

HANDICAPPING GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS **(2022)**

I. Classification of Newly-Imported horses

(A newly imported horse is one which has never raced in Mauritius.)

Newly imported horses aged 3 or more that have won prior to arrival in Mauritius shall be classified on their overseas merit rating converted into Mauritian rating upon their arrival in Mauritius.

The conversion scale shall be as follows and shall apply to all horses which arrive on or after 1st January 2022.

1. 3 YEAR OLD :

- a) 3yo Imported horses will attract a deduction of 40 points , however after deduction the maximum rating would be capped at 55 unless the trainer elects otherwise .**
- b) In the case of a Trainer electing not to benefit from the Rating cap, the Trainer shall notify the Horse Racing Division Handicapper by email within 72 hours of the Rating being published and the horse will be rated in accordance with standard deduction of 40 points.**

NOTE :

Such request shall be binding and shall not be reversed.

If no such request has been made within the time specified the said horse/s shall benefit from the Rating cap of 55.

2. 4 YEAR OLD :

4yo horses - (- 30 points)

3. 5 YEAR OLD or OLDER :

5yo horses & over - (-30 points) subject to the Note below :

NOTE :

The deduction for such horses will be 30 points provided the Merit Rating of such horse/s shall be at least 90 , else the deduction shall be 25 points

For horses with Merit Rating 85-89 , they shall be rated at 60 so that they are not allotted a rating higher than a horse of the same age rated higher.

4. MAIDEN HORSES

2YO	:	21
3 YO	:	26
4 YO OR MORE	:	28

NOTE :

- a) Fillies : Allowance of 3 points**
- b) Horses born in Mauritius : Allowance of 4 points**

5. MINIMUM RATING FOR NEWLY IMPORTED NON-MAIDENS (WINNERS)

2 YO	:	Not less than 25
3 YO	:	Not less than 29
4 YO OR MORE:		Not less than 33

2yo of any origin arriving in Mauritius shall have its Mauritius rating calculated as follows :-

21 + 4 points = 25 points

i.e. for each win the horse incurs extra 4 points

- 6. Horses arriving in Mauritius without an official rating shall be rated by the HRD Handicapper after consultation, where possible, with the handicappers in the country where the horse last raced.**

- 7. Any horse arriving in Mauritius with no official Turf racing record but with only an official Sand/All Weather Rating will have its Sand/All Weather Rating taken as its overseas official rating. If a horse has both Turf and Sand/All Weather Ratings, the Turf Rating will be taken as its overseas official rating; and**

NOTE :

Where a horse arrived prior to 1st January 2022 and has not yet raced in Mauritius and was allotted a higher rating on account of previous guidelines and regulations, its rating shall be revised downwards in accordance with the above mentioned regulations .

8. DATES FOR CONSIDERATION OF RATING NEWLY IMPORTED HORSES

a) For Horses that arrived after 1st January 2022 :

A horse purchased before 31st October 2021 with an intention to race it at Mauritius and also has not run outside Mauritius after 31st July 2021, its rating shall be converted on the basis of its age in July 2021, notwithstanding that it enters quarantine and / or reaches Mauritius on or after August 2021.

b) For horses to be imported for the Season 2023 ;

Will be notified in due course

II. NOMINATIONS/ENTRIES (Rule 115) :

1. A trainer must not nominate a horse unless:

- (a) Its identity has been verified by the trainer and confirmed by the Stewards or the HRD Veterinarian**
- (b) It has been rated by the Handicapper of the HRD (in case of Handicap Races)**
- (c) It has performed in at least one (1) barrier trial to the satisfaction of the Stewards;**
- (d) It has been under the care of the trainer for at least eight (8) days prior to the race meeting for which the trainer proposes to nominate the horse.**

2. A trainer must nominate a horse no later than 8.30am on the Tuesday immediately preceding the race meeting at which he proposes to run that horse, or at such other time as per the conditions of the race he intends to nominate.

Nominations must be made by submitting a duly completed nomination form in the designated box or in such other manner as the HRD may designate from time to time.

- 3. No horse shall be nominated in more than two (2) races on a race day. In case there are races on both Saturday and Sunday, a horse may be nominated in three (3) races during that weekend, provided that the horse can only be declared for one race for each day.**
- 4. Subject to 3, a trainer who has nominated a horse must declare that horse if places are available unless:-**
 - (i) he submits to the Stewards a veterinary certificate that the horse is unfit to race; or**
 - (ii) the Stewards, on the trainer showing good cause, determine that the horse should be scratched.**
- 5. Where a horse is scratched pursuant to 4(i), the trainer may not nominate that horse to run at the next meeting immediately following the race meeting in which it was scratched unless the trainer**
 - (a) obtains the special authorization from the Stewards, and submits a veterinary clearance to the reasonable satisfaction of the Stewards; or**
 - (b) at any subsequent race meeting unless the trainer submits a veterinary clearance to the reasonable satisfaction of the Stewards.**
- 6. A horse that has been nominated by a trainer must exercise at the track in Port Louis**
 - (i) for a race meeting scheduled on a Saturday, on the preceding Thursday; and**
 - (ii) for a race meeting on a Sunday, on the preceding Friday.**

A decision of the Stewards that a horse exercised at the track in Port Louis at the material time shall be final and binding and shall not be subject to appeal.
- 7. Nominations may be re-opened if there are eight (8) or fewer horses in the aggregate nominated by less than four (4) trainers. In case the nominations are re-opened for a race, each trainer (or his assistant) will be informed by email or SMS or by other electronic communication of the amended closing time.**

In addition in respect of the horses which were nominated for that race but which did not use the full number of nominations allowed, trainers will be allowed to make additional nominations for such horses in accordance with clause 3 within their discretion. Nominations for a race may only be cancelled if there will be insufficient runners to run the race in accordance with the minimum number of runners prescribed.

- 8. A trainer must submit to the HRD on the appropriate form :**
 - (i) the code of colors of the owners of the nominated horses;**

**(ii) a complete notification of gear changes; and
(iii) any application for permission pursuant to unruly horses, no later than noon on the Wednesday preceding the race meeting.**

- 9. The Stewards may refuse a trainer's nomination that does not comply with any of the above unless the trainer can show good cause.**
- 10. All requests for any change in Ownership must be submitted, latest by the time notified for the nominations for a particular race day.**
- 11. Entry of Horses in races for improper purposes is prohibited :**
- a) A person must not in the opinion of the Stewards Enter or cause to be Entered a Horse in a Race with the primary purpose of affecting the weight to be allocated to another horse entered in the Race or**
 - b) Declare or cause to be declared a horse as an acceptor for a race with the primary purpose of affecting either the weight allocated to another horse accepted for the race or the total number of horses accepted for the race.**

III. DECLARATIONS (Rule 112B)

The norms governing declarations :

1. A trainer must declare a horse no later than 8:30am on (i) Thursday immediately preceding a race meeting scheduled on a Saturday or a Saturday/Sunday weekend combination; or the Friday immediately preceding a race meeting scheduled on a Sunday, by submitting a duly completed declaration form in the designated place or in such other manner as the HRD may designate by the time appointed for declarations.
2. Where a horse has been nominated in more than one (1) race, the trainer must state on the declaration form his order of priority for the race where he wishes his horse to start. If a rider is declared on more than one horse in the same race, his earliest engagement must prevail unless the trainers involved agree otherwise.
3. When a trainer has nominated two (2) or more horses in a race he must :
 - (a) if there are fewer than eight (8) nominations in the aggregate in that race, declare two (2) horses; or
 - (b) if there are eight (8) or more nominations in the aggregate in that race, declare at least one (1) horse but not more than two (2) horses.
4. The Stewards may refuse a trainer's declaration that does not comply with 2 or 3 above unless the trainer can show good cause.
5. Declarations shall be processed in a room designated by the Stewards. Trainers or their representatives shall not be present in the room while the declarations are in progress. However, they can observe the barrier draw at the office of the HRD or such other place as the Stewards may determine.
6. The field in any race shall be determined in accordance with the Balloting conditions as below and, namely (i) the merit rating of declared horses; (ii) the preference as defined; and (iii) the one (1) runner per trainer principle.
7. For the purpose of determining priority in respect of available places in the field, where a trainer has declared more than one (1) horse, his declared horse with the highest merit rating shall be deemed to be his first choice and his declared horse with a lower merit rating shall be deemed, in descending order of merit rating, to be his second and consecutive choices. Unless he has indicated his preference on the prescribed form.
8. A trainer may declare a horse that is not the highest merit rated of his nominations to fill an available place in the field. If he does so, his declared horses with a higher merit rating forfeit their priority.
9. A race shall be cancelled if there are less than 5 runners unless the race is:-
 - a) Forming part of a championship for sprinters, milers, stayers for 3-year-old or 4-year-old horses; and/or;
 - b) Listed races (which shall include classic and group races) and/or;
 - c) 50+ races. i.e. races where the merit rating of the lowest- rated horse in the final field is 50 or higher, but must have a minimum of 3 starters.
 - d) Where a race is cancelled, another race may be split into two (2) divisions.
The horse racing organizer may not reduce the prize money payable in respect of the winner and placed horses in either division from the advertised prize money.

10. Procedure for the splitting of races are as follows:-

- (a) **The conditions of each division remains the same:-**
 - i) **Prizemoney remains unchanged for both divisions;**
 - ii) **Distance remains the same for both the divisions and**
 - (iii) **The Benchmark will remain the same for both divisions.**
- (b) **The odds and evens system will apply; i.e. from the list of weights, declared runners with an odd number will be allocated to the first division; declared runners with an even number will be allocated to the second division.**
- (c) **In the event that a trainer has two (2) or more runners in one division the lowest weight horse will be placed in the other division. If two horses are on the same weight a ballot will take place;**
- (d) **In the event of the same ownership having two (2) or more runners in one division the lowest weight horse will be placed in the other division. If two horses are on the same weight a ballot will take place.**
- (e) **All runners shall be presented to be weighed at such day and time to be fixed by the Security Official. The weight of all runners shall be made public on the same day.**
- (f) **“ALL ACCEPTORS MUST RUN” shall be applicable to ALL RACES.**
- (g) **All Group 1 and Classic races shall be run at weight-for-age using the international scale applicable.**
- (h) **Trainers are requested to check with the HRD Stewards to confirm the necessary equipment allowed to be used on their charge, before accepting with the horse. Those Trainers, whose horse has been banned from racing for any reason, shall produce the requisite permission / clearance before accepting with the horse.
Eg. If a horse is banned by the Starter , the horse should be cleared by the concerned official by showing in barrier or any other such measure to ensure the horse starts well.**
- (i) **Those Trainers, who have been requested to show any of their horses in morning gate practice before accepting, are requested to comply with the necessary bit.**

11. The number of Races will be restricted to a Maximum of Nine (9) on single day Racing and Eight (8) when races are run on Saturday & Sunday.

12. Winner of a Race after publication of Weights in a Handicap race shall carry a Statutory penalty of 4 kgs.

IV. REJECTION AND BALLOTING

BALLOTING OF HORSES. (Rule 112C)

- 1. In all Handicap races (including Benchmark) in the event of a ballot, horses will be eliminated in the following order:**
 - (a) Horses will be placed in Handicapper's Benchmark order, the horse with the lowest benchmark shall be rejected first, provided that Horses with equal benchmark figures will be separated by lot if necessary;**
 - (b) Rating figures will appear on weights published on the HRD website.**
 - (c) Only horses winning a race after such declaration time shall be re-handicapped, however this will not alter the order of a race field already declared.**
 - (d) Preferences will be given in this order:-**
 - i. a horse that was balloted out when last declared and is within the Benchmark rating of the race or the conditions of the race.**
 - ii. a horse which is declared to run its first race in Mauritius and is within the Benchmark rating of the race or the conditions of the races.**
 - iii. last start winner racing within the benchmark rating of the race.**
 - iv. Horses racing within the benchmark rating range of the race.**
 - v. a horse that was balloted out when last declared and falls within the outer limits of the Benchmark rating of the race.**
 - vi. a horse which is declared to run its first race in Mauritius and falls within the outer limits Benchmark rating of the race;**
 - vii. a last start winner whose rating falls within the outer limits Benchmark rating of the race; and**
 - viii. a horse outside the benchmark starting with the lowest rating to be eliminated.**
- 2. In Feature races (subject to the specific conditions of the race) in the event of a ballot, horses will be eliminated in the following order:**
 - a) Horses will be placed in Handicapper's Benchmark rating order, the horse with the lowest benchmark shall be rejected first, provided that;**
 - b) Horses with equal benchmark rating figures will be separated by lot if necessary.**
- 3. In a weight-for age or any set weight race (subject to the specific conditions of the race) in the event of a ballot, horses will be eliminated in the following order:**
 - a) Horses will be placed in Handicapper's Benchmark rating order, the horse with the lowest benchmark rating shall be rejected first, provided that;**
 - b) Horses with equal benchmark rating figures will be separated by lot if necessary.**

**NB: Horses on the same rating will be eliminated by ballot.
One runner per trainer condition will apply unless conditions of the race state otherwise.**

DOUBLE DECLARATION (Rule 112A(3))

All Trainers and Jockeys are hereby informed that if any Jockey is declared on two different horses in the same race, an enquiry will be held and the Trainer/Jockey found responsible for this lapse will be fined at the discretion of the Stipendiary Stewards as to his/her negligence.

V. BARRIER DRAWS (Rule 112D)

The Barrier Draws at the time of the Declarations will be done manually unless otherwise specified as below. Trainers are requested to be present at the time of declarations if they wish to witness the draws.

The procedure with regard to the barrier draws will be as follows:-

- a. The order in which the horses will be drawn up before the start of each race must be determined and published at such time after the declarations as the HRD think fit.
- b. The lots shall be drawn by means of a device or computer system approved for that purpose or any other means that may have been approved by the HRD for specific Race day/s.
- c. The order must be determined by lots drawn under the supervision of a Steward of the HRD provided that when lots are drawn by means other than a draw utilizing a device or computer system approved for that purpose, an additional person, approved by the Head of Racing Division, is required to assist with the process.
- d. If any horse is withdrawn after the Declaration and before the stalling has begun, all horses drawn outside that horse must be moved in one position.
- e. If, following the determination of the barrier draw, it is established that a horse has been omitted after being correctly declared and the Stewards issue an order for a redraw of barriers then One marble will be drawn from the number of marbles corresponding to the size of the field, the omitted horse takes that barrier and all other horses move out one barrier.
- f. None of the foregoing shall prevent the Stewards, in circumstances they deem appropriate, from ordering that all barriers be redrawn.
- g. No liability of any nature shall be incurred by the HRD by reason of error or failure in dealing with any nomination, declaration or acceptance on the part of the HRD or its authorized agents.

VI. PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT :

A horse's performance is assessed in relation to its merit rating. Accordingly, a horse's performance does not necessarily entail an adjustment to its merit rating.

Performance Indicators

Assessment of a horse's performance is broadly based on the following:

- (i) the suitability of the distance;
- (ii) the strength of the field;
- (iii) the state of the going;
- (iv) the record of the horse in Mauritius;
- (v) overweight carried in the race, including when racing under sufferance;
- (vi) any other factor that, in the opinion of the Handicapper may have adversely affected performance, as mentioned in the Stipendiary Stewards' official report.
- (vii) any Veterinary reports having a bearing on the performance of the horse.

VII. RATING BENCHMARK

The following benchmarks (rating ranges) / References will be used to program races:

Benchmarks & References Rating Range

Benchmark - Range Benchmark - Range Benchmark - Range

66 (66-50)	41 (41-25)	0 - 26
61 (61-45)	36 (36-20)	0 - 25
56 (56-40)	31 (31-15)	0 - 20
51 (51-35)		0 – 15
46 (46-30)		

NOTE :

- (a) the weight equivalent to a benchmark shall be 61 kg, and the rating band shall be 16 points downwards from the benchmark, provided that horses rated 1-2 points above the band or 1-2 points below the band shall be allowed to race according to the one up and one down principle for horses closest to the rating range;
- (b) a horse rated one point above the rating band shall have priority over a horse rated one point below the rating band. A horse rated and a horse rated two points above the rating band shall have priority over a horse rated two points below the rating band; and
- (c) the regulations shall operate as follows by illustration for a race of Benchmark 36
 - (i) priority shall be given to horses rated 36 down to 20;
 - (ii) if places are still available, priority shall apply as follows to horses outside the rating band: firstly, a horse rated 37, secondly a horse rated 19, thirdly a horse rated 38 and fourthly, a horse rated 18;
 - (iii) horses rated 39 and above shall not be allowed to participate; and
 - (iv) horses rated 17 and below shall not be allowed to participate.

Notwithstanding the above , the HRD may program races based on other benchmarks or rating ranges, or on any other specific conditions as notified.

VIII. WEIGHTS :

- 1) The weight range in handicap races based on a 16-point rating range shall be 61-53 kg.
- 2) In handicap races in which the rating range exceeds 16 points, the weight range will depend on the specific conditions of the races.
- 3) Minimum top weight in a Handicap race will be 60kgs.
- 4) **Rating Adjustments**
 - a) The ratings of Horses shall be adjusted at the discretion of the Handicapper
 - b) No winner shall be entitled to a downward rating at its following start during the racing season. There shall not be any limit to adjustment in the second start after a win.
 - c) A new horse may only be entitled to downward rating adjustment of a maximum of 1 point at its first start in Mauritius.
- 5) A Scale drop at the discretion of the Handicapper may be implemented at the conclusion of the season.

6) Queries

Queries by trainers in respect of adjustments of the ratings of their horses must be made in writing to Head of Horse Racing Division w.wood@hrd.intnet.mu within 2 days following the publication of such adjustments. The Head of Horse Racing Division shall respond to the trainer within 2 days and provide reasons for their decisions.

IX. RATINGS OF HORSES :

1. All Horses must be rated by the HRD Handicapper before being Entered for a race
2. Applications for Rating must be made in writing , signed by the Owner or his authorized agent after the horse has been Identified and Registered.
3. The application shall state the full details of the performance of the Horse upto the date of application . Unless the same has been submitted there is likely a delay in Rating the Horse. The Stipendiary Stewards may fine or otherwise deal with any person giving incorrect information.
4. Horses which have been removed from the Rating list , must be re-rated before Entry in a race.
5. No horse shall be entered in any Race other than those for the specified rating as is Rated by the Handicapper , unless otherwise mentioned in the conditions of the Race.

X. PROVISION OF INFORMATION IN RELATION TO OVERSEAS RACING :

1. If a Horse registered overseas and had its last start outside Mauritius is to race in Mauritius , the Trainer of that horse in Mauritius while applying for Rating must provide the detailed Racing Information as given below , of the said Horse including the final Rating of the Horse at the centre last raced and the same must be submitted for rating the Horse by the HRD Handicapper at least 72 hours before the time for Nominations of the Race , the Trainer wishes to run the Horse.
 - a) the total number of starts the horse has had with placing
 - b) the race course where it ran
 - c) age of the horse and sex of the horse
 - d) full detail of the race it ran including the prize money earned
2. Details of performance in overseas countries must be confirmed by an official of the controlling body of Racing in the Jurisdiction it last raced.
3. If a horse Registered outside Mauritius has never started in a Race , the Trainer must provide written confirmation of that horse to the HRD, by a statutory declaration or a letter from the Recognized Turf Authority or Stud Book where the Horse was last Registered or foaled.
4. Before a Horse shall be allowed to start in a Race the first time in Mauritius , such Horse must be produced before the HRD Veterinarian for Identification , The Owner/Trainer must produce the Passport /BCN signed by the Secretary of the Racing Authority abroad under whose Rules such Horse was Registered.

XI. CONDITIONS FOR FEATURE RACES :

1. The following are the Feature Races to be Run under the Rules of Racing of HRD

- (i) **“3-year-old Championship Races”** is a series of two races ; the first leg being a Race for 3year old Horses with Terms being Set Weights with Penalties and the Second leg being a Weight For Age race .
- (ii) **“4-year-old Championship”** which comprises of Three Races namely
 - a) The Derby Trial Cup
 - b) The Mauritius Guineas and
 - c) The Mauritius Derby
- (iii) **“Championship Races”** means, together, 3-year-old Championship Races and 4-year-old Championship Races which comprise of (i) & (ii)
- (iv) **The Group Races**

GROUP 1 Races: The Barbé Cup (over 1600m), the Maiden Cup (over 2,400m), the Duke of York Cup (over 1600m), the Princess Margaret Cup (over 1400m) and the Mauritius Derby (over 1850m).

GROUP 2 Races: The Duchess of York Cup (over 1400m), the Golden Trophy (over 2,200m), the Colonel Draper Cup (over 1500m), the Mauritius Guineas Cup (over 1600m), The Bicentenary Cup (over 1500m), The Lightning Cup (over 990m) and La Coupe des Presidents (over 2,100m).

GROUP 3 Races : La Coupe du Cent Cinquantenaire (over 1500m), the Winter Stakes (over 1850m), the Derby Trial Cup (over 1400m), The Noble Salute Cup (over 990m), The Hinterland Cup (over 1400m) and the 175th Anniversary Cup (over 1850m).
- (v) **“Feature Races”** means, together, the Group Races and the Championship Races;
- (vi) **“WFA Group Races”** means, together, Group 1 Races and the Duchess of York Cup and the Second leg of the 3yo Championship Race.

A. The Duchess of York Cup

1. Subject to paragraph 2, the Duchess of York Cup is restricted to horses which have not raced in Mauritius prior to the 2022 season.
2. If, for any reason, the Duchess of York Cup is run in or after the 4th meeting of the 2022 season, a horse which has run in Mauritius in any preceding meeting of the 2022 season but has not raced in Mauritius prior to the 2022 season may participate in the Duchess of York Cup.
3. No rating threshold shall apply to the Duchess of York Cup and will be run with Terms , Weight For Age with penalties.

B. The Golden Trophy

Horses are required to have won or have been placed (2nd, 3rd or 4th) over 1600m or further on or after 28 February 2021 to qualify to run in the Golden Trophy.

C. The Maiden Cup

The following Horses shall qualify to run in the Maiden Cup –

- (a) all horses that have won or been placed (2nd, 3rd or 4th) in Mauritius over 1850m or in a Group Race, or any of the Feature Races listed , or a race of Benchmark 61 or higher; and
- (b) all horses that have not raced in Mauritius before 01 January 2022 must have qualified under paragraph (a) above in a race in Mauritius during the 2022 season and/or must have won or been placed (2nd, 3rd or 4th) outside Mauritius over 1800m or further after 31 December 2020 in a group race, a listed race or a race with a merit rating benchmark of 90 or more.

D. 3-year-old Championship Races

The 3-year-old Championship Races are restricted to horses which are aged 3 as on 31 July 2022.

E. 4-year-old Championship Races

The series shall comprise of 3 races, namely:

1. the Derby Trial Cup;
2. the Mauritius Guineas Cup; and
3. the Mauritius Derby.

F. The 4-year-old Championship Races are restricted to horses which are aged 4 as on 31 July 2022.

G. General Conditions

1. **The Minimum top weight in all Set Weight with Penalties Races will be 59kgs unless specified by the Terms of the Race.**
2. **The top weight for 3-year-old Championship Races will be 60 kgs.**
3. **Except for WFA Group Races , the minimum weight in all Feature Races will be 52 kgs.**
4. **No riders' allowance will be claimed in Feature Races.**
5. **Priority in the starting stalls in Group Races will be strictly in the order of the merit rating of the horses qualified to run. If two or more horses have the same merit rating, priority will be given to the horse which has the lower draw.**

THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS SHALL APPLY TO THE CALCULATION OF PENALTIES , UNLESS THE CONDITIONS OF THE RACE SO EXPRESSLY PROVIDE :

1. **Races In any Country But of the same Description Only (i.e FLAT RACES) AS THAT` in which the Penalty is imposed , shall be taken into account.**
2. **Races at Recognized Meetings only shall be taken into Account.**
3. **Penalties are not cumulative unless so declared by the Condition of the Race.**
4. **IN THE CASE OF A DEAD HEAT, THE HORSES THAT HAVE DEAD HEATED FOR THE WIN SHALL ALL BE DEEMED TO BE A WINNER FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE PENALTY .**
5. **Penalties for Races shall be considered for the Current Year and the One Preceding Year.**

H. Amendments

Although the HRD will use its reasonable endeavors not to alter these conditions, unforeseen circumstances may warrant changes in the HRD's absolute discretion. Any proposed change to a condition which applies to a Feature Race will be communicated to Trainers in writing at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting on which that Feature Race will be run.

These conditions are subject at all times to directions made by the HRD under the applicable laws. In case of any conflict between these conditions and the GRA directions, the provisions under the GRA Act and any Rules or Directions issued by the HRD will prevail.

Date: 1st June , 2022

HANDICAPPER