

ARIMA RACE CLUB

RATING BASED HANDICAP
SYSTEM FOR TRINIDAD

INTRODUCTION & GUIDELINES

THIS GUIDE CONTAINS
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW
SYSTEM WITH DETAILED
GUIDELINES OF HOW THE
SYSTEM OPERATES

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INTRODUCTION TO THE RATING BASED HANDICAP SYSTEM

- × Ratings based handicaps are in operation in most leading racing nations including Great Britain, Ireland, France, Germany, South Africa, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand.
- × Rating Bands are appended to handicaps in order that only horses within those set rating bands are eligible to enter.
- × The Rating Based Handicap system is designed to produce competitive racing by giving horses opportunities to race with horses in the same class, with the weight carried corresponding to the horse's rating.
- × The Ratings based system allows horses to move up and down the rating bands and enables horses to remain competitive.
- × The Ratings give an indication of the weight a horse may receive in rating band handicaps.
- × Horses will have their Rating reviewed after each performance.
- × A winning performance in a handicap will normally give a horse an increase in rating subject to the guidelines. The re-assessment will depend on many factors including but not limited to, previous form, ease of the win, strength of the field, going conditions, the winning margin and the surface.
- × Horses which have been placed second or third and, in some instances fourth, may have their Rating increased, depending on the merit of their performance.
- × Horses not earning Prize money will have no rating increased.
- × The maximum rating increase in handicaps is set out in the Guidelines.

- × A winner of a WFA (Weight for Age) or Conditions race may not necessary have their rating increased. If their rating is considerably superior to that their opponents or favoured by conditions of the race.
- × Unplaced horses may have their rating reduced. The re-assessment will depend on many factors including, but not limited to, previous form, strength of the field, going conditions, distance and surface of the race.
- × The system is designed to produce maximum field size which will give increased wagering opportunities and will be suitable for the popular Hi - Five races.
- × Ratings can be used as a guide for customers to assessing horses running in non-handicap races.
- × Previously raced horses imported into Trinidad will be allotted initial ratings as set out in the Guidelines.

THE RACE RATING BANDS

The structure of the Rating Bands have been divided into Classes from 1 to 7 with Class 1 for the higher rated horses and Class 7 for those horses rated at the lower level.

These bands would usually be in a rating range that would allow the majority of horses to run off their allotted weight.

CLASS BANDS	RATING	SPREAD	WEIGHT RANGE
1	90 and over	Varies	56.5KG downwards
2	115 – 95	10.0KG	56.5KG – 46.5KG
3	100 – 80	10.0KG	56.5KG – 46.5KG
4	85 - 65	10.0KG	56.5KG – 46.5KG
5	70 – 50	10.0KG	56.5KG - 46.5KG
6	55 - 35	10.0KG	56.5KG – 46.5KG
7	40 -0	20.0KG	56.5KG downwards

Classes 2 to 6 have defined rating ranges but for Class 1 handicaps the upper rating limit can be varied.

For example a Class 1 handicap could have a rating range from 105 and over or 110 or over.

The allotted weight for each horse in a rated handicap is linked to its rating.

EXAMPLE:

Class 4 Handicap for 4-year-old's and over rated 85– 65.

A horse rated 85 will receive the maximum top weight of 56.5KG whilst a horse rated 75 will be allotted a weight of 51.5KG. In effect each rating point is equivalent to 0.5KG in weight. If a horse rated 85 is not entered then the highest rated entry will be given the top weight.

GUIDELINES

1. IN ALL RACES (other than Claiming Races and certain races in the Classics Diary) WEIGHTS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO HORSES AS PER THEIR RATINGS AT THE TIME OF ENTRY.
2. The following allowances will not be allowed in assigning weights in RATING RACES:-
 - (i) SEX ALLOWANCE
 - (ii) AGE ALLOWANCE
 - (iii) MAIDEN ALLOWANCE
3. UNRACED HORSES will be assigned the following RATINGS:-

(i) West Indian bred (Colts & Geldings) other than Jamaican bred horses	50
(ii) Jamaican bred (Colts & Geldings)	55
(iii) West Indian bred (Fillies) other than Jamaican bred horses	46
(iv) Jamaican bred (Fillies)	51
(v) Unraced Imported (Non-West Indian bred) (Colts & Geldings)	75
(vi) Unraced Imported (Non-West Indian bred) (Fillies)	71
4. Previously raced horses racing in Trinidad & Tobago for the first time will be assigned a rating by the Handicappers based on the official past performance of the horse.
5. There will also be STRAIGHT CLAIMING RACES with fixed conditions of eligibility. Allowances will be 2.0KG for every \$1,000.00 claiming price below the highest claiming price as well as sex and maiden allowances.
6. THE CLAIMING BANDS WILL BE:-
 - (I) \$20,000.00 - \$15,000.00
 - (II) \$14,000.00 - \$ 9,000.00
 - (III) \$ 8,000.00 - \$ 4,000.00

ELIGIBILITY TO RUN IN A HANDICAP

A horse is eligible to be entered for a handicap for which it has the required rating.

For example a horse rated 75 is eligible to enter a Class 4 (85-65) race.

QUALIFICATION RATING

Ratings will be published in the Horse Rating List following each race day and these ratings will be the qualification ratings to enter handicaps.

Handicaps will be calculated at the time of closing of entry using the qualifying rating.

PUBLICATION OF RATINGS

The Horse Rating List will be updated and published no later than 24 hours following each race day so that horses will run off their most recent revised ratings and Owners and Trainers will be aware of the horse's qualification ratings before they enter horses in a handicap.

The Horse Rating List will show a rating for each eligible horse along with the rating re-assessment for those horses whose rating has been changed since the previous Horse Rating List.

In addition a list of eligible horses under each class/rating band will be published.

The Arima Race Club will make suitable arrangements to release and publish the Horse Rating Lists.

ENTRY DAY FOR HANDICAPS

Entries for all races including handicaps will under the new Rating Based Handicap system close on the same day.

Handicaps will no longer close a day earlier than the non-handicap races as Owners and Trainers will be aware of the horse's qualification rating before entry.

RATING RE-ASSESSMENTS

Following each race day the Handicappers will examine the results of each race and then make rating re-assessments.

RE-ASSESSMENT OF HANDICAP WINNERS

There will be a minimum increase of 4 rating points and a maximum increase of 10 rating points for a winner of a Class 2,3,4,5, 6 and 7 rated handicaps and West Indian bred 3-year-old handicaps. There is no minimum increase for winners of a Class 1 handicap.

RE-ASSESSMENT OF PLACED HORSES IN HANDICAPS

Placed second	-	Maximum increase of 3 rating points.
Placed third	-	Maximum increase of 2 rating points
Placed fourth	-	Maximum increase of 1 rating point

RE-ASSESSMENT OF HORSES WHICH DO NOT EARN PRIZE MONEY IN HANDICAP AND NON HANDICAPS

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

RE-ASSESSMENT OF NON HANDICAP WINNERS

There is no minimum rating increase for a non-handicap winner. The reassessment of a horse's rating takes into account the Rating of that particular 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 70 and the winner's rating is 85.

RE-ASSESSMENT OF PLACED HORSES IN NON-HANDICAPS

Placed or earned prize money - maximum increase of 5 rating points

RE-ASSESSMENT OF UNPLACED HORSES

Horses which finish unplaced and/or a significant distance from the placing horses are eligible to have their ratings lowered. However horses, no matter how far they have finished behind the winner, will not automatically have their rating decreased.

OVERWEIGHT

In making the re-assessments the Handicappers will take into account any overweight carried when reviewing a race and adjusting Ratings.

Overweight carried can be added to the maximum and minimum increases as detailed previously.

This also applies to horses that have had their weight raised as they were originally below the minimum stipulated weight.

Apprentice overweight will only be taken into account when the weight carried is greater than the original weight allotted prior to any apprentice claim.

HORSES MAY NOT HAVE THEIR RATINGS LOWERED DESPITE HAVING FINISHED WELL BACK IN A RACE IN THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES: -

- (i) Previous form.
- (ii) If the horse is racing at an unsuitable distance.
- (iii) Where the horse is racing on an unsuitable surface.
- (iv) Where a horse loses significant ground at the start.
- (v) Where the horse suffers interference in running.
- (vi) Subject to a stewards enquiry.
- (vii) Any other fact that the Handicappers may consider significant.

