



HANDICAPPING GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS (2023)

1. CLASSIFICATION OF NEWLY IMPORTED HORSES

- 1.1 A newly imported horse shall be defined as one which has never raced in Mauritius.
- 1.2 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 a Mauritian rating upon their arrival in Mauritius.
- 1.3 The conversion scale shall be determined as stated below and shall apply to all horses which arrive on or after 1st January 2023.

2. 2-YEAR-OLDS:

- 2.1 Irrespective of its rating in the country of origin, the rating for 2-year-old colts/geldings will be 21 plus 4 points for every win.
- 2.2 Irrespective of its rating in the country of origin, the rating for 2-year-old fillies will be 18 plus 4 points for every win.

3. 3-YEAR-OLDS:

- 3.1 The rating for any 3-year-old horse shall be determined by deducting 40 points from its overseas rating. However, after the aforementioned deduction the

maximum rating for a 3-year-old shall be capped at 55 points unless the Trainer elects otherwise.

3.2 In the case of a Trainer electing not to benefit from the rating cap as contemplated by paragraph 3.1, the Trainer shall notify the HRD Handicapper by email within 72 hours of the Horse arriving in Mauritius.

3.3 The minimum rating for a 3-year-old:

3.3.1 maiden shall be 26 points; and

3.3.2 non-maiden 29 points.

4. **4-YEAR-OLDS:**

4.1 The rating for any 4-year-old horse shall be determined by deducting 30 points from its overseas rating. However, the minimum rating for a 4-year-old:

4.2 Maiden shall be 28 points; and

4.3 Non-maiden shall be 33 points.

5. **5-YEAR-OLDS and OLDER:**

5.1 The rating for any 5-year-old horse shall be determined as follows, where the horse's overseas rating of the horse is:

5.1.1 90 points or more, 30 points shall be deducted; and

5.1.2 89 – 85 points, such horse shall be allocated a rating of 60 points, in order to ensure that, such horses are not allotted a rating higher than a horse of the same age rated higher.

5.2 If the horse does not fall into either of the categories as contemplated in paragraph 5.1, the horse rating shall be determined by deducting 25 points from its overseas rating.

5.3 Notwithstanding the contents of paragraph 5.2, the minimum rating of a 5-year-old horse shall be 33.

6. **GENERAL:**

6.1 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.

6.2 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.

7. **LOCAL BRED**

7.1 The minimum rating of an unraced local bred colt or gelding will be 17.

7.2 The minimum rating of an unraced local bred filly will be 14.

8. **DATES FOR CONSIDERATION OF RATING NEWLY IMPORTED HORSES**

8.1 When a horse has intended to be exported to Mauritius has been purchased on or before 31st October 2023 with an intention to race it at Mauritius and has not run outside Mauritius after 31st July 2023, its rating shall be converted based on

its age in July 2023, notwithstanding that it enters quarantine and / or reaches Mauritius on or after August 2023, that is for raced horses, their age will be determined by their age at their last run.

8.2 Should a Trainer wish to derive a benefit from paragraph 8.1, he shall notify the HRD of the purchase of the horse by midnight (Mauritian time) on the earlier date of its arrival in Mauritius or 31 October 2023.

9. **PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT:**

9.1 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.

9.2 Performance Indicators

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

9.2.1.1 the suitability of the distance.

9.2.1.2 the strength of the field.

9.2.1.3 the state of the going.

9.2.1.4 the record of the horse in Mauritius.

9.2.1.5 overweight carried in the race, including when racing under sufferance.

9.2.1.6 any other factor that, in the opinion of the Handicapper may have adversely affected performance, as mentioned in the Stipendiary Stewards' official report.

9.2.1.7 any Veterinary reports having a bearing on the performance of the horse.

10. RATING BENCHMARK

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

BENCHMARK	REFERENCE RANGE	BENCHMARK	REFERENCE RANGE	BENCHMARK	REFERENCE RANGE
71	71-55	51	51-35	0 - 26	0 - 26
66	66-50	46	46-30	0 - 25	0 - 25
61	61-45	41	41-25	0 - 20	0 - 20
Ref 60+ ; 55+ and 50+		36	36-20	0 - 15	0 - 15
56	56-40	31	31-15		

10.1 the weight equivalent to a benchmark shall be 61 kg, and the rating band shall be 16 points downwards from the benchmark, if 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.

10.2 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 two points above the rating band shall have priority over a horse rated two points below the rating band; and

10.3 the regulations shall operate as follows by illustration for a race of Benchmark 36

10.3.1 priority shall be given to horses rated 36 down to 20.

10.3.2 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.

10.3.3 horses rated 39 and above shall not be allowed to participate; and

10.3.4 horses rated 17 and below shall not be allowed to participate.

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

11. **WEIGHTS:**

11.1 The weight range in handicap races based on a 16-point rating range shall be 61-53 kg.

11.2 In handicap races in which the rating range exceeds 16 points, the weight range will depend on the specific conditions of the races.

11.3 Minimum top weight in a Handicap race will be 60kgs.

12. **RATING ADJUSTMENTS:**

12.1 The maximum rating adjustments in handicap races and in weight for age races shall be +10 points (win penalty + margin penalty) and – 5 points.

12.2 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.

- 12.3 A new horse may only be entitled to downward rating adjustment of a maximum of 1 point at its first start in Mauritius.
- 12.4 The WIN penalty will be 3 points for all distances. A third consecutive win or more, during the same racing season, will be penalized by an extra point.
- 12.5 No margin penalty shall apply for winning margins up to and including 0.50l.
- 12.6 A scale drop at the discretion of the Handicapper may be implemented at the conclusion of the season.

13. **AGED HORSES:**

- 13.1 A horse turning 7 shall be granted a deduction of 3 points to its merit rating on its official birthday.
- 13.2 A horse turning 8 shall be granted a deduction of 4 points to its merit rating on its official birthday.
- 13.3 A horse turning 9 or more shall be granted a deduction of 5 points to its merit rating on its official birthday.

14. **LONG ABSENCE FROM COMPETITION:**

- 14.1 A horse which has not raced for at least 12 months shall be granted a deduction of 4 points from its merit rating.
- 14.2 A horse which has not raced for at least 15 months shall be granted a deduction of 5 points from its merit rating.

14.3 A horse which has not raced for at least 18 months shall be granted a deduction of 6 points from its merit rating.

14.4 A horse which has not raced for at least 20 months shall be granted a deduction of 7 points from its merit rating and an additional deduction of 1 point for every 2 additional months. For example, a horse which has not raced for at least 24 months shall be granted a deduction of 11 points (7+2+2).

15. RATINGS OF HORSES:

15.1 All Horses must be rated by the HRD Handicapper before being Entered for a race.

15.2 Applications for Rating must be made in writing, signed by the Owner or his authorized agent after the horse has been Identified and Registered.

15.3 The application shall state the full details of the performance of the Horse up to 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 deal otherwise with any person giving incorrect information.

15.4 Horses which have been removed from the Rating list, must be re-rated before Entry in a race.

15.5 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.

DATE: 2ND MARCH 2023

HANDICAPPER