

National Ratings Based Handicap System

General information.

1. **Maidens/Qualifiers** enter the system on a rating of 18 points
2. **3 year olds must** begin their 3 year old season with a minimum rating of 18.
3. All BHRC horses will be imported to this system using the conversion chart below.
4. A horse with no lifetime win (maiden) will carry the letter **M** next to its rating number.
5. Any points are added to or subtracted from a horse's existing rating. See the Points Matrix tables below for the points relevant to each race.
6. Penalise placed horses for place money in excess of £200, see the place money Matrix below.
7. The lowest rating will be 12 points
8. The highest rating will be 120 points.
9. Once a horse achieves **one lifetime win AND a rating of 20** it cannot drop below a rating of 20
10. Once a horse achieves **two lifetime wins AND a rating of 28** it cannot drop below a rating of 28
11. **Dead heaters.** The relevant points would be totalled and divided by the number of dead heaters and rounded down to a whole number.
12. **2 year olds** get penalised 40% of the total applicable points **-only in 2 year old only races.**
13. **3 year olds** get penalised 70% of the total applicable points **-only in 3 year old only races.**
14. **8 year olds and older** get penalised 75% of the total applicable points.
15. **10 year olds** will receive a deduction of ten points and for each birthday thereafter.
16. **Claiming race winners** would receive no penalty but non-placed would lose points in line with the matrix.
17. **Mares only race** (4 years and older) with a first prize of £450 or less get a 50% penalty reduction. Maidens ineligible from entering if this rule is to be used. (Horse must have minimum 1 lifetime win)
18. **Non-winners races** with a first prize of £450 or less get a 50% penalty reduction limited to non-winners in the last 6 or more starts (horse minimum 1 lifetime win).
19. **Non-betting races-** Promoters can stage 1 non-betting at each meeting. The race will be non-penalty, with a maximum purse of £150. The race must be designed to encourage inexperienced or out of practice drivers, who have driven no more than 15 times in the past 3 seasons. (Limited to 6 runners, horses must have minimum 1 lifetime win, driver to have less than 20 wins lifetime)
20. **Mares** can receive up to a FIVE point allowance at the promoter's discretion if advertised in advance.
21. **Non finishers** i.e. fallen/pulled up points will remain unaltered
22. **C-class drivers**
 - a) C class drivers only races. For four year and older horses rated 28 or higher with a minimum of 2 lifetime wins. Horses are entitled to one c-class win penalty free in their career (to be marked with a * next to the horse's rating).
 - b) C class drivers will get a concession point's lift when applied for at time of entry in all events with a combined first prize value of £1000 or less and only on a 4 year old or older horse rated 28 or higher with a minimum of 2 lifetime wins. 16 points for 0 to 3 wins, 8 points for 4 to 7 wins. A horse's rating cannot be dropped below 28 irrespective of the driver's points claim.
 - c) When a C-class driver wins the final permissible concession claim race at a meeting where the driver has further driving engagements, the driver will be permitted to claim the relevant concession for the remainder of the meeting and any other meeting on the same day.
 - d) When a C-class driver claiming a concession is unable to fulfil a race engagement he/she shall only be replaced by a driver who is eligible to claim a concession of equal or greater rating points.

23. **Maiden races.** All maidens must be ballot for position. (rating irrelevant)
24. **Preferred races** can only be ran with a spread of 30 points or less, (unless clearly advertised by the promotor in advance of the entries being taken). If a spread of more than 30 points occurs the race shall be ran as a handicap, using the bottom rated horse in the event to form the yardage bands.
25. One point equals one yard for handicapping purposes. (Unless clearly advertised in the schedule)
26. Promoters running a handicap shall take the yardage bands from the bottom horse entered in each individual race in increments of ten yards e.g. if using 10 points per 10 yards and the bottom horse entered is rated 37 the yardage bands would be 37-46,47-56,57-66, 67-76 etc.
27. Horses have to achieve a rating of at least 32 to compete in handicap heat and finals.
28. Promoters who run one or more heat and final events are to advertise, that the runners for the top handicap, are being taken from the top of the ratings and working downward to find the advertised amount of entries. With the exception being if a FFA or OPH race is ran. If a promotor does run a FFA/OPH alongside a heat and final then it is at the promoters discretion whether that race is comprised of horses that choose to enter that specific event or to take the top rated X number of horses to make up that race. The heat and final will then be comprised of X number of horses taken from the top of the handicap ratings downward. (X is the advertised number of horses required to make up that event).
29. **Finals ran with a qualifying heat on the same day.** Where such a heat and final is staged, the combined prize money will be used to calculate the penalty based on the win & place matrix. Where a horse wins either a heat or final or both it will automatically trigger the win matrix for all earnings, with their combined earnings from the heat & final being used. Horses will not receive any penalty lift for the heat as they must earn prize money to qualify for the final (rule 29). However horses finishing unplaced in the final with no prize money will receive a penalty reduction. Note, these horses may be penalised for their heat earnings but receive a penalty reduction for their final run.
30. Where a heat and final are run on the same day, all horses qualifying for the final **MUST** receive prize money in their heat race.
31. For a heat and final ran on the same day, promoters are discouraged from using fastest losers to make up the field for the final, instead we encourage them to advertise the number of placings from each heat that qualify for the final.
32. Heats having a final run on the same day, with the final carrying a first prize of £1001 or more must be framed in correct ratings order from the top-rated horse to the bottom. No O/T/D splits.
33. Promoters will have the ability to programme races based on conditions e.g., non-winners, winners of one race, non-winner last five, unplaced last 5 starts etc.
34. **Splitting for Owner/Trainer/Driver** It is recommended under this system that all races be framed around the ratings of the horses entered rather than the O/T/D of the horses as this will enable the ratings system to work at its optimum level in terms of providing a fair handicapping system based on a horse's ability and current form. However, it is recognised that this is not always possible in some circumstances when promoters are framing a card. To ensure as much fairness as possible in this situation a promotor should ensure where splits for O/T/D do occur that they retain the essence of the handicap.
35. The best horses race for the most money. It is recommended promoters use a tiered system when calculating total prize money per race. E.g. for a regular meeting the highest rated race would carry a purse of at least 50% more than the lowest rated race on the card.
36. Purse distribution. No more than 70% of the total race purse will go to the winner.

37. Draws for starting position. Promotors are encouraged to develop a track grid for preferred races. Races can be drawn using but not limited to the following;

1. A random ballot.
2. Preferential using the horses rating.
3. On the horses winnings last 5 starts.

38. Non BHRC horses.

- a) Horses coming from **W&BC** would need to provide a detailed lifetime history of all races and monies won to get a rating. See the accompanying chart. A horse that has previously raced with the BHRC cannot return on a lower rating than that which they left with, for a minimum of 2 racing seasons. A horse who has raced as Grade B or higher with W&BC can enter this system with a rating no lower than 34.
- b) Horses coming from the **IHRA** would need to provide a detailed lifetime history of all races and monies won to get a rating. See the accompanying chart. If the horse in question has previously held a BHRC handicap grade, this would be converted to NRBHS using the conversion table and any subsequent runs from the date of their last BHRC race would be factored into calculating its current rating. The exchange rate on January 1st of the current year will be used for currency conversions.
- c) Horses coming from **USA /Canada** would need to provide a detailed lifetime history of all races and monies won to get a rating. See the accompanying chart. Horses that have not won a race will remain a maiden. The exchange rate on January 1st of the current year will be used for currency conversions.

The following table shows how to convert the pre 2021 BHRC system to the NRBHS.

BHRC Handicap grade	NRBHS equivalent
Maiden	18
Novice	26
Grade 1	34
Grade 2	42
Grade 3	50
Grade 4	58
Grade 5	66
Grade 6	74
Grade 7	82
Grade 8	90
Grade 9	98
Grade 10	106

The following tables show the Ratings Points Matrix and the Place money penalties.

Win Points Matrix

Prizemoney	1 st Racehorse	1 st 2 yr. Old approx. 40%	1 st 3 yr. Old approx 70%	1 st 8 yrs. & older 75%	2 nd & 3 rd	4 th to lastwith money
Up to £400**	+8	+3	+6	+6	*	*
£401-£700	+10	+4	+7	+8	*	*
£701-£1000	+12	+5	+8	+9	*	*
£1001-£1500	+14	+6	+10	+10	*	*
£1501-£2500	+16	+7	+11	+12	*	*
£2501-£5000	+20	+8	+14	+15	*	*
£5001 or more	+24	+9	+16	+18	*	*

* See table below for place money penalties

** The only exception being if a dead heat occurs and **rule 11** comes into effect.

Place money Matrix (can be from 2nd place to last place)

	Racehorse	2 year old 40%	3 year old 70%	8 year old & older 75%
£0-£200	0	0	0	0
£201-£350	+1	0	0	+1
£351-£500	+2	0	+1	+2
£501-£700	+3	+1	+1	+2
£701-£900	+4	+1	+2	+3
£901-£1200	+5	+2	+3	+4
£1201-£1500	+6	+2	+4	+5
£1501 +	+7	+3	+5	+5

Unplaced point's matrix (no prizemoney received)

	4 th & 5 th	6 th – 10 th	11 th & 12 th
Rating 12-79	-1	-2	-3
Rating 80-120	-2	-4	-6

IHRA and Wales & Borders conversion chart (place penalties are the same as the earlier chart)

Prizemoney	1st	2nd	3rd	4 th to last with prizemoney	4 th & 5 th no prizemoney	6 th - Last
£0-£50	+2	*	*	*	-1	-2
£51-£125	+4	*	*	*	-1	-2
£126-£200	+6	*	*	*	-1	-2
£201-£300	+8	*	*	*	-1	-2
£301-£600	+10	*	*	*	-1	-2
£601-£1000	+12	*	*	*	-1	-2
£1001-£1500	+14	*	*	*	-1	-2
£1501-£2500	+16	*	*	*	-1	-2
£2501-£5000	+20	*	*	*	-1	-2
£5001 or more	+24	*	*	*	-1	-2

Prize money bands for USA/Canadian imports based on overseas earnings

Lifetime earnings	Rating
£500 to £5,000	40 points
£5,001 to £10,000	50 points
£10,001 to £20,000	60 points
£20,001 to £30,000	70 points
£30,001 to £40,000	80 points
£40,001 to £50,000	90 points
£50,001 or more	100 points