

Trinidad Handicapping Policy

A Handicapper's role is to ensure racing is delivered at a competitive level through the allocation of ratings to each horse with the purpose of equalising their chances of winning in handicaps.

THE FOLLOWING POLICY WILL COMMENCE 1st MARCH 2017

Winning performances in handicaps will attract an upward re-assessment of **not less than 4 rating points**. Wins by greater than average margins and / or by very lightly raced horses may attract a larger re-assessment with the maximum increase being 10 rating points.

In non-handicap races, there is no minimum rating increase

Horses that place second or third in a race may also have their Rating increased, depending on the merit of performance and their proximity to the horse(s) ahead in the finishing position. In assessing rating movements for placed performances, the likely increase is 1 to 3 rating points. In non-handicap races the maximum increase for a placed horse is 5 rating points except for races in the Classic Diary where the maximum increase is 7 rating points.

Placed performances in races in the Classic Diary may result in a horse being rated out of a Rating band. A winning performance in WFA race may attract a smaller Rating adjustment in comparison to a horse who wins at the lower level, depending largely on their rating prior to the running of the race.

Horses that race well above their current rating grade and prove competitive will on most occasions receive a Rating increase relevant to that level of performance. This may make a horse ineligible for a race it was previously eligible.

There will be no increase in ratings for horses that do not earn prize money.

Ratings will not be automatically reduced for unplaced performances. An unplaced performance may be still deemed competitive and as such any rating would not be lowered. For uncompetitive efforts, a rating may be reduced by between 1 to 5 rating points. Horses running over a distance or surface that they have previously proven to be uncompetitive would generally not receive a reduction to their Rating'.

In assessing rating movements Handicappers do not factor in apprentice claims. However, overweight is accounted for in re-weighting as this is a discretionary judgement of the connections in addition to the Handicapper's specific analysis.

The Handicapping Panel may exercise discretion when evaluating the Rating of a horse. Several factors may contribute to a horse's rating not being lowered despite that horse being uncompetitive in a race. These include:

Where a horse is competing at an unsuitable distance

- Track conditions
- Where a horse resumes after an extended period
- Interference suffered in running
- Saddle slips
- Rider loses their irons
- Where a horse contests a significantly higher standard race
- Where a horse remains wide throughout
- Where a horse is slow to begin

Furthermore, if a horse is found to be lame, suffers a bleeding attack, is injured during the running of a race, falls, is brought down, runs off, fails to finish or loses its rider, no reduction in Rating will occur.

The Ratings are an indication of what weight a horse may be allotted in a rating band. The eventual spread of weights is determined by conditions or entries, with the minimum rating spread advertised being 5 kg.

RATING RE-ASSESSMENTS

Following each race meeting, the Handicapping Panel will examine the results of each race and then having made their re-assessments will submit the revisions to the contracted independent consultancy who will review the new ratings adjustments and make suggested adjustments are deemed necessary prior to the updated Horse Rating List being published.

ELIGIBILITY TO RUN IN A HANDICAP

If a horse does not have a published rating and is eligible to enter a handicap it may be entered but if the allotted rating falls outside the rating bands of the handicap, then the horse will be ineligible to run in the race.

RE-ASSESSMENT OF NON-HANDICAP WINNERS

There is no minimum rating increase for a non-handicap winner. The reassessment of a horse's rating considers the Rating of that horse going into the race and the Ratings of the other runners.

It is possible that a horse placed in a non-handicap race may have its Rating increased but the winner's rating may remain unchanged when there is a large difference between the rating of the placed horse, for example if placed horse is rated 75 and the winner's rating is 90.

THE FOLLOWING POLICY WILL COMMENCE 1st JULY 2017

WEIGHT FOR AGE

Weight for Age (WFA) is one of the conditions for a race. It means that a horse will carry a weight in accordance with the Weight for Age Scale. This weight varies depending on the horse's age, the race distance and the month of the year and applies to both set weight races and handicaps.

WFA is a method of trying to equal out the physical progress which the average thoroughbred racehorse makes as it matures and is based on the principal that horses are fully mature by the end of their third year. To allow for this variation in maturity in the context of racing, it is necessary to express it as a function of the weight a horse will carry in a race. It is also necessary to consider the race distance because stamina comes with maturity, and younger horses are at a greater disadvantage the further in distance they run.

Weight For Age is currently applied in Trinidad to races in the Classic Diary and handicap races open to WI Bred 3yo's and Imported 2yo's handicaps.

From 1st July 2017, a WFA allowance will apply to handicaps for 2yo's and up and handicaps for 3yo's and up.

For example, in a 3yo and up handicap, the relevant WFA Allowance will be deducted from the 3yo's in accordance with the Trinidad WFA Allowance.

For example, if a 3yo and an older horse were both rated 50 in a 50-35 handicap and the WFA was 2kgs then the older horse would carry 57kgs and the 3yo 55kgs.

When the handicappers are reassessing a horse that has relieved a WFA Allowance they will use the horses' rating.

It is recommended that all aged handicaps are not programmed in the first half of the year.

THE FOLLOWING POLICIES WILL COMMENCE FROM 1ST JULY 2017

ELIGIBILITY FOR A RATING - WI & NATIVE BRED MAIDENS

A maiden must run and finish three times in Trinidad to be eligible for a handicap rating, unless the horse has won on either his first or second start in Trinidad, then that horse will be eligible for a handicap rating. **The WI maiden will carry 5 kgs more than a Trinidad/Native bred. (no change from current policy)**

From 1st July 2017, maiden races will be run at WFA and not as handicaps unless specified in the conditions of the race.

INITIAL RATINGS FOR IMPORTED HORSES (EX THE WEST INDIES)

INITIAL RATING FOR AN IMPORTED FROM NORTH AMERICA

MAIDEN (RACED OR UNRACED)	-	70
Horse (excluding maidens) that has earned US\$25,000 or less	-	80
Horse that have earned US\$25,000 or more	-	85

These Initial Ratings will be re-assessed following the performances in Trinidad

IMPORTED FROM EUROPE

Horses will be Classified and Rated using the Official Ratings of the relevant Racing Authority

INITIAL CLASSIFICATION FOR PREVIOUSLY RACED WINNERS IMPORTED FROM THE WEST INDIES

WINNER OF A RACE	-	TBC
WINNER OF TWO OR RACES	-	TBC
WINNER OF G2 OR G3 RACE	-	TBC
WINNER OF A G1 RACE	-	TBC

These Initial Ratings will be re-assessed following the performances in Trinidad

WHERE A IMPORT HAS RACED IN MORE THAN ONE JURSTICATION ITS LATEST COUNTRY WERE TRAINED WILL APPLY