

HANDICAPPING GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS - 2016 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 shall be classified on overseas merit rating converted into Mauritian rating upon their arrival. The agreed conversion scale is as follows:

5 year-old or more	-30 points*
4 year-old	-30 points
3 year-old	-40 points
2 year-old	-45 points

*The deduction will be 30 points provided that the MR of the horse upon arrival is at least 90. Failing that, it will be 25 points.

1.3 Maidens shall be classified as follows:

2 year-old	Mauritian Rating 21
3 year-old	Mauritian Rating 26
4 year-old +	Mauritian Rating 31

An unraced filly will benefit from a deduction of 3 extra points.

1.4 Horses arriving in Mauritius without an official rating shall be rated by the MTC Handicappers, after consideration of their overseas performances.

1.5 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 +	Not less than 34

Special notes:

- (i) *When a new horse intended to be imported to Mauritius has been made available to enter quarantine on or before 31st July 2016 and does not run outside Mauritius on or after 1st August 2016, its South African rating shall be converted into a Mauritian rating based on the age of that horse in July 2016 and it shall benefit from the rating review deductions implemented after the end of season 2015, notwithstanding that it enters into quarantine and/or reaches Mauritius on or after 1st August 2016.*

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 record of the horse in Mauritius;
- (iv) any other factor that may have adversely affected performance, as mentioned in the Racing Stewards' official report.

4. **Rating Benchmark**

4.1 The following benchmark/rating ranges will be used to program races:

<u>Benchmark</u>		<u>Rating Ranges</u>	
Ref - Range	Ref - Range	Ref - Range	
71 (71-55)	56 (56-40)	36 (36-20)	0 - 30
66 (66-50)	51 (51-35)	31 (31-15)	0 - 25; 0 - 20
61 (61-45)	46 (46-30)		
60+	41 (41-25)		

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, Management 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 shall not be less than 52 kg. 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 adjustments in handicap races and in weight for age races shall be +10 points and -5 points.

6.2 Any winner which runs unplaced at its following start shall not be entitled to an adjustment.

6.3 The rating of any horse which runs under its proven ability for no apparent reason may remain unchanged.

7. **Aged Horses**

Horses turning 10 or more will be granted a deduction of three points from their merit rating following their official birthday.

8. **Long Absence from Competition**

Any horse which has not raced for at least one year shall be granted a deduction of three 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.

9. **Queries**

9.1 Queries by trainers in respect of adjustments must be made in writing and sent to the Handicappers within two days following the official publication of such adjustments.

9.2 The MTC Management may decide to set up an arbitration between the Handicappers and any trainer if, it is warranted.

Handicapping Panel:

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