



RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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MEDIA RELEASE

AMENDMENTS TO RACE CONDITIONS

The most recent meeting of the Thoroughbred Racing Consultative Group considered a paper from the RWAA Manager Thoroughbred Racing, proposing a number of important changes to the conditions of thoroughbred races in Western Australia.

Non-Claiming Races

In response to an application from the Western Australian Jockeys' Association (WAJA), an increase in the number of races which apprentices are not permitted to claim their allowance was supported. The WAJA contends that the minimum top-weight requirement of 59kg under the Australian Rules of Racing has increased the propensity for Trainers to engage an apprentice rider. Consequently, this is having an impact on the sustainability of the senior riding group in Western Australia.

A trial will commence from 1 April 2015 of apprentice riders not being permitted to claim their allowance in the following race types:

- All Set Weight or Set Weight and Penalty Races at metropolitan meetings;
- Rating 60-72 Handicap races at metropolitan midweek meetings;
- Two-Years-Old or Three-Years-Old maiden races at provincial meetings.

In proposing the above policy, RWAA was conscious of identifying race types which are expected to least impact Owners and Trainers having the ability to make use of apprentice riders on horses weighted at the higher end of the handicap scale. Accordingly, apprentice riders will continue to be permitted to claim their allowance in all handicap races, with the exception of rating 60-72 races conducted at midweek metropolitan meetings. The proliferation of Rating 60+ handicap races on race programmes is expected to provide sufficient alternate opportunities for horses within that racing band.

Similarly, two-years-old and three-years-old maiden races in the provincial area were identified as the maximum weight applicable is 57kg.

Stakeholder feedback, together with impact on field sizes and wagering turnover, will be closely monitored.



Open Age Listed Races – Set Weight & Penalties Conditions

A trial of set weight and penalties conditions being implemented on some open listed races will commence with the running of the Northam Stakes [LR] on 3 May 2015. The Northam Stakes was identified as a suitable race to commence the trial given it leads into a sequence of four weight-for-age races over the winter season.

The below conditions will be applicable to listed races run under set weight and penalties conditions.

For races run in the first half of the season (1 August to 31 January) penalties will be calculated on wins in all races run since 1 August of the season before last, ie for a race run in August 2015 penalties will be based on all wins in races on or after 1 August 2013.

For races run in the second half of the season (1 February to 31 July) penalties will be calculated on wins in all races run since 1 February of the season before last, ie for a race run in February 2016 penalties will be based on all wins in races on or after 1 February 2014.

Winner of Race of Advertised Value	1 win	2+ wins
>= \$60,000	1.5kg	2.5kg
>= \$80,000	2.5kg	3.5kg
>=\$150,000	3.5kg	4.5kg
>=\$300,000	4.5kg	5.5kg

Further races will be identified to be trialled under the above conditions as part of the race programming process for 2015/16 and stakeholders advised accordingly.

Three-Years-Old Listed Races

A review of the weight structure was undertaken for three-years-old listed races, which have been run under set-weight and penalties conditions since 1 August 2010.

The conditions in place are considered to be working well, however a reduction in the applicable base weights proposed by the Manager Thoroughbred Racing was supported. From 1 August 2015, the base weight will be decreased by 1kg to 55kg and 53kg for colts/geldings and fillies respectively. Under the race conditions, the only horse to be allocated 53kg will be a filly having not won a prime metropolitan race. In accordance with current policy, in this situation the rider will be able to make application to Stewards prior to closing of final acceptances to ride over-weight.

The above change will limit the maximum weight allocated in a 3yo listed race to 60kg.

