

MAURITIUS TURF CLUB

HANDICAPPING GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS - 2020 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-old which will be rated as outlined below in 1.3*. The agreed conversion scale is as follows and is applicable as from the 01 April 2020. (See **annex 1** dated 02.08.2019, amended 12.11.2019)

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 after 31st July 2020, and does not run outside Mauritius after 31st July 2020, its rating shall be converted on the basis of its age in July 2020 notwithstanding that it enters quarantine and /or reaches Mauritius on or after 1st August 2020. 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; such notification shall be made by email to the following addresses: Panel of Handicappers at secretariat@mauritiusturfclub.com , john.smith@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, the rating of any such horse shall not be converted on the basis of its age in July 2020.

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 & 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

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, excluding group races, 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 = -1 point and 3rd run after win = -2 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 7 or more will be granted a deduction of three points from their merit rating on a yearly basis following their official birthday.

8. **Long Absence from Competition**

- (a) A horse which has not raced for at least 12 months shall be granted a deduction of 3 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

Henri Chung

José Soobrayen

John Smith

MAURITIUS TURF CLUB

Dear Trainers,

Please find attached a self-explanatory notice from the National Horseracing Authority of Southern Africa, published last week and informing all of an increase of 10 points to THE Merit Ratings OF HORSES DOMICILED IN THE MAIN RACING JURISDICTIONS OF South Africa as from the 01 August 2019.

(1) THE MAIN RACING JURISDICTIONS BEING GAUTENG, KWAZULU NATAL & WESTERN CAPE.

To avoid the risk of placing at a disadvantage in competition here new horses imported from THE MAIN RACING JURISDICTIONS ON OR after the 01 August 2019, our Handicapping Guidelines and Regulations will therefore be amended to provide, as from the **01 August 2019 AND UNTIL THE 31st OF March 2020 AT LATEST MIDNIGHT(MAURITIAN TIME)**, for a ten-point increase in the deductions leading to the classification of new horses imported from THOSE JURISDICTIONS as from that date with notification to be made as per existing rules. As from **1st APRIL 2020**, normal deduction as per 1.2 of the handicapping guidelines shall be applicable.

The revised conversion scale will be as follows:

5-year-old or more	-40 points *(If SA merit rating above 90, otherwise 35 points)
4-year-old	-40 points
3-year-old	-50 points

(2) MERIT RATING REVIEW FOR EASTERN CAPE:

Please note that horses domiciled in the Eastern Cape (e.g. Fairview racecourse) will have their Merit Ratings increased by **5 points**. This decision was taken in light of the Eastern Cape racing centre being a victim of the 'creep factor'. An Eastern Cape horse will be defined, for the purposes of the adjustment, as any horse domiciled and trained in the Eastern Cape that has had two of its last three starts in Eastern Cape. **THE INCREASE IN OUR DEDUCTIONS WILL BE 5 POINTS ONLY.**

The revised conversion scale will be as follows:

5-year-old or more	-35 points *(If SA merit rating above 90, otherwise 30 points)
4-year-old	-35 points
3-year-old	-45 points

NOTE: THE RATING OF NORTHERN CAPE AND ZIMBABWE HORSES WILL NOT BE INCREASED. THEREFORE, OUR DEDUCTIONS WILL REMAIN THE SAME.

19.11.2019

MAURITIUS TURF CLUB

Annex II

Ref: Merit rating review 2020

Dear Trainers,

With reference to Annex 1 of the Handicapping Guidelines and Regulations 2020, as from the 01 August 2019 AND UNTIL THE 31st OF MARCH 2020 AT LATEST MIDNIGHT(MAURITIAN TIME), a ten-point increase in the deductions leading to the classification of new horses imported as from that date with notification to be made as per existing rules shall be applicable.

For any horse purchased on or before 31 March 2020 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; such notification shall be made by email to the following addresses: Panel of Handicappers at secretariat@mauritiusturfclub.com , john.smith@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, the rating of any such horse shall not be converted on the basis of the conversion scale as per Annex 1.

As from 1st APRIL 2020, normal deduction as per 1.2 of the handicapping guidelines shall be applicable.

The Handicapping Panel

18 Feb. 20