

Queensland Specific - Ratings Based Handicapping Update

The first phase of the transition to a National Ratings Based Handicapping System began on May 1 when each horses rating was entered into the national system and displayed for viewing.

As at May 1 all horses were allotted a transitional Rating based on their class with a small Ratings adjustment offered based on their performance in their last 5 starts, including a deduction of a point for each race a horse finished 6th to last.

Trainers and owners can now view their horses Rating via HarnessWeb whilst the general public can become familiar with the Rating through the display of same in formguides.

From July 1 the Ratings Based Handicapping commences nationwide at which point each state begin programming races in accordance with the Ratings template and all references to the former class based Handicapping system will be removed.

Each horses Rating will fluctuate based on horse performance and the value of the race it contests.

Please refer to the table below which displays the Ratings Point Matrix:

Race Stake \$	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6 th - Last
0 - 2,500	2	0	0	0	0	0
2,501 - 4,999	3	1	0	0	0	-1
5,000 - 8,499	4	1	0	0	0	-1
8,500 - 14,999	5	1	0	0	0	-1
15,000 - 49,999	6	2	1	0	0	-2
50,000+	7	2	1	0	0	0

The general rules of the Ratings Based Handicapping are:

- No points are allocated to a horse that fails to finish, declared a non-runner or is disqualified from a race after the all clear is signaled.
- Minimum rating is 30 points
- Maximum rating is 120 points
- A 2YO commences racing with a Rating of 40
- A 2YO with a Rating under 50 upon turning 3 will reset to 50 for the start of the 3YO season.
- A 2YO with a Rating over 50 upon turning 3 shall have half the number of points that its Rating exceeds 50 with half points rounded up to a whole number. Example horse with 2YO Rating of 59 would commence racing as a 3YO with a Rating of 55.
- A 3YO or older commences racing with a rating of 50.
- A trotter entered for a pacing race receives a 20 point rating concession. (in QLD only)
- Concessions :
 - Mares Concession (5 Ratings points)
 - Driver Concessions:
 - 5 Rating Points (0-100 career wins)
 - 3 Rating Points (101-250 career wins)
 - Claim single Band class in selected races (QLD only)
 - Terms of Drivers Concession from July 1 include:
 - All wins count as a win regardless of whether a concession was claimed
 - Concession outdriven after 250 lifetime wins
 - Concession terms – 6 years from date of attaining B-Grade Drivers License (QLD only)
 - Metropolitan claim outdriven after 50 wins at a Metropolitan meeting.
 - No yearly concession limits.

Programming

We are currently developing programs with races based on Rating, some with conditions to support the Rating and other races that will be programmed with no reference to Rating that just have a condition.

We are committed to providing a similar pathway to work through the grades as the class system previously provided and ensure opportunities outside of the Ratings exist for horses that may need to find a race that they can be more competitive in.

We are also mindful of the reasons a Ratings Based Handicapping System was implemented and committed to providing a more attractive racing product that displays even and competitive racing to stimulate wagering revenue and to provide more suitable racing opportunities for participants.

As we rely heavily on positive revenue outcomes from wagering through all of our wagering providers it is important to present a product that will provide increased income to maintain and improve returns to participants.

Pending consideration and continued dialogue with participants, the composition of future race programs in Queensland will intend to include the following principles:

- A) Most 2YO races based on lifetime wins (with no reference to Rating)
- B) Most 3YO races based on wins in the 3YO season
- C) Races with conditions some with a Rating limit and some with no reference to Rating.
- D) Rating only races, some with a condition.
- E) Band* classes retained. Saturday Band races to remain as current.
- F) An increased number of conditioned Band races at midweek meetings.
- G) Claiming races.
- H) Trotting & Pacing Handicaps, most become Discretionary Handicaps as handicap on Rating is not currently considered viable.

The below table provides an overview of how RQ intends to initially program on a weekly basis:

Race Type	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Marburg
1	Rating 90-120 - Open Class	No Band Conditioned. -\$1,500 L3	Band 5 Conditioned. -\$1,500 L3	Rating 75-85	Rating 90-120 - Open Class	Open Disc Hcp or 75-90 Mobile. NW race w/total stake of \$5,500 L4
2	Rating 83-90	Rating 65-70. NW race w/total stake of \$5,500 L4	Rating 67-75. NW race w/total stake of \$5,500 L4	Rating 68-74	Band 4 / Band 2	Rating 60-74. NW race w/total stake of \$5,500 L4
3	Rating 70-82	Rating 60-64. NW race w/total stake of \$5,500 L4	Rating 61-66. NW race w/total stake of \$5,500 L4	No Band Conditioned	Band 5	Conditioned No Band. - \$1,000 L3
4	Band 5 Conditioned. - \$2,500 L3 (AE Ballots from Band 5 Sat)	Rating 55-59. NW race w/total stake of \$5,500 L4	Rating 58-61. NW race w/total stake of \$5,500 L4	Rating 61-67	No Band	Rating 53-60. NW race w/total stake of \$5,500 L4
5	Rating 60-70	Rating 50-54. NW race w/total stake of \$5,500 L4	Rating 53-57. NW race w/total stake of \$5,500 L4	Rating 55-60	Rating 65-75	Rating 49-52. NW race w/total stake of \$5,500 L4
6	Rating 55-60	Rating 44-54. Horses with no more than 20 FSP	Rating 50-53. NW race w/total stake of \$5,500 L4	Rating 50-55	Band 5 Mares	Rating 44-48. NW race w/total stake of \$5,500 L4
7	Rating 55-65 Mares	Rating 30-49. Winners of more than one race over \$4,500 TS ineligible	4YO+ no wins over \$4,500	Rating 50-55. With Conditions.	No Band Mares	3YO+ Horses not won a race over \$3,500 excluding 2yo races
8	Rating 50-55	3YO+ Horses not won a race over \$4,500 excluding 2yo races	Rating 45-50. - \$1,500 L3	Rating 44-49. Horses with no more than 3 career wins	Claiming \$8,000-\$15,000	Pacers Disc Hcp. Rating 45-60.
9	3YO+ Horses not won a race over \$4,500 excluding 2yo races	3YO - Horses not won a race valued over \$3,500 TS	3YO < 1 wins this season	3YO < 2 wins of races worth more than \$4,500 TS	Aspirational Race	Trot Disc Hcp. Rating 30-60 or Mobile Trot with similar Rating Band.

10	3YO - Rating 48-54	2YO Maiden	2YO < 1 win	3YO - 0 wins of races worth more than \$4,500 TS	Trot Disc Hcp - Open	
11	2YO Maiden	Claiming \$2K-5K	Pacers Disc Hcp. Rating 50-65.	2YO Open		
12	Claiming \$8K-\$15K	Trot Disc Hcp Rating 30-58		Claiming \$4,000-\$7,000		
13	Trot Disc Hcp. NBT Band 5 (AE -\$2,000 L6)			Trot Disc Hcp. Rating 65-80.		
14	Trot Disc Hcp. Maximum of 7 career wins. (AE Rating up to 60)					
15	Trot Hcp 2YO					

Participant assistance and consultation will be vital to develop a race program that will maximize your racing and earning options thus we seek ongoing feedback. Please contact the Racing Queensland Harness Racing Office on (07) 3869 9774 to further discuss or email our staff at harnesshandicapping@racingqueensland.com.au

* As a reminder the following is an overview of the mechanics of the QLD Band system.

The Queensland Band system is a local method of Handicapping the Metropolitan races in Queensland each Saturday night.

Originally introduced to replicate the Metropolitan (M-class), the Band system provides a level of local handicapping for the Queensland Metropolitan races which fell under the \$15,000 national threshold of a Metropolitan Penalty race as defined under the Australian Handicapping Rules.

From July 1 Queensland will maintain the Band system for local Metropolitan races.

A Band Penalty will apply to winners of races over \$12,000. (some exclusions may apply)

The Band classes are as follows:

- No Band (Horses that have not won a Band Penalty race)
- Band 5 (Winners of one Band Penalty race)
- Band 4 (Winners of two Band Penalty races)
- Band 3 (Winners of three Band Penalty races)
- Band 2 (Winners of four Band Penalty races)
- Band 1 (Winners of five or more Band Penalty races)

Under the current Australian Handicapping Rules a drop back in class is permitted after ten (10) non-winning performances and as such a drop back in Bands is also permitted up until midnight June 30.

From July 1 to coincide with the change to the Ratings Based Handicapping system Queensland will no longer be allowing a drop back in the local Band class.

Horses coming in to Queensland after July 1 will be given a local Band assessment, if applicable, for each win in a race over the value of \$15,000 (excluding 2 or 3YO age races and some lower class feature races over \$15,000).