



22 February, 2011

## **NZTR HANDICAPPING REVIEW TERMS OF REFERENCE**

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing has appointed Mark Webbey to conduct a full review of the current NZTR Handicapping operations.

Mark has extensive handicapping experience, having previously been employed as the Senior Handicapper for Racing NSW and the Chief Handicapper and Racing Manager for the Singapore Turf Club. He is familiar with handicapping systems worldwide and was previously a committee member of the World Thoroughbred Racehorse Ranking Committee.

### **Methods & Process**

The following methods will be used to prepare this report:

1. A full review of statistical and background information provided by NZTR
2. A detailed assessment of current NZTR handicapping systems and procedures
3. Analysis of relevant procedures and policies adopted by other Racing jurisdictions
4. Interviews/meetings with nominated sector Group representatives, licence holders, Club and Programming personnel, NZTR management and other stakeholders.
5. Evaluation of all public submissions provided directly to NZTR
6. Distribution of a draft report and incorporation of feedback into the final version.

**While not limited to the following, factors to be considered as part of the Review will include:**

1. A review of existing NZTR handicapping procedures and policies to identify any omissions or inconsistencies.
2. Review the existing structure of the Handicapping Department within NZTR and make recommendations as to the ideal future structure – including resources (staffing and technology), regional spread, reporting lines and future planning requirements.
3. Review existing internal checking and communication policies – particularly in respect of field selection for all races with regard to standard balloting & exemption conditions, weights and re-handicaps; order of entry for Maiden races and raising weights at acceptance time.

4. Consider how communication & transparency with participants can be further enhanced.
5. Determine whether an independent review mechanism needs to be implemented for specific objections to the handicappers' assessments.
6. The rating of 3YO's and allocation of additional points to 3YO's to amend order of entry into Handicap, WFA and Set Weight Races.
7. Identify potential synergies with appropriate overseas handicapping jurisdictions.
8. Investigate differentials between regions within New Zealand eg. North Island vs. South Island and seasonal timings eg. through the Winter and early Spring racing period.
9. Look at any opportunities to enhance Race programming and avoid congestion in some rating bands.
10. Review the appropriateness of the domestic ratings based handicapping system in New Zealand including the:
  - Application of Age and sex allowances in Handicap races
  - Spread of weights in Handicap races following the decision to raise min weights in Handicap races by 1kg from 1 February 2011
  - The application of Set Weights and Set Weight & Penalty races including age group races
  - F&M allowances under the WFA scale – comparisons with Australia, together with the application of 1.5kg F&M allowance in 2yo and 3yo black type races e.g. is the 56kg-54.5kg SW scale appropriate?
  - Ratings based handicapping template – review how is it being used
  - Application of a re-rating and the movement of horses between rating bands
  - Selection of fields for black type races
  - Introduction of Benchmark races in South Island and the appropriateness or otherwise of an extension of Benchmark Rating races across New Zealand.

**Timetable for the 2011 NZTR Handicapping Review:**

Terms of Reference released	21 February 2011
Call for public/stakeholder written submissions	22 February 2011
Industry/stakeholder consultation commences	14 March 2011
Written submissions close	21 March 2011
Industry/stakeholder consultation completed	31 March 2011
Handicapping Review discussion paper released for public comment	19 April 2011
Stakeholder/public comments on draft paper close	2 May 2011
Final Report of NZTR Handicapping Review released	23 May 2011

**Writing a submission:**

All interested parties are invited to make written submissions on any aspects of the Handicapping Review. Please list any specific recommendations that you wish the Review to consider. Address your submission to:

Mark Webbey  
New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing  
PO Box 38386  
Wellington Mail Centre 5045

or email to [mark.webbey@nzracing.co.nz](mailto:mark.webbey@nzracing.co.nz)

**Written submissions close 21 March 2011**

If you are making a written submission please include your name, address and contact details should we wish to speak to you directly.

Yours sincerely

Greg Purcell  
**Chief Executive**  
**New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing**