

Handicapping Guidelines– 12 November 2012

Race Type	Guideline
1. Maiden Juvenile/Juvenile Plates	Rated as separate crop. Average horse Gross 70 (Filles 65) - [Major Centre] Average horse 65 (Fillies 60) [Secondary Centre].
2. Maiden Plate Winners	4yo + Benchmark Net 70 (Major Centre) Net 65 (PE); Net 60 (Kimberley); Net 58 (Zimbabwe). 3yo -Benchmark Net 78 (Major Centre); Net 73 (PE) Net 60 (Kimberley) Net 58 (Zimbabwe). The Handicapping panel has the discretion to allocate an additional adjustment of 6 rating points above the benchmark for a superior performance. Horses with 5 runs and more on a surface are exempt.
3. Minor Plate Races (Novice, Graduation, Progress, Allowance, Pinnacle, Conditions & Superior) – including Non-Black Type Conditions Plates	Achieved higher rating may be requested (for placed horses only), or 6 MR points if the rating achieved is 6 or more above the current MR.
4. MR Handicap Races - including Non-Black Type Handicap races	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Winner: Minimum 1kg adjustment. 2. The maximum adjustment applicable to any handicap placed horse on either surface shall not be more than 8 merit rating points. This limitation is not applicable to Graded and Listed races, or horses carrying over-weight or weighted under sufferance. 3. Big increases in rating should also result in big decreases in rating for subsequent non-performance.
5. Grade 1 & 2 races	Upward Adjustment to first 5 finishers only
6. Grade 3 & Listed races	Upward Adjustment to placed horses only

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7. Sand/Turf Ratings	See Guidelines below.
8. Layoff Allowance	See Guidelines below

7. Sand and Turf Ratings

1. Wins and places are cumulative on both surfaces.
2. A maiden with three runs on one surface who shows improvement on another surface over a similar distance, may have dual ratings which will be official after three runs; if still a maiden.

Horses 4 years and older and who are the winner of a race; whose rating is NOT on an upward trend; show improvement on a new surface may have dual ratings. The handicappers must be satisfied that there is a discernible difference between the two ratings. Horses without Sand form; will be re-assessed after 2 runs and to best achieved within 3 runs.

3. Should a 2 or 3-year-old horse which has form on one surface go on to show improvement on another surface, it is reasonable to assume that the horse has improved with maturity. If the rating goes up on one surface the rating on the other surface may increase at the discretion of the handicapper.
4. A horse with 5 or more handicap runs on a surface will be deemed to be established on that surface.
5. The handicappers reserve the right to increase the lesser rating by 50% of the relative improvement should a horse have made exceptional (more than 8lb) improvement over a different aptitude, gelding, equipment change, distance, trainer change etc.
6. The layoff allowance (if applicable- See 8 below); will apply to both ratings.
7. Margins on the Vaal Sand and at Flamingo Park to be treated at 75% of turf length/distance factor.

8. a. Layoff Allowance (210 days and more)

Horses four- years- old and older where no WFA was applicable at last start; to receive up to a 3 rating point allowance.
Three- year-old horses to where WFA was applicable at last start; to receive up to a 5 rating point allowance.

b. Layoff Allowance (365 days and more)

Horses four- years-old and older where no WFA was applicable at last start; to receive up to a 5 rating point allowance.
Three- year-old horses where WFA was applicable at last start; to receive up to a 5 rating point allowance.

Retrospective assessments of a horse's last 3 starts when returning from a layoff will also to be utilized when making a rating adjustment.

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