

IHRA Members Update 24th March 2022

From 2022, the IHRA aims to bring more preferred racing across all fixtures during the season. The preferred racing model guidelines agreed by the IHRA committees are below:

1. A race with two consecutive grades shall be framed as a preferred HCP.
2. For the purposes of race framing, the A+ grades shall be counted as half grades.
3. Should the conditions outlined in point one not being achieved, the race will revert to a handicap.

Grade	Preferred Band 1	Preferred Band 2
F	E Only	-
E	F	D
D	E	C
C	D	B
B	C	A
A	B	-
A	A1/A2	
A1	A2/A3/A4/A5	

1. Preferred Races will be a priority at all fixtures.
2. Races to be preferably split into even numbers so for example....
20= 2 x 7 and 1 x 6
21= 3 x 7
22 = 2 x 7 and 1 X 8; etc etc; while attempting to keep the numbers between the 7-8 which is the perfect number for our handicap system to spread horses evenly.
3. Strictly only splitting for owners/trainers if there are 2 races with correct grades
4. When splitting use money in Last 5 runs as your reference. Highest earners go up lowest go down. This splitting rule shall be used for owners/trainers and for general splitting going forward.
5. A min of two horses on the gate shall be needed for every race, otherwise the race handicap shall be reduced. (This guideline shall be used for HCP races).
6. Should a handicap race have a trail of 60Y or more, the handicap will be reduced by 20Y.
7. 4YO Trotters will be given the 30Y when racing with F trotters during the duration of their championships during the season and all other times they shall be framed into the F race and drawn 1. Upon racing outside the scope of their championships, 4YO trotters, those graded in G-G1 shall be eligible and handicap as F's and shall be split, if necessary, based on their last 5 runs for race framing purposes. Prior to championship these horses shall be allowed the 30Y advantage
8. 3YO & 4YO may race together outside their championships but a 3YO cannot race in the open class races with F
9. Should there be insufficient entries to run a separate G and G1 race, these races shall be run as handicaps.
10. The preferred racing format as outlined above shall be reviewed by both the joint committee group and the preferred racing steering group after the end of the 2022 racing season but reserve the right to alter or amend the rules set out under the preferred racing format during the season, but with permission by the IHRA Board.

Weekly Raceday Timelines:

All trainers are reminded of the following weekly deadlines:

- Entries will close on Monday Nights at 10pm
- Withdrawals can be made via the IHRA by phone or email up to 4pm on Tuesdays (24hours after close of entries)
- The card will be framed Wednesday
- The card will be published every Thursday morning
- Last Driver Declarations must be made by 11am on Friday. After this time, no driver changes will be permitted.
- Race day declarations are now only for non-runners
- All results will be published during the fixture on the IHRA website
- The HCP's will be updated by Monday evening on the IHRA website

****For Qualifiers, all passports must be submitted on the day of the qualifier for admin and verification processes****