

**Report of the  
NEW ZEALAND PATTERN COMMITTEE**

**Group & Listed Race  
Schedule for  
2017/18 Season**

**following Review of  
2016/17 Season**

**12 SEPTEMBER 2017**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Pattern Review for races run in the 2016-17 season has been completed by the NZ Pattern Committee. The schedule of Group and Listed Races to be run in the 2017-18 season has now been confirmed.
2. There have been seven changes made to the schedule of Pattern races for the 2017-18 season. Promotions from Listed to G3 have been applied to each of the Matamata RC, Matamata Slipper; the Whangarei RC, Northland Breeders Stakes; the Ashburton RC, John Grigg Stakes; and the Waikato RC, FC Johnstone Handicap.

The Hawkes Bay RI, El Roca Trophy (3yo,1200m) has been promoted to Listed status.

The Otago RC, White Robe Lodge Handicap has been downgraded from G3 to Listed. The Taumarunui RC, Taumarunui Cup has been downgraded from Listed to unlisted status.

3. Under the revised schedule, the total number of Black Type flat races remains at 149. While the rating of each race clearly justifies its status, the NZPC is concerned that a further fall in the number of races run means the percentage of Black Type races now sits at approximately 5.8%. This requires a conservative approach to be taken to potential promotions, with the NZPC needing to be satisfied that any promoted race will hold its new status and that it fits well in the overall context of the Pattern. The NZPC also highlights that no Listed races are currently on a 2<sup>nd</sup> warning, meaning there are unlikely to be any gaps for promotion in the year ahead.
4. The NZPC views the ideal shape of the Pattern as being a pyramid. While still being some distance from this ideal, the shape continues to gradually improve with there being 21 G1, 25 G2, 43 G3 and 60 Listed races in 2017/18.
5. This was the fifth year that the NZPC has operated under the APC (Asian Pattern Committee) Ground Rules, which were approved by NZTR in consultation with the NZPC and the industry. Any race failing to attain the minimum race rating required in the last running is likely to be issued with a first warning, and in most cases a second warning will be issued if the minimum rating has not been achieved in the past two runnings. Three consecutive failures (four for G1) lead to automatic downgrade of G3 and Listed races under the APC Ground Rules. A vote applies to G1 and G2 races under amendments made by the APC in late 2016. Special factors may be considered and the NZPC has chosen to recognise these at times. These include the ratings of the top 4 starters as opposed to finishers; the number of G1 winners in the preceding 18 months; unusual track conditions; and the effect on the shape of the Pattern.
6. The race rating is determined by the peak World Best Racehorse Ranking (WBRR) in the season for the average of the first four finishers in the race. This was formerly known as the World Thoroughbred Rating (WTR). Note

that the WBRR has no relationship with the points-based domestic NZ handicap rating and the two measures should not be confused.

7. In recent seasons, G1 races have been allowed a 5 point tolerance relative to their threshold level, while G2 and lower have had a 3 point tolerance. From the end of the 2017/18 season onwards, the APC has lowered these tolerance levels to 3 points and 2 points respectively to come into line with global norms.
8. The NZPC has some concerns with relying on the WBRR ratings assigned to NZ 2yo and 3yo races. They are inconsistent with the ratings achieved by the same horses overseas and frequently the horses achieve higher ratings as older horses. The NZPC is concerned that NZ 2yo and 3yo races may be systematically under-rated. Accordingly, the NZPC has requested NZTR to establish an expert review of the WBRR levels assigned to NZ 2yo and 3yo horses and races in recent seasons. This review is in progress. The NZPC is a strong supporter of the APC Ground Rules but it is a difficult task to apply them across different jurisdictions. Critical review and evaluation can only lead to improvement and increased confidence in their accuracy across the region.
9. The Race Ratings used to evaluate race quality are appended as Section 6 of this Report.
10. There are currently 14 races with 1st warnings (9 last year) and 1 race with a 2nd warning (7 last year).

# SECTION 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 CONSTITUTION & CONVENTION

The New Zealand Pattern Committee (NZPC) is constituted in Rule 506 of the Rules of Racing. It is an independent committee jointly convened by New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Association Inc. (NZTBA) and New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Inc. (NZTR). The secretariat of the NZPC is provided by NZTR.

### 1.2 COMPOSITION & SCHEDULE

**1.2.1** The NZPC is comprised of eight voting members, viz. a Chairman who is appointed by NZTR after consultation with NZTBA, three nominees of NZTBA, three nominees of NZTR and one nominee of NZTBA to represent the thoroughbred auction companies. The personnel appointed to the Pattern Committee are expected to have the expertise and experience to exercise flexibility and discretion whilst continually maintaining a review of appropriate levels of Black Type opportunity for horses of different age, sex and aptitudes, throughout the total New Zealand racing scene. Committee appointments are made in December each year and take effect for the following calendar year.

**1.2.2** The NZPC meets twice per year, usually in the third week of August when primary statistical data becomes available and (by teleconference) in early November to review the prestige jumping races. Each year the NZPC conducts a robust review of its procedures and criteria and holds a frank discussion of all matters considered relevant.

**1.2.3** A NZPC member has a conflict of interest with respect to the review process when that member, or their spouse, partner or immediate family member, is an office-bearer or management employee of a New Zealand racing club or of an organisation currently sponsoring a black-type race. Any member having disclosed a conflict of interest will not be debarred from participating in any discussion during the review. If consensus amongst committee members is not apparent regarding a particular race under review and the Chairman calls for a vote, then any member having a conflict of interest relating to that race will forfeit their right to vote on that particular race and may be asked to leave the room during the voting process.

**1.2.4** The NZPC for the past season comprised :

Chairman:	Mr Matthew Goodson, Auckland
NZTR Nominees:	Mr Bruce Sherwin, Cambridge
	Mr Neville McAlister, Wellington

Mr Jeff McCall, Christchurch  
NZTBA Nominees: Mr Michael Martin, Auckland  
Mr Andrew Stewart, Cambridge  
Mr Mark Freeman, Wellington  
Auction House: Mr Danny Rolston, Cambridge

### **1.3 OBJECTIVES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

The function of the NZPC is to annually review the best races in New Zealand for horses of different ages, gender and aptitudes and to produce a list of races worthy of black type status in sales catalogues in line with international standards, and to rate those races as (in descending order of importance) Gr.1, Gr.2, Gr.3 and Listed. Further, it is to produce a list of Prestige Jumping Races in NZ.

It is the responsibility of the NZPC to conduct that review in a manner that conforms to international standards and utilises clear and consistent criteria. It also has a duty to communicate its findings in an Annual Report to be circulated to interested parties in September each year.

The NZPC must remain aware that the integrity and international credibility of our black type system is crucial to the national thoroughbred industry. The NZPC makes recommendations to Clubs where it feels that the pattern of racing could be improved with the introduction of a particular type of race or races.

### **1.4 INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES**

The NZ list of black type races and their groupings are required to conform to the APC Ground Rules drawn up by the Asian Pattern Committee. The list is then submitted through the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) to the International Grading and Race Planning Advisory Committee (IRPAC), who, in turn, recommends the list to be ratified by the Society of International Thoroughbred Auctioneers (SITA). The list is then published along with all other approved national lists in the annual International Cataloguing Standards and International Statistics booklet ("Blue Book"). Retention of New Zealand's inclusion in Part One of the Blue Book is considered crucial to the national thoroughbred industry.

### **1.5 REVIEW PROCESS**

There is no appeal process available against the decisions of the Committee in respect of any race or races. However, application may be made to a Review Panel for a review of the Committee's list as outlined under Rules 506 (9)-(12) of the NZ Rules of Racing. An application for a review does not apply in respect of a warning.

## **SECTION 2**

# **HISTORY**

### **2.1 BLACK TYPE**

Black Type (or Stakes) races are those that differentiate prestige races from others. The purpose of black-type races is to confer additional status (and therefore implied value) to the placegetters in those races. The first three finishers in designated black type races receive bold typeface in sales catalogue pedigrees. The appearance of black type in catalogues had its origins in North American catalogues in the 1950s. It was first adopted outside of North America by New Zealand in 1970. In the early 1970s Europe adopted the black-type system for their pattern races and other countries followed.

### **2.2 GROUP DESIGNATIONS**

Black Type races are rated (in descending order of importance) with the designations Gr.1, Gr.2, Gr.3 and Listed. Group designations grew out of the European Pattern Race System in the early 1970s. It was quickly adopted in North America and then gradually adopted throughout the rest of the Thoroughbred world, including New Zealand in 1984-85.

### **2.3 INTERNATIONAL UNIFORMITY**

In 1981 the International Cataloguing Standards Committee (ICSC) was formed to oversee the publication (Blue Book) of all lists of black type races worldwide and promote uniformity of standards. In 2007 ICSC transferred responsibility for this role to the International Grading and Race Pattern Committee (IRPAC). In 2012 the Asian Pattern Committee (APC) was granted an overseeing governance role over all the domestic graded stakes jurisdictions in the Asian Racing Federation (ARF) region, including New Zealand.

### **2.4 NEW ZEALAND DEVELOPMENTS**

Originally, New Zealand's black type races were determined by the senior pedigree compiler at the then sole auction house. From about the mid-1970s, the task was done by a committee of representatives of NZTBA, the auction house and the New Zealand Racing Conference (NZRC), the predecessor of NZTR. The Committee was overseen by NZRC. In 1995, a complete review of the process was undertaken, resulting in the current structure of the NZPC being implemented. In 2012, the Committee was renamed from New Zealand Graded Stakes Committee to New Zealand Pattern Committee.

## **2.5 REGISTERED RACE-NAMES**

In 2001, Registered Race-names were introduced to enable a race to be identified over a period of years, regardless of the changes that may be made to its race-day name. The Registered Race-names provide the historical link to the current race-name and sponsor. The APC also prescribes that all Group races must have a permanent element within the race-name.

# **SECTION 3 OPERATING PROCEDURES**

## **3.1 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS**

The NZPC compares New Zealand's list of black type races to those of other countries in Part 1 of the Blue Book in order to ensure the international credibility of the black type in our sales catalogues.

### **3.1.1 Number of black type races**

As a target, the NZPC aims for the number of black type races in New Zealand to be approximately 5% of the estimated number of flat races run during the season. This is in line with most other racing jurisdictions and is considered appropriate for New Zealand.

### **3.1.2 Pyramid model**

With regard to the allocation of group designators to New Zealand's black type races, the NZPC endeavours to establish and maintain the widely accepted "pyramid" model used by most countries in Part 1 of the Blue Book. The ideal pyramid has more Group 2 races than Group 1 races, and the total number of Group 3 races should exceed the combined total of Group 1 and Group 2 races.

### **3.1.3 Category opportunities**

The NZPC oversees the full range of horse categories (age, gender, distance aptitude) so that all horses might have adequate opportunities to compete for black type status.

## **3.2 CRITERIA**

### **3.2.1 Quality**

The paramount criterion applied by the NZPC is established quality of the field over time.



### **3.2.2 Race conditions**

In the overall pattern, weight-for-age is given higher priority than set weights, which is given higher priority than set weights and penalties, which is, in turn, given higher priority than handicap conditions.

All black type races for 2YOs and 3YOs are to be run at set weights or set weights and penalties.

In line with international trends, it is unlikely that further handicap races will be elevated to Gr.1 status.

Races for which entry is restricted to horses sold at a particular sale or sales are not eligible for group status. Furthermore, to be granted (R) Listed status, such a race must achieve a standard of quality equivalent to a group race.

### **3.2.3 Prizemoney**

Black type races must be run for a stake that meets or exceeds minimum levels that are subject to annual review by NZTR.

### **3.2.4 The Pattern**

The NZPC considers each race's timing and place within the pattern of racing.

### **3.2.5 Continuity**

Continuity on the list and with a particular Pattern grading is considered desirable, so long as that continuity is credible and does not compromise the integrity of the schedule.

### **3.2.6 Miscellaneous**

Other criteria may be considered if deemed to be relevant, e.g. historical importance, regional factors, impact of adverse weather, opportunities for various aptitude categories, etc.

## **3.3 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES**

### **3.3.1 WorldBest Racehorse Rankings (WBRR)**

The NZPC has adopted the end of season World Best Racehorse Rankings (formerly referred to as World Thoroughbred Ratings) as its primary statistical assessment tool. This rating averages the first four finishers in a race, as rated for their peak performance during the season, after taking into account the additional 4lb allowance if fillies or

mares fill any of those placings. The NZPC may also choose to consider the average rating of the four highest rated starters in the race if it considers that circumstances deem that to be appropriate.

A race's Rating for the season is evaluated by the NZPC in conjunction with that race's Pattern Race Rating (an average of the three most recent renewals' Race Ratings).

### **3.3.2 New Zealand handicap ratings**

The NZPC also has at its disposal the NZ race day handicap ratings for the starters in all races reviewed. Given their different basis of determination, the NZPC did not consult these in the season under review.

### **3.3.3 Full field results**

The NZPC also has the official result files of all races reviewed, along with the number and quality of black type performers (covering the current and previous season) in each race.

## **3.4 UPGRADING / DOWNGRADING**

**The following guidelines should be read in conjunction with the APC Ground Rules which are available**

**at:** [http://www.nzracing.co.nz/Downloads/APC-RevisedGroundRules-29Nov%2011%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.nzracing.co.nz/Downloads/APC-RevisedGroundRules-29Nov%2011%20(3).pdf). (note 2016 amendments will be posted once confirmed)

### **3.4.1 Conditions for gaining black type**

(A) For a race to gain entry to the black type system a position must be available within the allowable number of black type races for New Zealand, (approximately 5% of races run). The race must have achieved in its recent renewals a level of quality higher than that of the lower rating races already on the list catering for a similar category of horse.

(B) It must also have been run under the same terms and conditions, distance and timing for two consecutive previous renewals. (This may be deviated from in the most exceptional circumstances).

It is not necessary for a host club to make a submission for entry to the black type system. The NZPC maintains a "watch list" of all unrestricted races, along with selected age group races and reviews that list every year.

### **3.4.2 Conditions for maintaining status**

Other than continuing to meet the field quality criterion, some other conditions must also be maintained. A race may be subject to re-

assessment by the NZPC if there are changes proposed in terms of one or more of:

- (a) The distance (100m or more for races below 1600m and 200m or more for races of 1600m or above)
- (b) The date (more than 2 months)
- (c) The stake
- (d) The venue
- (e) The host club
- (f) The race conditions

Each change or combination thereof is considered on a case-by-case basis and must be notified by the host club to the NZPC at the earliest opportunity. The NZPC reminds clubs of the importance of this requirement if they wish to retain their race's black type status.

If a scheduled black type race is not programmed by its host club, or, if having programmed it, the host club declines to run the race prior to the calling of nominations, then NZTR may at its discretion re-allocate the race to another club willing to run the race under the same terms and conditions within the current pattern. If a black type race has had nominations called for, then the club must run the race, regardless of the number of acceptors.

### **3.4.3 Conditions for downgrading a race (Warning Process)**

- (a) When a race is being considered for downgrading, a written warning will be given to the host club and the race will not be downgraded until it has been run with a second warning.
- (b) Where a club has already had a first warning in respect of a race, the warning may be maintained, lifted or progressed to a second warning.
- (c) Because a club is entitled to have two further renewals of a race at the status quo after the issue of a first warning, the NZPC will generally issue first warnings at the earliest sign of decline in the quality of a race.
- (d) Where a second warning has been issued, this may be maintained, removed completely, reverted to a first warning or the race may be downgraded.
- (e) Under the APC Ground Rules, as revised in late 2016, races that are Group 3 and lower are automatically downgraded if they are more than 2lb (previously 3lb) below their required parameter in each of the last three seasons, unless a material change in conditions is proposed, in which case, the relevant Racing Authority (that is the NZPC) may choose to give it one final year in which it must achieve its Annual Race Rating. The NZPC ensures that the warning system is consistent with these requirements. These revisions apply from consideration of the 2017/18 season onwards.

- (f) Pattern races scheduled for the early part of the season and carrying a second warning that have already been advertised in Thoroughbred Racing Monthly (TRM) prior to the August meeting of the NZPC, will carry disclaimers in TRM noting that the club and NZTR each reserves the right to alter the conditions of the race including the stake and/or the black type status of the advertised race if it is downgraded by the NZPC.
- (g) Pattern races run for a stake below the minimum prescribed level will be automatically downgraded for that running irrespective of any warning level attached to the race.
- (h) The required warning period is also not applicable where a race has undergone significant change (as detailed in 3.4.2 above). Such a change may be approved by the NZPC at its discretion with or without the imposition of a (greater) warning level.

#### **3.4.4 Conditions for upgrading a race**

- (a) For a race to be considered for upgrading, the NZPC must be satisfied that a vacancy exists in the relevant category above;
- (b) It must have achieved in its recent renewals a level of quality higher than that of the lower rating races in the category above catering for a similar category of horse; and
- (c) It must also have been run under the same terms and conditions, distance and timing for two consecutive previous renewals. (This may be deviated from in the most exceptional circumstances);
- (d) Under the APC Ground Rules, races shall be eligible for promotion if the race under consideration achieves both a Pattern Race Rating (average of last 3 years) and an Annual Race Rating for the last year equal to or above the required parameter. Note that being eligible for promotion does not require the NZPC to make such a promotion given the other factors above.

The NZPC invites clubs to make submissions for their races to be upgraded, but a submission is not a prerequisite for upgrading and the NZPC will upgrade races without submissions where appropriate.

#### **3.4.5 Rules governing Group 1 and Group 2 races**

- (a) Decisions relating to Group 1 and 2 races are ultimately taken by the Asian Pattern Committee (APC).
- (b) A race may be eligible for promotion to Group 1 or 2 if the race under consideration achieves both a Pattern Race Rating (average of last 3 years) and an Annual Race Rating for the last year equal to or above the required parameter.

- (c) The upgrading/downgrading of a race to/from Group 1 and 2 must be approved by a majority of two or more of the APC.
- (d) From 2017/18 onwards, if the Annual Race Rating of a Group 1 race is more than 3lb (formerly 5lb) below its parameter for each of the previous three (formerly four) years, the APC will consider the merits of the race, and vote on whether the race will be permitted to retain its Grade, or whether it will be downgraded.
- (e) From 2017/18 onwards, if the Annual Race Rating of a Group 2 race is more than 2lb (formerly 3lb) below its parameter for each of the previous three years, the APC will consider the merits of the race, and vote on whether the race will be permitted to retain its Grade, or whether it will be downgraded. Previously, the changes to G2 races were automatic rather than subject to a vote.
- (f) The reduced tolerances apply from consideration of the 2017/18 season onwards. The interaction with current race warnings will need to be considered carefully.

#### **3.4.6 Other factors**

In assessing upgrades, admissions, downgrades or deletions of races to or from the schedule of black type races, the following factors may also be taken into account by the NZPC:

- (a) The ratings of the four highest rated horses to start (as well as the first four to finish).
- (b) The number of starters to have won a Group 1 race in the prior 18 months. Note that this criterion was previously over the two previous seasons. The NZPC has voted to change this from 2017/18 onwards to be consistent with the APC Ground Rules.
- (c) The iconic or historical significance of some races of national importance including, but not necessarily restricted to, the national three-year-old Classics.
- (d) The effect on the overall pattern of racing and the shape of the “pyramid” (ref. 3.1.2, above).

## SECTION 4

# COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1** Historically, the NZPC has felt that the New Zealand “pyramid” has been somewhat top-heavy and has not met international expectations. This year has seen the downgrade of one G3 race to Listed and one Listed race to unlisted. Upgrades have seen four races move from Listed to G3 and one from unlisted to Listed. This provides a pyramid of 21 G1 races; 25 G2; 43 G3 and 60 Listed. While still not entirely satisfactory, it is gradually moving towards an acceptable shape.
- 4.2** It is the responsibility of a Club to notify the NZPC where a significant change in conditions is contemplated. Changes in one or more of the distance, timing and conditions can result in an entirely different race being conducted. Although the Committee is sympathetic to programming and other issues, the integrity of the system is paramount.
- 4.3** For the 2017-18 season, the Committee supports the Minimum Stakes Levels adopted by NZTR and set out below:

<b>Status</b>	<b>Minimum Stake</b>
Group 1	\$200,000
Group 2	\$100,000
Group 3	\$70,000
Listed	\$50,000

- 4.4** Appreciation is expressed to those involved with making submissions, the majority of whom follow the guidelines advised to clubs. Those submissions assist the Committee with its deliberations, particularly where they contain new information and context about the race performance.
- 4.5** The NZPC is fully aware of concerns regarding the Pattern Race Ratings and downgrades of NZ’s staying handicaps which have great historical significance, public appeal and linkages to the type of horse bred by the NZ breeding industry. That said, it is critical for the international credibility of the NZ Pattern that our races conform to international norms as governed by the APC on behalf of IRPAC. In recent years, NZ’s traditional staying handicaps have struggled to meet these norms and have been under considerable downgrade pressure.
- The NZPC supports the decision of the APC to follow an approach that is broadly consistent with the introduction of a downgrade moratorium in Europe until 2022 for all races of 2701m+.

The APC has decided on a downgrade moratorium for all races of 2701m+, while for 3 year olds, this applies to all races of 2400m+. Critically, it was agreed that such races should also demonstrate that a clear strategy is in place to improve their ratings (eg prizemoney and programming).

The APC is unanimous in its view that a globally consistent approach is required and that IRPAC is the appropriate body to oversee this.

The NZPC supports this extension of the moratorium to the Asia-Pacific region. Key reasons include: i) Consistency with Europe; ii) The historical importance of such races and their integral part of the Pattern; iii) Potential future increases in NZ 3yo ratings may flow through in time to NZ staying races; iv) NZTR's strong commitment to prizemoney increases for such races may improve field quality; v) NZPC recommends that a Review Committee be formed to examine the flow of staying races (and others) that may in time lead to improved ratings; vi) In NZ, staying horses frequently run lead-up races that are short of their optimal distance. There is some possibility that the (often low) rating from this shorter race biases downwards the rating subsequently assigned to the staying horse over its optimal longer distance.

- 4.6** One new race was introduced into the schedule of black type races for 2017-18 due to consistently high ratings in its recent editions. Several other unlisted races met the theoretical requirements for promotion but the NZPC wished to see that they establish a consistently high rating over time and that they meet a gap in the Pattern. While the total number of flat races programmed each year continues to fall, the ratio of black type races has risen to be above the ideal target of 5%. Consequently, any new events introduced to the Pattern will need to be offset by deletion of the weakest Listed races. With only one race being on second warning in the 2017/18 season, this will likely be a process that only evolves gradually over the coming years.
- 4.7** Fillies & mares (3YO & older) as a group are not particularly well catered for, especially through the summer period. In total, they have only 13 black-type opportunities excluding races limited to 3yo fillies only. They have only two black type opportunities beyond a mile, both in the autumn. They also have only two black type opportunities at less than 1600m between late November and mid-May. It is noted by the Committee that other comparable racing jurisdictions seem to provide many more black type opportunities for the fillies and mares category and this Committee would like to see every major carnival in NZ programme at least one race for this category in the hope that some could grow into black type races.
- 4.8** The NZPC was briefed on a potential alternative Pattern of Group & Listed races proposed by the Auckland Racing Club. The Committee recommends that NZTR form a Pattern Review Committee, comprising members from inside and outside the NZPC to review this proposal

and develop outcomes that are in the best interests of the NZ industry as a whole, both from race rating and commercial perspectives.

- 4.9** In line with international expectations, the NZPC will continue to use horse ratings provided by the World Best Racehorse Rankings as our primary statistical assessment tool. This meets requirements by the APC, set out in their Ground Rules, which are available at [http://www.nzracing.co.nz/Downloads/APC-RevisedGroundRules-29Nov%2011%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.nzracing.co.nz/Downloads/APC-RevisedGroundRules-29Nov%2011%20(3).pdf).
- 4.10** The NZPC has concern with relying on the WBRR ratings assigned to NZ 2yo and 3yo races. They are inconsistent with the ratings achieved by the same horses overseas and frequently the horses achieve higher ratings as older horses. The NZPC is concerned that NZ 2yo and 3yo races may be systematically under-rated. Accordingly, the NZPC has requested NZTR to establish an expert review of the WBRR levels assigned to NZ 3yo horses and races in recent seasons. We understand that this will be completed in the coming months. The NZPC is a strong supporter of the APC Ground Rules but it is a difficult task to apply them across different jurisdictions. Critical review and evaluation can only lead to improvement and increased confidence in their accuracy across the region.



## SECTION 5

# SUMMARY

- 5.1** As a result of the review, the number of black type races for 2017-18 compared with previous seasons, is as follows:

Status	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13
Group 1	21	22	22	22	22	22
Group 2	25	25	22	21	22	23
Group 3	43	38	40	39	36	33
Listed	60	63	63	65	65	68
Total	<b>149</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>146</b>
PJR	*tbc	13	12	12	11	12

- *The number of Prestige Jumping Races will be confirmed at the NZPC meeting in late October.*

- 5.2** The 2017-18 list includes the following changes to the previous season:

### Upgrades/Downgrades

#### Upgrades

**Matamata RC, Matamata Slipper 2yo, c&g, 1200m, L to G3** – conducted in late February, this race has consistently earned ratings around the G3 benchmark of 100 and 2016/17 saw a particularly high rating of 104.25, driving the Pattern Race Rating (3 year average) up to 101.67. The NZPC has previously communicated its concern at a gap of only one week to the Taranaki 2yo Classic (G3) but understands that this will be three weeks from 2017/18 onwards. This will likely assist the future strength of this race.

**Whangarei RC, Northland Breeders' Stakes, 3yo, 1200m, L to G3** – conducted in mid-September on generally good track conditions, this race has consistently attracted 3yo horses who have continued to

perform at the highest levels later in the season. It has rated around the G3 threshold of 105 in most recent seasons, with the latest edition earning a high rating of 109.5 (almost G2). The Pattern Race Rating of 105.92 is firmly in G3 territory. The NZPC did examine its proximity with the newly promoted 3yo 1200m race at Hastings two weeks earlier but believes the pool of horses to be sufficient to easily support the continued ratings of both races.

**Ashburton RC, John Grigg Stakes, 3yo, SW, 1400m, L to G3** – conducted in mid-October, this race has grown in stature in recent years as a key preparatory race for the 1000 and 2000 Guineas. The race generally rated slightly below the G3 benchmark of 105 but easily above the tolerance level of 102. 2016/17 saw a step-change with an extremely high rating of 111.75 as La Diosa beat Heroic Valour and Savile Row. The NZPC believes this race's position in the calendar will see it consistently rate at a level that sustains its G3 rating.

**Waikato RC, FC Johnstone Handicap, open hcp, 1200m, L to G3** – while the NZPC felt that open class sprinters are already well catered for in the Pattern, this race's position in early/mid December has seen it consistently attract a high quality field that has beaten the G3 benchmark in each of the last three seasons. 2016/17 rated particularly highly at 109.5, driving the Pattern Race Rating up to 106.58.

**Hawkes Bay RI, El Roca Trophy 3yo, 1200m – upgrade from unlisted to Listed**. As previously advised, the NZPC met by teleconference on 4 August to consider the race rating of the unlisted Hawkes Bay RI 3YO SW&P 1200m race that has now been conducted on 2 September 2017. This race had achieved a Pattern Race Rating of 107.25, with the last three editions being 104, 105.5 and 112.25. The required threshold to be considered for promotion to Listed status is 100 and for Group 3 status is 105. While the NZPC was somewhat uncomfortable at the one-off nature of the consideration of this race, which created some concern regarding its full analysis relative to all other races in the NZ Pattern, it was felt that the extremely strong rating merited its upgrade to Listed status from the 2017 running onwards. The NZPC does wish to make clear that early consideration was given to this race due to the exceptional circumstances of both its extremely strong rating and the close proximity of its running to the scheduled NZPC meeting on 18 August. Early consideration is unlikely to be given to any other race unless similar exceptional circumstances exist.

## **Downgrades**

**Otago RC, White Robe Handicap, open hcp, 1600m, G3 to L**– the race has failed to meet the G3 tolerance threshold of 102 in each of the last three seasons, with 2016/17 rating 100.75 and the Pattern Race Rating being 100.58. The average of the four highest starters just met the 102 tolerance threshold but the NZPC felt that this remained well

below the G3 benchmark of 105 and did not suggest that the strength of the field was materially above that of the first four finishers. There were no starters that won a G1 race in the last 18 months. The race's importance in the calendar as a key target for South Island horses was examined at length but it was considered that the weak race ratings outweighed this factor.

**Taumarunui RC, Taumarunui Cup, open hcp, 2100m, L to unlisted** – the race has failed to meet the Listed tolerance level of 97 for each of the last three seasons, with the Pattern Race Rating being 94.25. Run on a heavy track at Rotorua in late July, the NZPC considered there was only a limited possibility that the race rating could materially improve. The NZPC believes this time-honoured winter target will be better positioned as an “iconic heritage” race with appropriate prizemoney support but that its position in the Pattern cannot be sustained.

## Comments On Other NZPC Decisions

**Levin RC, Ryder Stakes 2yo, L** – the 2016/17 rating of 92.5 just surpassed the tolerance threshold of 92 to narrowly avoid a first warning. However, this followed an unusually weak edition the prior year when the race was run in torrential rain and NZPC chose not to issue a first warning. A stronger running will clearly be required this season.

**Levin RC, Levin Classic, 3yo, 1600m, G1**– 1<sup>st</sup> warning removed as the 2016/17 rating of 113.25 comfortably surpassed the tolerance threshold of 110. That said, the pattern race rating of 110.33 makes this a race that will require further strong editions in the years ahead to maintain its status given the reduction in tolerance thresholds.

**Hawkes Bay RI, Hawkes Bay Guineas 3yo, 1400m, G2** – revert from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 1st warning due to a very strong edition that rated 111.75 with Mongolian Falcon, Jon Snow, Heroic Valour and O'Reilly's Choice being the first four finishers.

**Wellington RC, Wellington Guineas 3yo, 1400m, G2** – revert from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 1st warning. The 2016/17 rating of 109.75 comfortably surpassed the tolerance threshold and lifted the pattern race rating to 106.5.

**Auckland RC, Championship Stakes 3yo, 2100m, G2** – revert from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 1st warning. The rating of 109.25 comfortably met the tolerance threshold although the inconsistency of this race's ratings do remain an issue to watch.

**Wellington RC, Wellington Stakes, 3yo, 1600m, G3** – issue 1<sup>st</sup> warning. The Committee considered the unusual circumstances of this race which included a track downgrade and a false start but felt that the overall field was weak and that the low race rating of 100.75 was below the 102 tolerance threshold and necessitated a warning.

**Auckland RC, Bonecrusher Stakes, 3yo CG, 1400m, G3** – the pattern race rating of 103.0 and most recent running of 104.5 are within the G3

tolerance. The Committee notes the proposed move of the race from late September to early December. This exceeds the 2 months date movement tolerance but the Committee believes the race will at least hold its recent rating levels.

**Manawatu RC, Manawatu Classic 3yo, 2000m, G3 – remove 1<sup>st</sup> warning.** This race continued its recent history of rating in a very wide band with the 2016/17 rating of 110.25 being considerably above the prior year's very weak 94.0, with the first four being Charles Road, Beaumarchais, Leading Role and The Cossack.

**Auckland RC, Mufhasa Stakes, 1200m, 3yo, L – met the Listed threshold of 100.75 in its first ever running in 2016/17 but the Committee notes its movement from early December to Derby Day in early March in the 2017/18 season. This exceeds the date movement tolerance of 2 months but the Committee viewed the race as being likely to perform strongly on its new date and therefore decided that it would retain its Listed status with no warning.**

**Canterbury JC, NZ 1000 Guineas, 3yoF, 1600m, G1 – remove 1<sup>st</sup> warning.** Rated at 108.25, lifting the pattern race rating to 105.5. These compare to the tolerance level of 105.0 and the G1 benchmark of 110. While no warning is now in place, this race will clearly need to improve in future years given the reduction in tolerance thresholds.

**Auckland RC, Royal Stakes 3yoF, 2000m, G2 – issue 1<sup>st</sup> warning.** The race rating of 100.25 and pattern race rating of 101.83 both fell below the 102 tolerance threshold. It is possible that a proposal to move the race 2 weeks to mid-January may strengthen the race if it eventuates. However, this needs to be carefully considered relative to the Desert Gold Stakes and Levin Classic. The Committee felt that the latter two races are unlikely to be unduly affected but recognises that this is a view that awaits future proof and believes that a careful analysis of the flow of horses contesting these races in recent seasons needs to be undertaken. Such an analysis would be best undertaken by a Pattern Review Committee.

**Hawkes Bay RI, Lowland Stakes 3yoF, 2100m, G3 – the Committee carefully assessed both the strong race ratings in the last two editions and the submission from Hawkes RI requesting the upgrade of this race to G2 status. Despite a pattern race rating of 107 and the 2016/17 rating of 110.5 both being above the G2 benchmark of 105, the Committee decided not to upgrade the race on this occasion. It was felt that all 3yo fillies races rated strongly in what was a vintage year, that the race rating has been somewhat volatile historically (dependent on whether the NZ Oaks winner participates), that there is a minor date clash with the G3 Sunline Vase and that the pyramid structure for 3yo fillies would move to 4x G2 and 4x G3 if the race was upgraded. Notwithstanding these concerns, the Committee agreed that a further strong running in 2017/18 would see very strong consideration given to an upgrade.**

**Canterbury JC, Canterbury Belle Stakes, 3yoF, 1200m, L – a very strong edition of 105 (due largely to La Diosa) drove the pattern race**

rating up to 99.83, very close to the G3 benchmark of 100. Further strong editions will be required to upgrade.

**Auckland RC, Soliloquy Stakes, 3yoF, 1400m, L** – rated 102.5 to follow up on last season's 101, driving the pattern race rating to 100.67, just above the G3 benchmark of 100. Future editions will be examined closely.

**Taranaki RI, Oaks Prelude, 3yoF, 1800m, L** – this race has performed strongly in its two years of Listed status, rating 104.75 this year and 101.75 the year prior. While well in excess of the 100 benchmark for G3 status, the Committee felt that one more edition of this quality is required given the relatively new history of the race.

**Auckland RC, Alison Stakes, WFA, 2000m, G3** – an extremely strong rating of 113.25 due to Saint Emilion, Benzini, Consensus and Authentic Paddy being the first four. The G2 benchmark is 110 but the race has only met this benchmark in two of the last four years, so it was decided that an upgrade was not appropriate at this point.

**Wellington RC, NZ St Leger, 3/4yo, 2500m, L** – revert from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> warning. This race had appeared to be in some trouble but the 2016/17 edition rated a strong 103.75 versus the 100 Listed benchmark.

**Auckland RC, Auckland Cup, 3200m, G1** – 2<sup>nd</sup> warning maintained. This race retains its status due to the APC-agreed moratorium on downgrades of races that are 2701m or further. Otherwise, the most recent rating of 108.0 and the pattern race rating of 106.08 fall well below the required benchmark of 115 and the tolerance threshold of 110. The moratorium is not open-ended, so actions to drive a significant lift in race rating will clearly be required in the seasons ahead.

**Wellington RC, Telegraph SWP, 1200m, G1** – remove 1<sup>st</sup> warning. The rating for 2016/17 of 111.25 was above the 110 tolerance level. The pattern race rating of 109.08 does suggest that strong future editions will be required, especially with a stricter tolerance level from 2017/18 onwards.

**Auckland RC, Rich Hill Mile, Open Hcp, 1600m, G2** – issue 1<sup>st</sup> warning. At 106.75, the latest edition narrowly failed to meet the 107 tolerance threshold for the second year in a row. As was the case last year, when the race rated 106.0, the Committee felt that the first four finishers did not reflect the strong fields that the race attracted. The average of the four highest rated starters was 111. Nevertheless, with the race having failed two years in a row, there is little option but to impose a 1<sup>st</sup> warning.

**Auckland RC, Avondale Cup, Open Hcp 2200m, G2** – issue 1<sup>st</sup> warning. Notwithstanding good race depth outside the first four finishers, the latest rating of 105.75 and the pattern race rating of 106.25 fell below the tolerance threshold of 107.

**Tauranga RC, Japan/NZ International Trophy, Open Hcp 1600m, G2** – issue 1<sup>st</sup> warning. A very weak edition that rated just 102.75 and had only moderate race depth, with the top 4 starters being 108.75, only just

over the tolerance threshold of 107. The Committee had declined to issue a warning last season given unusual wet track conditions, so with the race rating now being just 105.08, this race urgently requires a strong edition despite only being on 1<sup>st</sup> warning.

**Manawatu RC, Awapuni Gold Cup, WFA 2000m, G2** – maintain 1<sup>st</sup> warning as the rating of 107.25 in 2016/17 was only fractionally above the tolerance threshold of 107, following two previous editions that had failed the threshold.

**Canterbury RC, New Zealand Cup, Open Hcp 3200m, G3** – issue 1<sup>st</sup> warning. While noting the moratorium on staying race downgrades, the latest edition of 101.5 rated slightly below the 102 tolerance threshold.

**Taranaki RI, Taranaki Cup, Open Hcp 1800m, G3** – issue 1<sup>st</sup> warning. A weaker than usual edition that rated 101.5 versus the tolerance threshold of 102.

**Counties RC, Karaka Classic, Open Hcp 1600m, L** – remove 1<sup>st</sup> warning. Despite a heavy track, a very strong running saw this race rate a very high 108.75.

**Matamata RC, Matamata Cup, Open Hcp 1600m, L** – maintain 1<sup>st</sup> warning – the race was not run in 2016/17.

**Otago RC, Dunedin Gold Cup, Open Hcp 2400m, L** – remove 1<sup>st</sup> warning. This season's edition rated at 98.75 and lifted the pattern race rating to 97.08, slightly above the 97 tolerance threshold.

**Manawatu RC, Flying Handicap, Open Hcp 1400m, L** – at 105.75, this race rated just above the G3 benchmark of 105 for the third year in a row, with the first four finishers being Maybe Miami, JaJaBinks, El Pescado and Duffers Creek. However, the Committee felt that there are ample opportunities for open class sprinters in the Pattern and that this race might struggle to maintain G3 status if promoted.

**Canterbury JC, George Adams Tattersalls Handicap, Open Hcp 1600m, L** – issue 1<sup>st</sup> warning after a very weak edition that rated just 96.0.

**Taranaki RI, Opunake Cup, Open Hcp 1400m, L** – this rated an unusually strong 106.0 with the first four being: Longchamp, Nashville, New York Minute and Taurus. However, the Committee viewed a further two strong editions above the G3 benchmark of 105 as being necessary before promotion could be considered.

**Counties RC, Auckland Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes, WFA F&M 1400m, G2** – issue 1<sup>st</sup> warning following a weak edition that rated 100.25 versus the 102 tolerance threshold.

**Manawatu RC, Manawatu Breeders Stakes, WFA F&M 2000m, G3** – issue 1<sup>st</sup> warning after a weak edition that marginally failed the threshold with a rating of 96.75.

- 5.3** The number of Black Type races for each season is expected to equate to approximately 5% of flat races run, as prescribed in Operating Procedure 3.1.1. There are 2574 races programmed for 2017/18 and 149 black-type races, which represents 5.8%.

### Summary of warnings

Status	2nd Warnings Maintained	2nd Warnings Issued	Reverted to 1st Warnings	1st Warnings Maintained	1st Warnings Issued	1st Warnings Removed
<b>Group 1</b>	1	-	-	-	-	3
<b>Group 2</b>	-	-	3	-	5	1
<b>Group 3</b>	-	-	-	-	4	1
<b>Listed</b>	-	-	1	-	1	1
<b>PJR</b> s	<i>PJR races to be reviewed in November</i>					
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>

### 5.5 Reverted to 1<sup>st</sup> Warnings

G2	Hawke's Bay Guineas		HBRI
G2	Wellington Guineas		WRC
G2	Championship Stakes		ARC
L	NZ St Leger		WRC

### 5.6 1<sup>st</sup> Warnings Issued

G2	Royal Stakes		ARC
G2	ARC Rich Hill Mile		ARC
G2	Avondale Cup		ARC
G2	Japan/NZ International Trophy		RT
G2	Auckland TB Breeders Stakes		Counties RC
G3	Wellington Stakes		LRC
G3	New Zealand Cup		CJC
G3	Taranaki Stakes		TR Inc.
G3	Manawatu Breeders Stakes		WRC
L	CJC George Adams (Tattersall)		CJC

### 5.7 1<sup>st</sup> Warnings Removed

G1	Levin Classic		WRC
G1	NZ 1000 Guineas		CJC
G1	Telegraph Handicap		WRC
G2	Awapuni Gold Cup		Manawatu RC
G3	Manawatu Classic		Manawatu RC
L	Dunedin Gold Cup		ORC

### 5.8 2<sup>nd</sup> Warning Maintained

G1	Auckland Cup		ARC
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**SECTION 6**

**2016-17 NEW ZEALAND  
CLASSIFICATIONS RACE RATINGS**

(including f&m allowance, where relevant)

<b>6.1 Two-Year-Olds</b>		<b>Current</b>	<b>Minimum expected</b>
Ellerslie Sires Produce	G1	109.75	110
Manawatu Sires Produce	G1	110.50	110
Wakefield Challenge Stakes	G2	107.75	105
Matamata Breeders Stakes	G2	105.00	100
Eclipse Stakes	G3	108.50	100
Taranaki 2YO Classic	G3	98.75	100
Matamata Slipper	G3	104.25	100
Wellesley Stakes	L	98.25	95
CJC Welcome Stakes	L	96.00	95
Counties Challenge Stakes	L	98.75	95
Karaka Million	L	109.25	95
Great Northern Champagne	L	100.00	95
CJC Champagne Stakes	L	95.75	95
Star Way 1000-Wentwood Gr.	L	94.75	95
Great Northern Foal Stakes	L	99.00	95
Triton Stakes	L	94.50	95
Ryder Stakes	L	92.50	95
<b>6.2 Three-Year-Olds</b>			
NZ 2000 Guineas	G1	112.00	115
Levin Classic	G1	113.25	115
NZ Derby	G1	116.00	115
NZ 1000 Guineas	G1	108.25	110
NZ Oaks	G1	110.50	110
Hawke's Bay Guineas	G2	111.75	110
Sarten Memorial	G2	112.00	110
Great Northern Guineas	G2	109.25	110
Waikato Guineas	G2	107.50	110
Avondale Guineas	G2	111.25	110
Wellington Guineas	G2	109.75	110
Championship Stakes	G2	109.25	110
Eight Carat Classic/Ladies	G2	109.25	105
Royal Stakes	G2	100.25	105
Sir Tristram Fillies Classic	G2	112.25	105
Bonecrusher Stakes	G3	104.50	105

Northland Breeders Stakes	G3	109.50	105
John Griggs Stakes	G3	111.75	105
Wellington Stakes	G3	100.75	105
Mongolian Khan Trophy	G3	106.25	105
Manawatu Classic	G3	110.25	105
Cambridge Breeders	G3	103.00	105
Gold Trail Stakes	G3	103.75	100
Eulogy Stakes	G3	105.25	100
Desert Gold Stakes	G3	109.00	100
Lowland Stakes	G3	110.50	100
Sunline Vase	G3	103.50	100
Wanganui Guineas	L	102.25	100
Canterbury Stakes	L	104.50	100
Trevor Eagle Memorial	L	104.75	100
Mufhasa Stakes	L	100.75	100
Northern Guineas Prelude	L	104.50	100
Gore Guineas	L	103.00	100
Karaka 3YO Mile	L	115.25	100
Dunedin Guineas	L	104.50	100
Southland Guineas	L	97.50	100
El Roca Trophy	L	N/A	100
Trudy Thompson Memorial	L	97.50	95
Canterbury Belle Stakes	L	105.00	95
Soliloquoy Stakes	L	102.50	95
Oaks Prelude	L	104.75	95
NZ Bloodstock Insurance	L	102.75	95
NZ Bloodstock Airfreight	L	99.50	95
Warstep Stakes	L	96.00	95

### 6.3 Three Years & Older

Hawke's Bay Challenge Stks	G1	114.25	115
Horlicks Plate	G1	115.50	115
Ormond Memorial	G1	114.50	115
Captain Cook Stakes	G1	112.75	115
Galaxy Stakes	G1	114.25	115
International Stakes	G1	114.25	115
Waikato Sprint	G1	113.75	115
Otaki Maori WFA	G1	112.25	115
Second Century Stakes	G1	112.00	115
Railway Handicap	G1	112.50	115
Telegraph Handicap	G1	111.25	115
Thorndon Mile	G1	112.50	115
Auckland Cup	G1	108.00	115
NZ Thoroughbred Breeders	G1	110.25	110
Foxbridge Plate	G2	110.00	110

Thames Valley Stakes	G2	112.50	110
Manawatu Challenge Stakes	G2	109.25	110
Couplands Bakeries Mile	G2	109.25	110
ARC Rich Hill Mile	G2	106.75	110
Avondale Cup	G2	105.75	110
Japan/NZ International T.	G2	102.75	110
Awapuni Gold Cup	G2	107.25	110
Easter Stakes	G2	108.50	110
Auckland TB Breeders Stks	G2	100.25	105
Lady Norrie Stakes	G2	107.75	105
Westbury Classic	G2	107.25	105
Dulcie Stakes	G2	109.00	105
Arawa Stakes	G3	104.25	105
Alison Stakes	G3	113.25	105
Canterbury Gold Cup	G3	104.50	105
Winter Cup	G3	105.25	105
Marton Metric Mile	G3	103.00	105
G R Kelt Memorial	G3	105.25	105
Thompson Handicap	G3	105.50	105
Stewards Stakes	G3	104.50	105
New Zealand Cup	G3	101.50	105
Counties Cup	G3	105.25	105
Great Northern Challenge S.	G3	110.00	105
Concorde	G3	104.50	105
Waikato Gold Cup	G3	106.25	105
FC Johnstone Handicap	G3	109.50	105
Manawatu Cup	G3	105.00	105
City Of Auckland Cup	G3	105.25	105
Trentham Stakes	G3	109.50	105
Anniversary Hdcp	G3	108.00	105
Wellington Cup	G3	107.25	105
Taranaki Stakes	G3	101.50	105
Darley Plate	G3	102.75	105
Rotorua Cup	G3	102.75	105
Evergreen Stakes	G3	100.50	100
Canterbury Breeders Stakes	G3	99.25	100
Cuddle Stakes	G3	104.50	100
South Island Breeders Stks	G3	97.75	100
Manawatu Breeders Stakes	G3	96.75	100
Rotorua Stakes	G3	104.00	100
NZ St Leger	L	103.75	100
Jackson Stakes	L	105.25	100
Jim & John Evans Metric M.	L	108.75	100
Matamata Cup	L	not run	100
Rotorua Challenge Plate	L	98.75	100
Spring Classic	L	102.00	100

Feilding Cup	L	103.25	100
Westminster Handicap	L	106.25	100
Metropolitan Trophy	L	101.25	100
Pegasus Stakes	L	103.75	100
Counties Bowl	L	103.25	100
Levin Stakes	L	104.75	100
Newmarket Hdcp	L	99.25	100
James Hazlett Stakes	L	101.50	100
Timaru Cup	L	99.75	100
Marton Cup	L	103.75	100
Timaru Stakes	L	101.25	100
White Robe	L	100.75	100
Dunedin Gold Cup	L	98.75	100
Kaimai Stakes	L	104.00	100
Lightning Handicap	L	100.00	100
Flying Handicap	L	105.75	100
Riverton Cup	L	98.25	100
Hawkes Bay Cup	L	104.25	100
City Of Napier Sprint	L	104.25	100
CJC Geo. Adams (Tattersall)	L	96.00	100
Anzac Handicap	L	97.25	100
CJC Great Easter Stakes	L	103.00	100
Marton 1600	L	98.50	100
Wanganui Cup	L	100.75	100
Opunake Cup	L	106.00	100
Wairarapa TB Breeders Stks	L	99.75	95
Tauranga Classic	L	96.25	95

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**NB**

**1. Criteria that applied for the 2016/17 season:**

A Grade 1 race may be downgraded if its Annual Race Rating was more than 5 points below the Minimum expected for each of the previous four years

A Grade 2, 3 or Listed Race would automatically be downgraded if its Annual Race Rating was more than 3 points below its Minimum expected for each of the previous three years

**2. Criteria that will apply from the 2017/18 season onwards:**

A Grade 1 race may be downgraded if its Annual Race Rating is more than 3 points below the Minimum expected for each of the previous three years.

A Grade 2 race may be downgraded if its Annual Race Rating is more than 2 points below the Minimum expected for each of the previous three years.

A Grade 3 or Listed race will automatically be downgraded if its Annual Race Rating is more than 2 points below the Minimum expected for each of the previous three years.

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