield Challenge Stakes 2yo, G2 – 1st warning removed as the 2015/16 rating and the pattern race rating exceeded the minimum threshold. While the race was only moved to December in recent years, the NZPC considers that the race date could be reviewed to see if the first day of the Wellington Cup carnival might attract a stronger field and be a better place for the race in the overall pattern.

Matamata Slipper 2yo, L – the pattern race rating just met the criterion for promotion for G3 while the 2015/16 running just failed. The race is a clear candidate for future promotion but the NZPC is concerned at the

ongoing clash with the Taranaki 2yo Classic (G3) which is run one week earlier. Any promotion is unlikely until this clash is solved.

Triton Stakes 2yo, L – the 2015/16 rating of 91 narrowly missed the tolerance threshold of 92 but the NZPC viewed this as one-off weakness following earlier strength and declined to issue a first warning.

Ryder Stakes 2yo, L – the 2015/16 rating of 89.5 was particularly weak but the pattern race rating of 95.2 easily met the benchmark. Given the race was run in torrential rain and the meeting was called off thereafter, this may potentially have had an impact on the rating and the NZPC chose not to issue a first warning.

NZ 2000 Guineas 3yo, G1 – did not issue a 1st warning despite the 2015/16 rating of 108.7 and pattern race rating of 109.8 falling below the 110 tolerance level. Xtravagant won by many lengths in record time and the victory margin mechanically detracted from the ratings assigned to all other horses. In line with earlier comments, the NZPC had some difficulty reconciling the peak WTRR ratings historically assigned to horses in this race. Recent winners such as Turn Me Loose, Sacred Falls and Jimmy Choux have subsequently rated at far higher levels.

Hawkes Bay Guineas 3yo, G2 – issued 2nd warning. The pattern race rating of 105.8 and the 2015/16 rating of 104.5 were clearly below the tolerance of 107 and the benchmark of 110.

Wellington Guineas 3yo, G2 – issued 2nd warning. The pattern race rating of 104.5 and the 2015/16 rating of 102.2 were clearly below the tolerance of 107 and the benchmark of 110.

Championship Stakes 3yo, G2 – issued 2nd warning. The pattern race rating of 104.4 and the 2015/16 rating of 103.0 were clearly below the tolerance of 107 and the benchmark of 110. While the 2014/15 running was of acceptable strength (at 108.5) which had seen the 2nd warning removed, this race has otherwise struggled to meet its threshold and its placement in the calendar remains a question.

Manawatu Classic 3yo, G3 – issued 1st warning. This race has rated with a very wide range in recent years but an unusually weak running rated just 94.0, necessitating a 1st warning.

Northland Breeders Stakes 3yo, L – on the cusp of upgrade to G3 and would fit well in the pattern given its early season running on good track conditions.

NZ 1000 Guineas, 3yoF, G1 – issued 1st warning. Rated just 103.7 and this dropped the pattern race rating to 105.0, which equates to the tolerance level. Concerningly, the last two editions have both been below 105 and no obvious horse rating anomalies were apparent.

Oaks Prelude, 3yoF, L – rated a strong 101.7 in its first running as a Listed race. A continuation in coming seasons at this level would place it in contention for promotion.

NZ St Leger, 3/4yo, L – 2nd warning issued. While formerly rating comfortably in Listed territory, the last two editions have been particularly

weak, dropping the pattern race rating to just 95.6 versus the tolerance threshold of 97.

Auckland Cup, G1 – 2nd warning maintained. The pattern race rating of 105.8 falls well below the required benchmark of 115 and the tolerance threshold of 110. The race has failed to meet the tolerance threshold for each of the last four years. The 2016 renewal was particularly weak with a rating of 103.5. By comparison the G2 benchmark is 110 and the tolerance threshold is 107. The NZPC also considered the average rating of the top 4 starters (Decorah, Benzini, Sampson and King Kamada) but this was 108.5. The race contained no G1 winners within the last 18 months (APC rules) or the last 24 months (NZPC rules). The NZPC considered the importance of the Auckland Cup in the NZ Pattern and concluded that it was deeply undesirable to have no G1 race of 2400m or longer for older horses. The APC review of staying races has provided the opportunity for the race to remain at G1 level for one more season pending the outcomes of this review despite the race's failure to meet the required thresholds. The NZPC supports this outcome. Regardless, a significant lift in race rating will clearly be required in the season ahead. It will be important therefore for the ARC to take steps to improve the rating performance of the race.

Telegraph SWP, G1 – remained at 1st warning despite a rating of 106.0 and pattern race rating of 107.1, being below the 110 threshold. The race met the threshold the previous year and this year's edition may have been affected by slightly rain affected track conditions seeing the highest rated horses finish outside the top four.

Avondale Cup, G2 - 1st warning removed after rating at 107.8, above the tolerance threshold of 107.

Japan/NZ International Trophy, G2 – declined to issue a 1st warning despite rating well below the threshold due to heavy track conditions affecting the starters and outcome.

Awapuni Gold Cup G2 – 1st warning maintained despite rating below the threshold for the second year in a row at 106.7. The top four starters rated well above the threshold.

GR Kelt Memorial, Hcp, G3 – a very strong running at 110.7 met the G2 standard but two more strong editions will likely be needed to lift the pattern race rating to the level needed to be considered for promotion.

Counties Cup, Hcp, G3 – 1st warning removed after a very strong running that rated 110.7, the highest of NZ's staying Cups in the 2015/16 season.

White Robe Lodge, Hcp, G3 – 2nd warning issued. The race rated 100.2 and the pattern race rating of 101.6 is now slightly below the 102 tolerance threshold.

Rotorua Cup, Hcp, G3 – 1st warning removed after a second consecutive running that comfortably met the tolerance threshold.

Jim & John Evans Metric Mile, Hcp, L – 1st warning issued following a very weak race at just 94.8.

Matamata Cup, Hcp, L – 1st warning issued following an unusually weak edition at just 94.8.

Counties Bowl, Hcp, L – the pattern race rating of 105.2 meets the requirements for upgrade to G3 but this seasons rating of 103.5 fell short.

FC Johnstone Hcp, L – the pattern race rating of 104.8 just fails the requirements for promotion but one more strong edition may see it considered for promotion.

James Hazlett Stakes, Hcp, L – remove 1st warning – a solid edition rating 101.2 followed what now appears to be a one-off weak race the previous season.

Dunedin Cup, Hcp, L – revert to 1st warning from 2nd – a solid race at 98.5.

Flying Handicap, Hcp, L – two solid editions in a row have lifted the pattern race rating to just over the required threshold at 105.3. The NZPC felt there were already ample sprint opportunities for older horses but that a further strong running may see an upgrade.

CJC George Adams (Tattersall), Hcp, L – 1st warning removed after the prior season's weakness appears one-off.

Marton 1600, Hcp, L – 1st warning removed as it just met its 100.0 threshold.

Taumarunui Cup, Hcp, L – 2nd warning imposed as the race rated a very weak 91.2. While this race is a time-honoured winter target, being raced on a very heavy track in mid-winter may see this race better positioned as an "iconic heritage" race than as part of the Pattern.

Wairarapa TB Breeders Stakes, FM WFA, L – the pattern race rating of 101.7 easily met the promotion criterion but the most recent edition just failed at 99.7. Unfortunate late scratchings at the start were considered but they did not clearly affect the average race rating outcome. Clearly a potential candidate for future promotion to G3.

- 5.3** The number of Black Type races for each season is expected to equate to approximately 5% of flat races run, as prescribed in Operating Procedure 3.1.1. There were 2,683 flat races run in the 2015-16 season and 147 black-type races which represents 5.48%.

5.4 Summary of warnings

Status	2nd Warnings Maintained	2nd Warnings Issued	Reverted to 1st Warnings	1st Warnings Maintained	1st Warnings Issued	1st Warnings Removed
Group 1	1	-	-	2	1	-
Group 2	-	3	-	1	-	2
Group 3	-	1	-	-	1	2
Listed	-	2	1	-	2	3
PJRs	<i>PJR races to be reviewed in October</i>					
Total	1	6	1	3	4	7

5.5 2nd Warnings Maintained

G1	Auckland Cup		Auckland RC
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5.6 2nd Warnings Issued

G2	Championship Stakes		Auckland RC
G2	Wellington Guineas		Wellington RC
G2	Hawke's Bay Guineas		Hawke's Bay RI
G3	White Robe Lodge H		Otago RC
L	New Zealand St Leger		Wellington RC
L	Taumarunui Cup		Taumarunui RC

5.7 Reverted to 1st Warnings

G3	Dunedin Gold Cup H		Otago RC
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5.8 1st Warnings Maintained

G1	Levin Classic		Levin RC
G1	Telegraph H.		Wellington RC

G2	Awapuni Gold Cup		Manawatu RC
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5.9 1st Warnings Issued

G1	NZ 1000 Guineas		Canterbury JC
G3	Manawatu Classic		Manawatu RC
L	Jim & John Evans Metric Mile		Counties RC
L	Matamata Cup		Matamata RC

5.10 1st Warnings Removed

G2	Wakefield Challenge S		Wellington RC
G2	Avondale Cup H		Avondale JC
G3	Counties Cup		Counties RC
G3	Rotorua Cup H		Rotorua RC
L	James Hazlett S		Otago RC
L	George Adams H	<i>Easter Cup</i>	Canterbury JC
L	Marton 1600		Marton JC

SECTION 6

2015-16 AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND CLASSIFICATIONS RACE RATINGS

(including f&m allowance)

Registered Race		Conditions	Pattern Race Rating	Annual rating	Minimum expected
Ellerslie Sires Produce	G1	2Y SW	105.50	104.75	105
Manawatu Sires Produce	G1	2Y SW	106.00	105.50	105
Wakefield Challenge Stakes	G2	2Y SW	102.75	102.25	102
Matamata Breeders Stakes	G2	2YF SW	102.00	102.25	97
Eclipse Stakes	G3	2Y SW	101.92	99.25	97
Taranaki 2YO Classic	G3	2Y SW	99.33	102.00	97
Wellesley Stakes	L	2Y SW	97.50	98.00	92
CJC Welcome Stakes	L	2Y SW	98.00	98.25	92
Counties Challenge Stakes	L	2Y SW	98.33	96.25	92
Karaka Million	L	2Y SW	102.67	100.75	97
Matamata Slipper	L	2YCG SW	100.25	99.75	92
Great Northern Champagne Stakes	L	2Y SW	97.08	97.25	92
Star Way 1000-Wentwood Grange Stks	L	2Y SW	98.42	93.25	92
CJC Champagne Stakes	L	2Y SW	96.17	94.50	92
Great Northern Foal Stakes	L	2Y SW	97.08	99.25	92
Triton Stakes	L	2Y SW	93.25	91.00	92
Ryder Stakes	L	2Y SW	95.25	89.50	92

NZ 2000 Guineas	G1	3Y SW	109.83	108.75	110
Levin Classic	G1	3Y SW	109.75	111.25	110
NZ Derby	G1	3Y SW	111.17	111.00	110
Hawke's Bay Guineas	G2	3Y SW	105.83	104.50	107
Sarten Memorial	G2	3Y SW	108.83	106.75	107
Great Northern Guineas	G2	3Y SW	108.17	106.75	107
Waikato Guineas	G2	3Y SW	108.17	107.50	107
Avondale Guineas	G2	3Y SW	109.50	108.50	107
Wellington Guineas	G2	3Y SW	104.50	102.25	107
Championship Stakes	G2	3Y SW	104.42	103.00	107
Bonecrusher Stakes	G3	3YCG SW	102.35	100.75	102
Wellington Stakes	G3	3Y SW	107.13	108.50	102

Mr Tiz Trophy	G3	3Y SWP	104.52	103.25	102
Manawatu Classic	G3	3Y SW	100.33	94.00	102
Cambridge Breeders	G3	3Y SW	105.00	106.75	102
Wanganui Guineas	L	3YCG SW	97.92	98.75	97
Northland Breeders Stakes	L	3YO SW	105.17	104.75	97
John Grigg Stakes	L	3Y SW	103.58	103.25	97
Canterbury Stakes	L	3Y SW	102.25	103.50	97
Trevor Eagle Memorial	L	3Y SW	104.42	104.75	97
Northern Guineas Prelude	L	3Y SW	102.00	102.00	97
Gore Guineas	L	3Y SW	99.58	97.75	97
Karaka 3YO Mile	L	3Y SW	107.42	109.50	102
Dunedin Guineas	L	3Y SW	102.58	102.75	97
Southland Guineas	L	3Y SW	100.83	101.50	97
NZ 1000 Guineas	G1	3YF SW	105.08	103.75	105
NZ Oaks	G1	3YF SW	106.58	107.50	105
Eight Carat Classic/Ladies Mile	G2	3YF SW	106.17	107.00	102
Royal Stakes	G2	3YF SW	103.33	103.00	102
Sir Tristram Fillies Classic	G2	3YF SW	104.83	105.50	102
Gold Trail Stakes	G3	3YF SW	103.83	105.75	97
Eulogy Stakes	G3	3YF SW	99.25	101.75	97
Desert Gold Stakes	G3	3YF SW	102.58	102.25	97
Lowland Stakes	G3	3YF SW	103.25	106.00	97
Sunline Vase	G3	3YF SW	102.50	103.50	97
Trudy Thompson Memorial	L	3YF SW	97.83	96.00	92
Canterbury Belle Stakes	L	3YF SW	97.25	98.75	92
Soliloquoy Stakes	L	3YF SW	96.75	101.00	92
Oaks Prelude	L	3YF SW	101.75	101.75	92
NZ Bloodstock Insurance Stks	L	3YF SW	97.58	99.75	92
NZ Bloodstock Airfreight Stks	L	3YF SW	98.85	97.25	92
Warstep Stakes	L	3YF SW	99.83	99.00	92

Hawkes Bay Challenge Stakes	G1	3UP WFA	113.25	112.75	110
Ormond Memorial	G1	3UP WFA	112.83	111.00	110
Horlicks Plate (Windsor Park)	G1	3UP WFA	113.75	110.50	110
Captain Cook Stakes	G1	3UP WFA	113.67	113.25	110
Galaxy Stakes	G1	3UP WFA	113.00	114.75	110
International Stakes	G1	3UP WFA	112.83	112.75	110
Waikato Sprint	G1	3UP WFA	113.92	113.00	110
Otaki Maori WFA	G1	3UP WFA	113.67	113.50	110
Second Century Stakes	G1	3UP WFA	113.25	112.75	110
Foxbridge Plate	G2	3UP WFA	110.67	110.00	107
Thames Valley Stakes	G2	3UP WFA	113.67	114.25	107
Manawatu Challenge Stakes	G2	WFA	110.17	111.25	107
Arawa Stakes	G3	3UP WFA	109.92	110.25	102

Alison Stakes	G3	3UP WFA	110.08	108.75	102
Canterbury Gold Cup	G3	WFA	107.42	111.75	102
NZ St Leger	L	SW	95.67	94.25	97
Jackson Stakes	L	WFA	104.33	101.75	97
Railway Handicap	G1	SWP	112.00	112.25	110
Telegraph Handicap	G1	SWP	107.17	106.00	110
Thorndon Mile	G1	SWP	112.08	112.25	110
Auckland Cup	G1	SWP	105.83	103.50	110
Easter Stakes	G1	SWP	107.92	109.25	110
Couplands Bakeries Mile	G2	3UP HCP	109.75	109.50	107
ARC Rich Hill Mile	G2	HCP	108.83	106.00	107
Wellington Cup	G2	HCP	103.92	102.00	107
Avondale Cup	G2	HCP	106.67	107.75	107
Japan/NZ International Trophy	G2	HCP	107.08	104.00	107
Awapuni Gold Cup	G2	SWP	107.92	106.75	107
Winter Cup	G3	HCP	102.50	101.75	102
Marton Metric Mile	G3	3UP HCP	104.17	104.00	102
G R Kelt Memorial	G3	3UP HCP	108.42	110.75	102
Stewards Stakes	G3	3UP HCP	103.75	102.25	102
New Zealand Cup	G3	3UP HCP	102.92	106.25	102
Counties Cup	G3	3UP HCP	104.92	110.75	102
Great Northern Challenge Stakes	G3	SWP	107.75	108.25	102
Concorde	G3	HCP	104.75	105.50	102
Waikato Gold Cup	G3	HCP	104.50	105.25	102
Manawatu Cup	G3	HCP	104.25	107.00	102
Queen Elizabeth Handicap	G3	HCP	103.33	105.50	102
Trentham Stakes	G3	SWP	102.50	105.75	102
Anniversary Hdcp	G3	HCP	104.25	102.50	102
White Robe	G3	HCP	101.58	100.25	102
Taranaki Stakes	G3	HCP	104.00	104.00	102
Kings Plate (Darley Plate)	G3	SWP	105.83	106.25	102
Rotorua Cup	G3	HCP	103.42	103.50	102
Jim & John Evans Metric Mile	L	3UP HCP	99.67	94.75	97
Matamata Cup	L	3UP HCP	101.17	94.75	97
Rotorua Challenge Plate	L	3UP HCP	104.33	103.25	97
Spring Classic	L	3UP HCP	102.42	103.25	97
Feilding Cup	L	3UP HCP	102.08	105.50	97
Pegasus Stakes	L	3UP HCP	100.58	99.50	97
Metropolitan Trophy	L	3UP HCP	102.67	104.75	97
Westminster Handicap	L	3UP HCP	103.50	104.50	97
Counties Bowl	L	3UP HCP	105.25	103.50	97
Levin Stakes	L	HCP	103.58	101.75	97
Wanganui Cup	L	HCP	101.92	100.75	97
FC Johnstone Handicap	L	HCP	104.83	105.25	97

James Hazlett Stakes	L	HCP	99.58	101.25	97
Newmarket Hdcp	L	HCP	103.33	101.50	97
Timaru Cup	L	HCP	99.75	97.00	97
Marton Cup	L	HCP	101.58	102.25	97
Timaru Stakes	L	HCP	99.42	99.50	97
Dunedin Cup	L	HCP	97.50	98.50	97
Kaimai Stakes <i>form: TRAC Stakes</i>	L	HCP	102.92	102.00	97
Lightning Handicap	L	HCP	101.08	101.75	97
Riverton Cup	L	HCP	99.67	99.00	97
Flying Handicap	L	HCP	105.33	105.50	97
Hawkes Bay Cup	L	HCP	99.83	100.00	97
City Of Napier Sprint	L	HCP	102.00	102.50	97
CJC Geo. Adams (Tattersall)	L	HCP	99.42	101.00	97
Anzac Handicap	L	HCP	100.75	99.50	97
CJC Great Easter Stakes	L	HCP	101.25	101.00	97
Marton 1600	L	HCP	100.08	100.00	97
Opunake Cup	L	HCP	97.75	97.75	97
Taumarunui Cup	L	HCP	94.92	91.25	97
NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes	G1	FM WFA	108.08	106.50	105
Auckland TB Breeders Stakes	G2	FM WFA	105.17	106.25	102
Lady Norrie Stakes	G2	FM WFA	108.50	109.75	102
Westbury Classic	G2	FM SWP	104.17	104.00	102
Dulcie Stakes	G2	FM WFA	105.67	106.00	102
Evergreen Stakes	G3	FM WFA	103.83	102.75	97
Canterbury Breeders Stakes	G3	3UP FM SW	101.08	99.75	97
Cuddle Stakes	G3	FM SWP	101.83	102.00	97
South Island Breeders Stakes	G3	FM SW	101.67	101.00	97
Manawatu Breeders Stakes	G3	FM WFA	100.38	99.75	97
Wairarapa TB Breeders Stakes	L	FM WFA	101.75	99.75	92
Rotorua Stakes	L	FM WFA	102.33	102.00	92
Tauranga Classic	L	FM	99.58	97.50	92