

# MTC SPORTS AND LEISURE LTD

PORT-LOUIS



MAURITIUS

CHAMP DE MARS

## **HANDICAPPING GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS - 2021 RACING SEASON**

### **1. Classification of Newly-Imported Horses**

- 1.1 A newly imported horse is one which has never raced in Mauritius.
- 1.2 Newly imported horses aged 3 or more that have won prior to arrival in Mauritius shall be classified on their overseas merit rating converted into Mauritian rating upon their arrival in Mauritius and on the basis of their age on their date of arrival in Mauritius. The conversion scale shall, subject to the Special Notes 1, be as follows and shall apply to all horses which arrive on or after 01 January 2021.

5-year-old or more	-30 points, subject to special notes 1
4-year-old	-30 points
3-year-old	-40 points

### **Special Notes 1:**

- (a) the deduction for a 5 Y Old or older newly imported horse will be *30 points\** provided that the Merit Rating of the horse upon arrival is at least 90. Otherwise, the deduction will be 25 points, except that 5 Y olds or older newly imported horses with a rating of 85-89 shall be rated 60 so that they are not allotted a rating higher than a horse of the same age rated higher.
- (b) the maximum rating of a newly imported horse which is a 3 Y Old will, unless its trainer elects otherwise, be capped at 55 until it has its first start in Mauritius. In case the trainer of the horse elects not to benefit from this rating cap, the trainer shall notify the MTCSL by email within 14 days of the arrival of the horse in Mauritius (or, for a horse which arrived prior to the publication of these guidelines and regulations, within 14 days of the publication of these guidelines and regulations) and the horse will be rated in accordance with paragraph 1.2 above. Such election shall be published by the MTCSL on its website and shall be binding and may not be reversed. If no such election has been made within the time specified, the horse will benefit from the rating cap of 55;
- (c) any horse arriving in Mauritius with no official Turf racing record 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; and
- (d) where a horse arrived prior to 1 January 2021 and has not yet raced in Mauritius and was allotted a higher rating on account of previous guidelines and regulations, its rating shall be revised downwards in accordance with this paragraph 1.2 (including Special Notes 1).

- 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. For 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 (i.e., 21+4+4).

- 1.4 Maidens shall be classified as follows:

2-year-old or younger	Mauritian Rating 21
3-year-old	Mauritian Rating 26
4-year-old or more	Mauritian Rating 28

An unraced filly will benefit from a deduction of 3 extra points. A horse born in Mauritius will benefit from a deduction of 4 extra points.

- 1.5 Horses arriving in Mauritius without an official rating shall be rated by the MTCSL Handicappers after consultation, where possible, with the handicappers in the country where the horse last raced.

- 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 33

## **Special Notes 2:**

- (a) When a new horse intended to be exported to Mauritius has been purchased on or before 31st October 2021, and has not run outside Mauritius after 31st July 2021, its rating shall be converted on the basis of its age in July 2021 notwithstanding that it enters quarantine and /or reaches Mauritius on or after 1st August 2021. For any horse to benefit from this rule, the trainer or owner shall mandatorily have notified MTC Sports and Leisure Ltd (MTCSL) of the purchase of the horse by midnight Mauritius time on the earlier of its date of arrival in Mauritius and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021; such notification shall be made by email to the following addresses: Panel of Handicappers at [secretariat@mtcsportsandleisure.com](mailto:secretariat@mtcsportsandleisure.com) and [mtc@intnet.mu](mailto:mtc@intnet.mu), with a copy (in case of a horse imported from South Africa) to Mr. Michel Nairac at [michelnairac@telkomsa.net](mailto:michelnairac@telkomsa.net). In case such notification has not been sent to the above addresses by the relevant deadline, the rating of any such horse shall be converted on the basis of its age on the date of arrival in Mauritius in accordance with paragraph 1.2 to 1.6 above.
- (b) In case these guidelines and regulations continue to apply after 2021, the same condition as in paragraph (a) will apply for subsequent years, with adjustments to the relevant dates.

## 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) overweight carried in the race, including when racing under sufferance;
- (vi) 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 &amp; References</u>			<u>Rating Range</u>
Benchmark - Range	Benchmark - Range	Benchmark - Range	
71 (71-55)	56 (56-40)	36 (36-20)	0 - 26
66 (66-50)	51 (51-35)	31 (31-15)	0 - 25
61 (61-45)	46 (46-30)		0 - 20
Ref 60+, 55+ & 50+	41 (41-25)		0 - 15

### Special Notes 3:

- (a) the weight equivalent to a benchmark shall be 61 kg, and the rating band shall be 16 points downwards from the benchmark, provided that horses rated 1-2 points above the band or 1-2 points below the band shall be allowed to race according to the one up and one down principle for horses closest to the rating range;
- (b) a horse rated one point above the rating band shall have priority over a horse rated one point below the rating band. A horse rated and a horse rated two points above the rating band shall have priority over a horse rated two points below the rating band; and
- (c) the regulations shall operate as follows by illustration for a race of Benchmark 36
  - (i) priority shall be given to horses rated 36 down to 20;
  - (ii) if places are still available, priority shall apply as follows to horses outside the rating band: firstly, a horse rated 37, secondly a horse rated 19, thirdly a horse rated 38 and fourthly, a horse rated 18;
  - (iii) horses rated 39 and above shall not be allowed to participate; and
  - (iv) horses rated 17 and below shall not be allowed to participate.

4.2 Notwithstanding 4.1, the MTCSL 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.

## 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. There shall not be any limit to adjustment in the second start after a win.

6.3 A new horse may only be entitled to downward rating adjustment of a maximum of 1 point at its first start in Mauritius.

6.4 The WIN penalty will be 3 points for all distances. A third consecutive win or more, during the same racing season, will be penalized by an extra point.

6.5 No margin penalty shall apply for winning margins up to and including 0.50l.

## 7. **Aged Horses**

7.1 A horse turning 7 shall be granted a deduction of 3 points to its merit rating on its official birthday.

7.2 A horse turning 8 shall be granted a deduction of 4 points to its merit rating on its official birthday.

7.3 A horse turning 9 or more shall be granted a deduction of 5 points to its merit rating on its official birthday.

## 8. **Long Absence from Competition**

8.1 A horse which has not raced for at least 12 months shall be granted a deduction of 4 points from its merit rating.

- 8.2 A horse which has not raced for at least 15 months shall be granted a deduction of 5 points from its merit rating.
- 8.3 A horse which has not raced for at least 18 months shall be granted a deduction of 6 points from its merit rating.
- 8.4 A horse which has not raced for at least 20 months shall be granted a deduction of 7 points from its merit rating and an additional deduction of 1 point for every 2 additional months. For example, a horse which has not raced for at least 24 months shall be granted a deduction of 11 points (7+2+2).

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 Panel of Handicappers at [secretariat@mtcsportsandleisure.com](mailto:secretariat@mtcsportsandleisure.com) and [mtc@intnet.mu](mailto:mtc@intnet.mu) within 2 days following the publication of such adjustments. The handicappers shall respond to the trainer within 2 days and provide reasons for their decisions.

In cases of continued disagreement between the trainer and the handicappers, the CEO of the MTCSL shall appoint an independent person to adjudicate on the matter.

**In the event of any conflict, the GRA Act and/or the GRA Directions will take precedence over the MTCSL handicapping guidelines and regulations.**

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021