

**Supplementary Report of the
NZ PATTERN COMMITTEE**

Following 30 October 2014 Meeting

6 FEBRUARY 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This Supplementary Report should be read in conjunction with the Annual Report of the NZ Pattern Committee, issued on 26 August 2014.
2. The 2014 NZ Pattern Committee (NZPC) has held its October meeting to review the Prestige Jumps Races (PJR) for 2014.
3. There is no change to the schedule of PJRs. There are twelve races with PJR status for the 2015 jumps season.
4. The NZPC resolved in 2012 to adopt Race Ratings, based on peak domestic handicap (jumps) horse ratings, as its primary statistical assessment tool for PJR races. In this, the second year of using Race Ratings, four first warnings were issued.

COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** The NZPC once again draws the attention of industry participants to the correct use of the term **‘Brestige Jumps Races’**. This correctly applies to the list of jumps races reviewed by the NZPC and published in the International Cataloguing Standards booklet (**‘Blue Book’**) as qualifying for black-type in National Hunt catalogues world-wide. In recent years some confusion occurred when the premier jumping races identified by NZ Jumps Inc. as qualifying for additional NZTR funding also got mistakenly referred to as PJRs. These are now termed **Significant Jumps Races (SJRs)**. All SJRs will be kept on a **‘watch list’** by the NZPC for consideration should it be deemed that there is room for a new or replacement race on the PJR list.
- 2.2** It is the responsibility of the club to notify the NZPC where a significant change in conditions of a PJR is contemplated. Changes in one or more of the distance, timing and conditions can in fact 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.
- 2.3** The twelve races on the PJR schedule for 2015 represent a percentage of total jumps races programmed in NZ which is considerably above the 5% guideline figure for flat races, but the Committee noted that that was also the case in some other countries.
- 2.4** It was resolved in 2012 to adopt Race Ratings as the primary statistical assessment tool for judging the quality of PJR fields. Using the ANZ Race Ratings (utilised for judging flat races) as a template, it was decided to develop a PJR Race Rating based on the average of the first four finishers and using their peak domestic handicap (jumps) rating for the year concerned. The initial guideline benchmarks suggested are 93.00 to gain PJR status (subject to a space in the pattern being judged to be available) and 88.00 to retain PJR status. Suitability of these figures will be monitored in the coming years. The numbers of PJR winners and PJR wins, along with an overview of the entire field, will still be taken into account when assessing quality.
- 2.5** In 2014 four PJR races returned Race Ratings below the 88.00 benchmark figure and the Committee has given them first warnings. They are the CJC Grand National Hurdle, CJC Grand National S/chase, ARC McGregor Grant S/chase and Pakuranga HC Hunt Cup S/chase. The Committee wishes to make it clear that it is not on a crusade to reduce the number of PJR races; this is just part of the process of bedding in a new system of assessment. Only time will tell whether 2014’s lower rating figures are an aberration as a new generation of premier jumpers come through the ranks, or whether the trial benchmark figures have been set at too high a level. At this time

the Committee is satisfied that the current number of PJRs (12) is appropriate.

SUMMARY

3.1 As a result of the review, the number of Prestige Jumps Races for 2015 compared with previous years is as follows:

Status	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
PJR	12	12	11	12	12	12

3.2 Warnings

First warnings are issued to:

CJC Grand National Hurdle

CJC Grand National S/chase

ARC McGregor Grant S/chase

Pakuranga HC Hunt Cup S/chase

3.3 Summary of warnings

Status	2nd Warnings Maintained	2nd Warnings Issued	Reverted to 1st Warnings	1st Warnings Maintained	1st Warnings Issued	1st Warnings Removed
PJRs	0	0	0	0	4	0

RACE RATINGS

4.0 2014 PJR Race Ratings

Waikato RC Waikato Hurdle H.	92.00
Pakuranga HC Pakuranga Hunt Hurdle H.	91.75
WRC Wellington Hurdle H.	89.25
ARC Great Northern Hurdle H.	88.00
CJC Grand National Hurdle H.	86.25

WRC Wellington S/chase H.	96.25
ARC Great Northern S/chase H.	91.25
HBRI Hawke's Bay S/chase H.	91.00
Waikato RC Waikato S/chase H.	91.00
Pakuranga Hunt Cup S/chase H.	87.25
CJC Grand National S/chase H.	86.75
ARC McGregor Grant S/chase H.	86.00

4.1 2014 SJR Race Ratings

ARC KS Browne Hurdle H.	92.75
HBRI Hawke's Bay Hurdle H.	86.25
Manawatu RC Awapuni Hurdle H.	82.00
CJC Sydenham Hurdle H.	78.25

CJC Koral S/chase H.	92.75
Manawatu RC Manawatu S/chase H.	84.25