IHRA 2020 Handicap System

PACERS:

1. Grade G is for horses that have never won a race.
2. Grade G1 is for horses that have one a grade G-race, who start 10Y behind the grade G horses.
3. Horses that win their G and G1 grades in less than six races will automatically go to F grade, Horses that take six or more attempts will go to G1* and start on outside of G1. Winning in G1* you will automatically go to F (amended 2020).
4. Grade F horses trail grade G by 30Y and a G1 by 20Y
5. Grade E trails Grade F by 10Y and so on up to Grade A, and up to A1,A2,A3,A4,A5.
6. One Win equates to one grade penalty rise.
7. Grade drops will be given to all horses in Grades A to E for every 6 runs, regardless of the number of wins.
8. Horses who win a Grade A race will rise to Grade A1, with zero runs (amended 2019)
9. Grade drops will be given to the A5-A horses for every 3 runs, regardless of the number of wins.
10. At the age of 10, a horse is entitled to a grade drop, (or 6 runs, where the case may be), carrying the previous year's losses, this continues each year thereafter until retirement.
11. At the age of 12, a horse is entitled to a grade drop after every 4 runs.
12. 2 year old and 3 three year old trotters are entitled to two wins in each grade in all aged races before moving up a grade. These half grades will be denoted by an astrix beside the current grade (amended 2019).
13. BHRC horses racing in Ireland will have any penalty free race wins considered when their grades are being calculated (amended 2019)

TROTTERS:

1. Grade F to A is 20Y trail between each grade
2. Grade A to A5 is a 10Y trail between each grade
3. One win equates to one grade penalty rise
4. Grade drops will be given to all horses in Grades A to E for every 6 runs, regardless of the number of wins.
5. Horses who win a Grade A race will rise to Grade A1, with zero runs (amended 2019)
6. Grade drops will be given to the A5-A horses for every 3 runs, regardless of the number of wins.
7. At the age of 10, a horse is entitled to a grade drop, (or 6 runs, where the case may be), carrying the previous year's losses, this continues each year thereafter until retirement.
8. At the age of 12, a horse is entitled to a grade drop after every 4 runs.

9. 2 year old and 3 three year old trotters are entitled to two wins in each grade in all aged races before moving up a grade. These half grades will be denoted by an astrix beside the current grade (amended 2019).
10. Horses racing in Ireland and bought through the Le Trot System, will be grade F with no lifetime win and will be grade E with 1 lifetime win.
11. The trailing distances between grades will reduce by 50% in mile races.
12. BHRC horses racing in Ireland will have any penalty free race wins considered when their grades are being calculated (amended 2019).
13. Trotters who are bred in the IHRA TF studbook, will start at grade G and rise by 50% after each win while racing as a 3,4 & 5-year-old. These trotters may drop between grades from G1* down to G, with every 6 runs (amended 2020)

** No splitting of horses will occur for those in the same grade for the same owner/trainer where only one race exists at any race meeting (amended 2020).

** Should any horse win a final with a purse greater than €3000, and not its heat, the horse will get a penalty grade rise of 2 grades.

** C Class allowance will not be permitted in races with purses exceeding €3000.

** A conversion table linking the BHRC handicap grades to the present IHRA grades will be published on the website shortly

** From the start of the 2018 season, a link will be published on the IHRA website, allowing owners and trainers access their horses grade, including the number of runs and will be updated on a weekly basis.

** The reference point for all horses which intend to run in the 2018 season, who competed in the 2017 season will be from their last run.

** Horses who are purchased from BHRC members are converted to the IHRA system by using their current BHRC grade and the conversion table of grades. The number of runs will be non-transferable and any penalty free runs will be taken into account (amended 2019)

** To assist on the with the administration owners/trainers must send in their trainer declarations, flu vaccinations and documents for any future season and all monies owed must be paid before race clearance is given (amended 2020).