

HANDICAPPING GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS - 2019 RACING SEASON

1. Classification of Newly-Imported Horses

1.1 Definition: A newly imported horse is one which has never raced in Mauritius.

1.2 Imported horses, that have won, shall be classified on their overseas merit rating converted into Mauritian rating upon their arrival in Mauritius *except for 2 Year olds which will be rated as outlined below in 1.3*. The agreed conversion scale is as follows and is applicable as from the 01 January 2019.

5 year-old or more	-30 points *
4 year-old	-30 points
3 year-old	-40 points

Special Notes 1:

(a) The deduction for a 5 Y Old imported from South Africa will be *30 points** provided that the Merit Rating of the horse upon arrival is at least 90. Failing which, the deduction will be *25 points*.

(b) *The maximum rating of a horse imported as a 3 Y Old will be capped at 55 until it has its first start in Mauritius.*

(c) Any horse arriving here with no official Turf racing but with only an official Sand/All Weather Rating will have its Sand/All Weather Rating taken as its overseas official rating. If a horse has both Turf and Sand/All Weather Ratings, the Turf Rating will be taken as its overseas official rating.

1.3 *A 2 y-old of any origin arriving in Mauritius shall have its Mauritian rating calculated as follows: 21 points + 4 points for each registered win.*

Example: Horse B, a 2 Y Old, arrives in Mauritius as a one-time winner. Its rating will be 25 points (i.e. 21 + 4). Horse C, another 2 Y Old, arrives in Mauritius as a two-time winner. Its rating will be 29 (21+4+4).

1.4 Maidens shall be classified as follows:

2 year-old	Mauritian Rating 21
3 year-old	Mauritian Rating 26
4 year-old or more	Mauritian Rating 31

An unraced filly will benefit from a deduction of 3 extra points.

1.5 Horses arriving in Mauritius without an official rating shall be rated by the MTC Handicappers.

1.6 Minimum rating for newly imported non-Maidens (winners)

2 year-old	Not less than 25
3 year-old	Not less than 29
4 year-old or more	Not less than 34

Special Notes 2:

When a new horse intended to be exported to Mauritius, has been purchased on or before 31st July 2019 and does not run outside Mauritius on or after 1st August 2019, its rating shall be converted on the basis of its age in July 2019 notwithstanding that it enters quarantine and /or reaches Mauritius on or after 1st August 2019. For any horse to benefit from this rule, the Trainer (licensed by the Mauritius Turf Club) shall mandatorily have notified the Mauritius turf Club of the purchase of the horse before midnight (Mauritian Time) on the 31st July 2019; such notification shall be made by email to the following addresses : Panel of Handicappers at secretariat@mauritiusturfclub.com and Mr Michel Nairac (in case of a horse imported from South Africa) at michelnairac@telkomsa.net. In case such notification has not been sent to the above addresses, any such horse shall be deemed to have been purchased after 31st July 2019.

2. **Performance Assessment**

A horse's performance is assessed in relation to its merit rating. Accordingly, a horse's performance does not necessarily entail an adjustment to its merit rating.

3. **Performance Indicators**

Assessment of a horse's performance is based mainly on the following:

- (i) the suitability of the distance;
- (ii) the strength of the field;
- (iii) the state of the going;
- (iv) the record of the horse in Mauritius;
- (v) the equipment or gear used;
- (vi) Overweight carried in the race including when racing under sufferance;
- (vii) any other factor that, in the opinion of the Handicappers, may have adversely affected performance, as mentioned in the Racing Stewards' official report.

4. **Rating Benchmark**

4.1 The following benchmarks (rating ranges) / *References* will be used to program races:

<u>Benchmarks & References</u>		<u>Rating Range</u>	
Benchmark - Range	Benchmark - Range	Benchmark - Range	
71 (71-55)	56 (56-40)	36 (36-20)	0 - 30 , 0 - 26
66 (66-50)	51 (51-35)	31 (31-15)	0 - 25; 0 - 21, 0 - 20
61 (61-45)	46 (46-30)		0 - 15
Ref 60+, 55+ & 50+	41 (41-25)		

The weight equivalent to a benchmark shall be 61 kg, and the rating band shall be 16 points downwards from the benchmark.

Example: In a race of benchmark 36, priority shall be given to horses rated 36 down to 20. If places are still available, horses rated 37 or 38 or 19 or 18 may secure a place in the field according to the one up and one down principle for horses closest to the rating range.

4.2 Notwithstanding 4.1, the MTC may program races based on other benchmarks or rating ranges, or on any other specific conditions as notified.

5. **Weights**

5.1 The weight range in handicap races based on a 16-point rating range shall be 61-53 kg.

5.2 In handicap races in which the rating range exceeds 16 points, the weight range will depend on the specific conditions of the races.

- 5.3 The minimum carded weight in any handicap race shall not be less than 52 kg (e.g. horses running out of bracket). Consequently, the minimum weight to be carried by a horse, inclusive of any rider's allowance, shall not be less than 48 kg.
- 5.4 The minimum top weight in any handicap race shall be 60 kg. Accordingly, if at final declarations the top weight is below 60 kg, all weights shall be raised.
- 5.5 In weight-for-age races, the relevant international scale shall be applied.
- 5.6 The maximum top weight in 50+ races or higher and in group races shall be 61 kg; The minimum weight shall be 52 kg. No rider's allowance shall be claimed in any group race.
- 5.7 Compression of weights is applicable to all races programmed as in 5.6 above with a rating band in excess of 18 points. The weight range shall be 9 kg (61 kg-52kg).

6. **Rating Adjustments**

- 6.1 The maximum rating adjustments in handicap races and in Weight For Age races shall be +10 points (Win penalty + Margin penalty) and -5 points.
- 6.2 No winner shall be entitled to a downward rating adjustment at its following start. *The maximum downward rating adjustments for a winner in upcoming races will be as follows: 2nd run after win = -2 points and 3rd run after win = -3 points. As from 4th run after win, Rule 6.1 above will be applicable.*
- 6.3 The rating of any horse which runs under its proven ability for no apparent reason may remain unchanged.
- 6.4 The Win penalty will be based on the following scale: **Sprint & Mile** (1000m, 1365m, 1400m, 1500m, 1600m & 1650m) 4 points; **Middle distance** (1850m, 2100m, 2200m & 2400m) 3 points. A third consecutive win or more, during the same racing season, will be penalized by an extra point.
- 6.5 *The Handicappers may, at their discretion, not apply the margin penalty for winning margins between 0.01 Length and 0.50 Length.*

7. **Aged Horses**

Horses turning 10 or more will be granted a deduction of three points from their merit rating following their official birthday.

8. **Long Absence from Competition**

- (a) A horse which has not raced for at least one year shall be granted a deduction of three points from its merit rating. However, if its absence from competition is over 18 months, the deduction shall be 4 points. The length of the absence of a horse from competition is calculated as from its last race, be it in Mauritius or abroad.
- (b) *However, no relief for long absence shall be granted to a new horse which has already benefitted from a minimum rating under above sections 1.2 (b), 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6.*

9. **Queries**

- 9.1 Queries by Trainers in respect of adjustments of the ratings of their horses, must be made in writing and sent to the Handicappers within two days following the official publication of such adjustments.
- 9.2 On receiving written submissions from a Trainer and the Handicappers, the CEO may decide to set up an arbitration if the query is, in his opinion, warranted.

Handicapping Panel

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José Soobrayen

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