

**Report of the  
NEW ZEALAND PATTERN COMMITTEE**

**Group & Listed Race  
Schedule for  
2023/24 Season**

**Following review of  
2022/23 Season**

**15 SEPTEMBER 2023**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Pattern Review for races run in the 2022/23 season has been completed by the NZ Pattern Committee (NZPC). The schedule of Group and Listed Races to be run in the 2023/24 season has been finalised.
2. Under the revised schedule, the total number of Pattern flat races scheduled in 2023/24 will decline by 8 races to 142 races.
3. The NZPC has made 2 upgrades, 1 downgrade and 8 removals from the Pattern:

Auckland TR, Soliloquy Stakes from G3 to G2

Auckland TR, Mufhasa Stakes from L to G3

Canterbury JC, Stewards Stakes from G3 to L

Rotorua RC, Rotorua Challenge Plate to unlisted

Feilding JC, Feilding Cup to unlisted

Levin RC, Levin Stakes to unlisted

Auckland TR, Newmarket Handicap to unlisted

Timaru RC, Timaru Cup to unlisted

Wellington RC, NZ St Leger to unlisted

Riverton JC, Riverton Cup to unlisted

Canterbury JC, George Adams Handicap to unlisted

4. In 2022/23, the NZPC formed a sub-committee to conduct a review of the Pattern for the purpose of implementing a substantial reduction in the number of Pattern Races, to return the NZ Pattern towards international norms of 5% or less of total races run.

A significant decline in the number of races run in recent seasons has seen the NZ Pattern race percentage increase to over 6%. This was generating international concern and affecting the perceived quality of the NZ Pattern. Further, the NZPC is concerned that it is constrained from promoting worthy races due to an excessive number of existing Pattern races and that this may lead to a calcification of the Pattern.

The significant and welcome planned prizemoney increases from 2023/24 onwards, combined with other measures being introduced by NZTR and the wider industry, will have a positive impact in coming seasons. However, as per international trends, an ongoing reduction in

the NZ thoroughbred foal crop will likely impact horses available to start. Advice from NZTR is that the balance of these two factors is expected to be a small but steady decline in starter numbers and races run.

After carefully considering the recommendations of the NZPC sub-committee and the feedback from affected clubs, the NZPC: i) decided that 8 races be removed from the Pattern; ii) recommended with one exception that if funding constraints allow, these races continue to be funded on a “heritage” basis to minimise the impact on affected clubs; iii) decided that 2 further races be moved straight to “Warning” status with their future to be considered after one more edition; iv) decided that the tolerance level of 3 points from the 100 benchmark for Listed races would be entirely removed across all categories of Listed races; v) noted that the percentage of Pattern races remains over 5% but believes that these quality control measures will bolster confidence in the status of the NZ Pattern.

5. The NZPC strongly endorses the “Heritage” race concept as providing a mechanism to decouple the funding of some races from their Pattern status. This may allow a downgraded race to retain its former prizemoney. This allows the downgrading of races which may not rank strongly from a pure ratings perspective but which are major targets, have considerable historic importance and wide public appeal. NZPC views such races as generally being best suited to be run under handicap conditions. NZPC notes that NZTR supports this concept in principle.
6. The NZPC views the ideal shape of the Pattern as being a pyramid. Continued steady progress towards this is being made.
7. This was the eleventh year that the NZPC has operated under the Asian Pattern Committee (APC) Ground Rules, which were approved by NZTR in consultation with the NZPC and the industry.

Any NZ race failing to attain the minimum rating threshold for the first time is likely to be issued with an Alert. In most cases, a Warning will then be issued if the minimum rating has not been achieved in the next edition. If the race meets the required threshold in its next edition, it may then revert to having no Alert or Warning.

G1 races that fail to meet their tolerance threshold in three consecutive editions have the merits of the race considered and voted upon by the APC. Any downgrade must be approved by a simple majority of countries. The affected country cannot vote. NZPC had expected this oversight to be extended to G2 races but this has not occurred as yet. G3 and Listed races are automatically downgraded unless a material change in conditions is proposed. Voluntary downgrades by a country may still occur. Any upgrade to G1 status must be voted on by APC member countries.

Special factors may be taken into account when considering whether a race should be downgraded and the NZPC has chosen to recognise these at times. These include the ratings of the top 4 rated starters as opposed to the top 4 finishers; the number of G1 winners in the preceding 18 months; unusual track conditions; and the effect on the shape of the Pattern.

8. The APC Ground Rules saw some changes that took effect from the 2022/23 season onwards:

A reduction of the 3yo benchmark by 2 points but with the tolerance threshold for 3yo races falling from 3 points to 2 points. The net effect is to reduce the benchmark by 2 points and the tolerance threshold by 1 point from former levels. The NZPC strongly supported this change as being more reflective of the WFA scale and the natural improvement of many horses during and after their 3yo season. Many NZ 3yo's continue to improve their ratings as older horses, particularly when they race in overseas jurisdictions.

While the APC Ground Rules still allow a 3 point tolerance for Listed races, the NZPC views this as an overly generous allowance, which almost every Listed race can meet one year in three. It has therefore decided to entirely remove the tolerance threshold for Listed races to enhance the quality of races at the lower end of the Pattern.

To be upgraded, a race's latest edition and the 3-year average Pattern Race Rating needs to rate at least 2 points over the benchmark for the Group rating for the category above.

The staying moratorium on races 2400m or further has been discontinued. Discussions continue regarding potential measures to support this category of races.

Covid-19 impacts. In 2022/23, countries could use 3 of the last 4 years of ratings, subject to the rating that is disregarded having had a bona fide impact from Covid-19. Should a race be subject to a downgrade vote, a demonstrable Covid impact would be a factor to be considered.

9. The race rating is determined by the peak World Best Racehorse Ranking (WBRR) that season for the average of the first four finishers in the race. Note that the WBRR has no relationship with the points-based domestic NZ handicap rating and the two measures should not be confused.
10. The NZPC's concerns with the WBRR ratings assigned to NZ 3yo races escalated during the 2022/23 season. NZ-derived ratings for horses rated >112 are subject to moderation by the APC handicappers. The NZPC holds significant concerns regarding this process. The 2022/23 crop of 3yo's enjoyed unprecedented success and was regarded as the best in many years by experts across Australia and NZ. Conversely, NZ

3yo races in 2022/23 were moderated by APC handicappers to rate at their lowest level in some years.

As a starting point, NZ 3yo ratings are at the bottom end of global norms unless the horse performs well overseas in the same season. Further, many NZ horses that race overseas achieve markedly higher ratings as older horses, clearly suggesting their earlier 3yo rating was unduly conservative. Examples abound. The WBRR Race Ratings used to evaluate race quality are appended as Section 6 of this Report.

The NZPC decided to formalise a NZ Rating Review panel comprising the NZ Handicapper, a race ratings expert from the NZPC and one from outside the NZPC. This panel will assist in the assessment of WBRR ratings for NZ horses.

11. There are currently 20 races on Alert (21 last year) and 10 races on 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 second or 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 Mark Freeman, Wellington  
Mr Jeff McCall, Christchurch  
NZTBA Nominees: Ms Michelle Saba, Karaka  
Mr Scott Calder, Cambridge  
Mr Nick Hewson, Cambridge  
Auction House: Mr Kane Jones, Karaka

### **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) G1, G2, G3 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 Pattern 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 Pattern 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**

Pattern (or stakes or black type) races are those that differentiate prestige races from others. The purpose of Pattern races is to confer additional status (and therefore implied value) to the placegetters in those races. The first three finishers in designated Pattern 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 Group 1, Group 2, Group 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 carried out 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 the 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.

The NZPC has approved several changes in Registered race names in previous years but there should be no expectation that the name will be changed as a matter of course.

The NZPC strongly believes that a sponsor race name should be used in combination with the Registered race name whenever possible.

## **SECTION 3**

# **OPERATING PROCEDURES**

### **3.1 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS**

The NZPC compares New Zealand's list of Pattern 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 Pattern races**

As a target, the NZPC aims for the number of Pattern 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 Pattern 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 ideally exceeds 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 G1 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. This may not apply for the first year in which a race is promoted or if NZTR determines that the stake of a race which is upgraded should not be changed.

### **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 Pattern.

### **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 World Best Racehorse Rankings (WBRR)**

The NZPC has adopted the end of season World Best Racehorse Rankings (WBRR) 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 (PRR). This is 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 and use, 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:**

[https://loveracing.nz/OnHorseFiles/Downloads/Resources/Revised%20APC%20Ground%20Rules%20\(February%2026%2C%202019\).pdf](https://loveracing.nz/OnHorseFiles/Downloads/Resources/Revised%20APC%20Ground%20Rules%20(February%2026%2C%202019).pdf)

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

- a) For a race to gain entry to the Pattern, a position must be available within the desirable number of Pattern races for New Zealand. 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).
- c) It must meet the same specific ratings conditions as per the rules below for upgrading a race.

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 weeks
- (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.

To assist clubs with this requirement, the NZPC has requested that NZTR put in place a clear process for clubs to follow, including a timetable that fits with programming requirements.

If a scheduled Pattern 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 Pattern 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) The warning process changed slightly from the 2019/20 season onwards to make it consistent with the APC Ground Rules. Those Rules specify that a race may be placed on Warning if it fails to meet its tolerance threshold for two consecutive editions and it may then be downgraded if it fails for a third time. Conversely if a race under Warning meets its tolerance level, the Warning may be removed.
- (b) When a race is being considered for downgrading, a written Alert (previously a First Warning) will typically be given to the host club in the first instance where the race fails to meet its rating threshold. Except in exceptional circumstances, the race will not be downgraded until it has been run with a Warning (previously a Second Warning).
- (c) Where a club has already had an Alert in respect of a race, the Alert may be maintained, removed or progressed to a Warning.
- (d) Where a Warning is already in place in respect of a race, the Warning may be removed, or the race may be downgraded.
- (e) Under the APC Ground Rules, as revised in 2019, races that are G3 and lower are automatically downgraded if they are below their required tolerance 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. Voluntary downgrades by a country may still occur. The NZPC warning system is consistent with these requirements.

- f) If any G1 and G2 races fail to meet their tolerance threshold in three consecutive editions, the merits of the race are considered and voted upon by the APC. Any downgrade has to be approved by a simple majority of one country. The affected country cannot vote. Any upgrade of a race to G1 must be approved by a simple majority. Special factors may be taken into account when considering whether a race should be downgraded and the NZPC has chosen to recognise these at times. These include the impact of Covid-19 on the racing programme, ratings of the top 4 rated starters as opposed to the first 4 finishers; the number of G1 winners in the preceding 18 months; unusual track conditions; and the effect on the shape of the Pattern.
- g) The APC has recently reviewed its Ground Rules. Confirmed changes are fewer than the NZPC had earlier expected but are:
  - i) The 3yo benchmark to reduce by 2 points, with a 2 point tolerance applying to Group races. The NZPC strongly supports this change as being more reflective of the WFA scale and the natural improvement of many horses during and after their 3 year old season;
  - ii) Promotions need to be at least 2 points over the benchmark for the Group rating above for both the race's latest edition and the 3-year average Pattern Race Rating;
  - iii) The staying downgrade moratorium for races > 2400m has been discontinued but discussions continue around these races and further changes may be expected;
  - iv) While not yet an APC rule, the NZPC has chosen to remove the 3 point tolerance threshold previously applied to Listed races;
  - v) Covid-19 impacts. In 2022/23, countries could use 3 of the last 4 years of ratings, subject to the rating that is disregarded having had a bona fide impact from Covid-19. Should a race be subject to a downgrade vote, a demonstrable Covid impact would be a factor to be considered.



- (h) Pattern races scheduled for the early part of the NZ season and carrying a Warning that have already been advertised in the NZTR Racing Programme Booklet and Racing Programme Guide prior to the August meeting of the NZPC, will carry disclaimers 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.
- (i) 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. This may not apply for the first year in which a race is promoted or if NZTR determines that the stake of a race which is upgraded should not be changed.
- (j) 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**

For a race to be considered for upgrading:

- (a) 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;
- (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 latest APC Ground Rules, races shall be eligible for promotion if the race achieves both a Pattern Race Rating (average of last 3 years) and an Annual Race Rating for the last year 2 points above the required benchmark for the category above. Note that being eligible for promotion does not require the NZPC to make such a promotion given the other factors above. This is particularly the case where a race is not so much a target in its own right but serves as an established lead-in to another race with a higher Pattern rating.
- (e) For a race to be upgraded to G1 or G2, it must be approved by a majority of the APC. The proposing country cannot vote.

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 races**

- (a) Decisions relating to Group 1 races are ultimately taken by the Asian Pattern Committee (APC).
- (b) A race may be eligible for promotion to Group 1 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 must be approved by a simple majority of the APC. The affected country may not vote.
- (d) If the Annual Race Rating of a Group 1 race is more than 3lb (2lb for 3yo's) 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.
- (e) NZPC had expected these rules to be extended to Group 2 oversight by the APC but this has not occurred as yet.

#### **3.4.6 Other factors**

In assessing upgrades, admissions, downgrades or deletions of races to or from the schedule of Pattern 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.
- (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).
- (e) The impact of Covid-19 on the racing programme and thence the horses contesting the race in question.

## SECTION 4

# COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1** Historically, the NZPC has believed that the New Zealand “pyramid” has been somewhat top-heavy and has not met international expectations. The 2023/24 season will see a pyramid of 20 G1; 26 G2; 46 G3 and 50 Listed races. While still not entirely satisfactory, it is gradually moving towards an acceptable shape and will likely continue to evolve in this direction.
- 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 NZPC is sympathetic to programming and other issues, the integrity of the system is paramount.
- 4.3** The NZPC has previously discussed the possible scenario where a Pattern race may move from a grass surface to a synthetic surface. Since race meetings on synthetic tracks typically take place on weekdays, they are unlikely to attract fields of suitable quality for black-type status. As races on a synthetic surface would have to prove themselves over at least three years, it was agreed that any debate should be postponed until more information was available. In the event that a Club wished to move a black-type race to a synthetic surface due to the weather or other unforeseen circumstances, the NZPC would re-evaluate the status of the race but agreed that it was very unlikely that black-type status would be supported given the material change in track surface.
- 4.4** For the 2023/24 season, the Committee supports the Minimum Stakes Levels adopted by NZTR and set out below:

Meeting Category	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Listed
Iconic	\$400,000 (300,000)	\$175,000 (140,000)	\$120,000 (\$100,000)	\$90,000 (\$80,000)
Premier	\$400,000 (\$300,000)	\$175,000 (140,000)	\$120,000 (\$100,000)	\$90,000 (\$80,000)
Feature	\$400,000 (300,000)	\$150,000 (120,000)	\$100,000 (\$85,000)	\$80,000 (\$65,000)
Industry	\$400,000 (300,000)	\$150,000 (\$120,000)	\$100,000 (\$85,000)	\$80,000 (\$65,000)

- 4.5** Appreciation is expressed to those involved with making submissions. Those submissions assist the NZPC with its deliberations, particularly where they contain new information and context about the race performance.

**4.6** No new races were introduced into the schedule of Pattern races for 2023/24. The NZPC requires that any promotions meet a clear gap in the Pattern and a high bar is created by the percentage of Pattern races still being well above that which is ideal. Even following the implementation of 8 downgrades from the Pattern, the ratio of Pattern races remains above the ideal target of 5%. Consequently, any new races introduced to the Pattern may need to be offset by deletion of the weakest Listed races.

**4.7** Every country has unique aspects to its racing structure. The NZPC acknowledges that NZ has very few non-tote races and a large number of competitive trials relative to most other jurisdictions.

In 2022/23, the NZPC formed a sub-committee to conduct a review of the Pattern for the purpose of implementing a substantial reduction in the number of Pattern Races, to return the NZ Pattern towards international norms of 5% or less of total races run.

A significant decline in the number of races in recent seasons has seen the NZ Pattern race percentage increase to over 6%. This has generated international concern and affected the perceived quality of the NZ Pattern. Further, the NZPC has been concerned that it is constrained from promoting worthy races due to an excessive number of existing Pattern races and that this may lead to a calcification of the Pattern.

The significant and welcome planned prizemoney increases from 2023/24 onwards, combined with other measures being introduced by NZTR and the wider industry, will have a positive impact in coming seasons. However, as per international trends, an ongoing reduction in the NZ thoroughbred foal crop will likely impact horses available to start. Advice from NZTR is that the balance of these two factors is expected to be a small but steady decline in starter numbers and races run.

After carefully considering the recommendations of the NZPC sub-committee and the feedback from affected clubs, the NZPC:

- i) decided that 8 races be removed from the Pattern;
- ii) recommended with one exception that if funding constraints allow, that these races continue to be funded on a “heritage” basis to minimise the impact on affected clubs;
- iii) decided that 2 further races be moved straight to “Warning” status with their future to be considered after one more edition;
- iv) decided that the tolerance level of 3 points from the 100 benchmark would be entirely removed;

- v) noted that the percentage of Pattern races remains over 5% but believes that these quality control measures will bolster confidence in the status of the NZ Pattern.

The NZPC strongly endorses the “Heritage” race concept as providing a mechanism to decouple the funding of some races from their Pattern status. This may allow a downgraded race to retain its former prizemoney. This will allow the downgrading of races which may not rank well from a pure ratings perspective but which are major regional targets, have considerable historic importance and wide public appeal. NZPC views such races as generally being best suited to be run under handicap conditions.

- 4.8** 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 the NZPC would like to see every major carnival in NZ programme at least one race for this category with a view that some may grow into black type races. Promotions in the short term are problematic given the high overall percentage of Pattern races but this will likely evolve in the medium term.

- 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:

[https://loveracing.nz/OnHorseFiles/Downloads/Resources/Revised%20APC%20Ground%20Rules%20\(February%2026%2C%202019\).pdf](https://loveracing.nz/OnHorseFiles/Downloads/Resources/Revised%20APC%20Ground%20Rules%20(February%2026%2C%202019).pdf)

- 4.10** The NZPC’s concerns with the WBRR ratings assigned to NZ 3yo races escalated during the 2022/23 season to the point of having little confidence in them. NZ-derived ratings for horses rated >112 are subject to moderation by the APC handicappers and the NZPC holds significant concerns regarding this process. The 2022/23 crop of 3yo’s enjoyed unprecedented success and was regarded as the best in many years by experts across Australia and NZ. Conversely, NZ 3yo races in 2022/23 were moderated by APC handicappers to rate at their lowest level in many years.

As a starting point, NZ 3yo ratings are at the bottom end of global norms unless the horse performs well overseas in the same season. Further, many NZ horses that race overseas following their 3yo season achieve markedly higher ratings as older horses, clearly suggesting their earlier 3yo rating was unduly conservative. Examples

abound. The WBRR Race Ratings used to evaluate race quality are appended as Section 6 of this Report.

The NZPC decided to formalise a NZ Rating Review panel comprising the NZ Handicapper, a race ratings expert from the NZPC and one from outside the NZPC. This panel will assist in the assessment of WBRR ratings for NZ horses.

## SECTION 5

# SUMMARY

**5.1.1** As a result of the review, the number of black type races for 2023/24 compared with previous seasons is as follows:

Status	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018-19	2017-18
Group 1	20	20	20	21	21	21	21
Group 2	26	25	27	27	27	26	25
Group 3	46	47	44	43	44	44	44
Listed	50	58	59	56	58	59	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>149</b>
PJR	14	14	14	14	14	14	13

**5.1.2** The 2023-24 list reflects 1 downgrade, 8 removals and 2 upgrades.

## 5.2 Downgrades

**Canterbury JC, Stewards Stakes from G3 to L.** This race was on Warning and its rating of 99.25 again fell well short of its benchmark of 105 and tolerance threshold of 102. The NZPC viewed the race as lacking depth and downgraded the race to Listed, where the benchmark of 100 is more in line with the race's performance in recent years.

## 5.3 Removals from the Pattern

In 2022/23, the NZPC formed a sub-committee to conduct a review of the Pattern for the purpose of implementing a substantial reduction in the number of Pattern Races, to return the NZ Pattern towards international norms of 5% or less of total races run. The NZPC appreciates the detailed feedback received from affected clubs, the careful consideration of which, has seen several changes from the initial recommendations.

The significant and welcome planned prizemoney increases from 2023/24 onwards, combined with other measures being introduced by NZTR and the

wider industry, will have a positive impact in coming seasons. However, as per international trends, an ongoing reduction in the NZ thoroughbred foal crop will likely impact horses available to start. Advice from NZTR is that the balance of these two factors is expected to be a small but steady decline in starter numbers and races run.

After carefully considering the recommendations of the NZPC sub-committee and the feedback from affected clubs, the NZPC:

- i) decided that 8 races be removed from the Pattern;
- ii) recommended with one exception that if funding constraints allow, that these races continue to be funded on a “heritage” basis to minimise the impact on affected clubs;
- iii) decided that 2 further races be moved straight to “Warning” status with their future to be considered after one more edition;
- iv) decided that the tolerance level of 3 points from the 100 benchmark would be entirely removed;
- v) noted that the percentage of Pattern races remains over 5% but believes that these quality control measures will bolster confidence in the status of the NZ Pattern.

Key criteria for the removal of races from the Pattern included: consistent depth and quality of the field; whether the race was well-placed as a lead-up to Group races; whether the race was an important target in its own right in the region, with no alternatives; opportunities for the category of horse to attain other black-type in similar races over the season.

Removals are:

**Racing Rotorua, Rotorua Challenge Plate from L to unlisted.** The NZPC recommends that the race be funded as a “heritage” race, so that prizemoney is unaffected.

**Feilding JC, Feilding Cup from L to unlisted.** The NZPC recommends that the race be funded as a “heritage” race, so that prizemoney is unaffected.

**Levin RC, Levin Stakes from L to unlisted.** The NZPC recommends that the race be funded as a “heritage” race, so that prizemoney is unaffected.

**Auckland TR, Newmarket Handicap from L to unlisted.**

**Timaru RC, Timaru Cup from L to unlisted.** The NZPC recommends that the race be funded as a “heritage” race, so that prizemoney is unaffected.

**Wellington RC, NZ St Leger from L to unlisted.** The NZPC recommends that the race be funded as a “heritage” race, so that prizemoney is unaffected.



**Riverton JC, Riverton Cup from L to unlisted.** The NZPC recommends that the race be funded as a “heritage” race, so that prizemoney is unaffected.

**Canterbury JC, George Adams Handicap from L to unlisted.** The NZPC recommends that the race be funded as a “heritage” race, so that prizemoney is unaffected.

#### 5.4 Upgrades

**Auckland TR, Mufhasa Stakes, from L to G3.** This 3yo race over 1400m has continued its stellar performance since entering the Pattern in the 2016/17 season. Its rating of 107.25 and 3-year average PRR of 106.92 are comfortably above the 103 benchmark for G3 3yo's.

**Auckland TR, Soliloquy Stakes, from G3 to G2.** This race for 3yo fillies over 1400m has continued to strengthen since it was promoted to G3 status in 2018/19. Its rating of 109.25 and 3-year average PRR of 107.58 are well above the 104 benchmark for G2 fillies.

#### 5.5 Warnings/Alerts Removed

**Canterbury JC, NZ 2000 Guineas (G1).** The assessed rating of this race improved to 111.5, slightly above the tolerance threshold of 111 although still below the 113 benchmark. The NZPC discussed at length the rating complexities created by the winner, Pier (112) compared to Prowess (111+4) in 3<sup>rd</sup> and Alfriston (108) in 4<sup>th</sup>. It remains a source of some frustration to the NZPC that strong performances outside NZ in the same season are seemingly required for very high ratings to be attained from APC handicappers. The **Warning** was removed.

**Auckland TR, NZ Derby (G1).** The 111.0 race rating just met the tolerance threshold, with rating complexities being created by the very well performed winner Sharp'N'Smart (115) having a modest margin over the three placegetters whose form outside this race was well below that of the winner. Field depth was solid. The **Warning** was removed.

**Waikato RC, Sarten Memorial (G2)** – this race has performed inconsistently over time but 2022/23 saw a pleasingly strong edition at 108.75, being above the required 108 benchmark. The **Alert** was removed.

**Auckland TR, Great Northern Guineas (G2)** – after a particularly weak edition the prior season, this race returned to form with a rating of 107.5 being just below the benchmark of 108. The **Alert** was removed. The NZPC approved the movement of this race to Boxing Day and reducing the distance from 1600 metres to 1400 metres. This will likely attract a stronger field and also provide a lead-up race for the Levin Classic which has been moved to Sat 13 January to retain its G1 status.

**Wellington RC, Wellington Stakes (G3)** – a solid renewal at 104.25 comfortably exceeded the 103 benchmark. However, the depth was limited and the outcome boosted by the presence of Pennyweka (112+4) in 3<sup>rd</sup>. The **Alert** was removed.

**Otago RC, Dunedin Guineas (L)** – a strong renewal at 101.25 comfortably exceeded the benchmark of 98. This was bolstered by Romancing The Moon (107+4) finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Alert** removed.

**Southland RC, Southland Guineas (L)** – a solid renewal at 99.75 comfortably exceeded the benchmark of 98. **Alert** removed.

**Auckland TR, Eight Carat Classic (G2)** – after an unusually weak edition the prior season, this year's race returned a strong 106.0, comfortably above the 104 benchmark. **Alert** removed.

**Hawke's Bay RI, Hawke's Bay Challenge Stakes (G1)** – despite a heavy track, the rating of 115.75 surpassed the 115 benchmark for the first time in some seasons. **Alert** removed.

**Hawke's Bay RI, Horlicks Plate (G1)** – a solid renewal that rated 113.35 versus the 112 tolerance threshold. Depth was reasonable, with Imperatriz (117+4) being outside the placegetters. **Alert** removed.

**Otaki-Maori RC, Otaki-Maori WFA (G1)** – this season's edition rated 112.75 largely thanks to Levante (112+4) and La Crique (114+4). They drove a rating of 112.75 versus the tolerance threshold of 112. **Alert** removed.

**Otago RC, White Robe (G3)** – this year's renewal rated 103.0 versus the 102.0 tolerance threshold. **Alert** removed.

**Auckland TR, Rich Hill Mile (G2)** – this year's rating of 107.5 was an improvement on the prior season's unusually low 105 and met the 107 tolerance threshold. **Alert** removed.

**Manawatu RC, Manawatu Cup (G3)** – this year's edition rated 102.5 despite being run on an unseasonably heavy track. **Alert** removed.

**Wellington RC, Wellington Cup (G3)** – this year's edition rated 102.25, with reasonable depth. **Alert** removed.

**Canterbury JC, South Island Breeders Stakes (G3)** – this year's edition rated 99.25 versus the tolerance threshold of 98. Field depth was limited. **Alert** removed.

## 5.6 Warnings/Alerts Imposed

**Auckland TR, Eilerslie Sires Produce Strakes (G1)** – the rating of 105.25 was well below the 107 tolerance level. The NZPC did note that this rating was affected by the subsequent disqualification of Tokyo Tycoon (110) but the race did lack depth this year. An **Alert** was imposed.

**Manawatu RC, Manawatu Sires Produce Stakes (G1).** The assessed rating of this race for the 2022/23 season of 106.75 just failed the 107 tolerance threshold. Prior editions had potentially been affected by Covid lockdowns and had also seen strong ratings for the top 4 starters as opposed to finishers (eg, 110.25 in the prior season). The race was already on a Warning but the NZPC recommended to the APC that it remain at G1 level. This recommendation was unanimously accepted but the G1 status is unlikely to survive if 2023/24 is also weak. A **Warning** was maintained.

**Wellington RC, Wakefield Challenge Stakes (G2)** – a very weak edition, rating 98.0 versus the tolerance threshold of 101. The race lacked depth, with the only slight support for it coming from Pignan (105+4) being a scratching. An **Alert** was imposed.

**Taranaki RI, Taranaki 2YO Classic (G3)** – rated 96.0 versus the 97 tolerance threshold and 100 benchmark. An **Alert** was imposed.

**Canterbury JC, Welcome Stakes (L).** After a succession of weak editions, the race improved to 95.5 versus its 95 benchmark. Nevertheless, the NZPC is very concerned at the generally weak ratings for this race in its spring time-slot and it is strongly supportive of the race moving to the autumn in 2023/24 as has been agreed with the Canterbury JC. Without this move, the race would have been removed from the Pattern. Given the remaining uncertainties from the move and the historically weak ratings, the **Warning** was maintained.

**Foxton RC, Triton Stakes (L)** – a very weak edition in 2022/23, with a 10L margin by the winner seeing low ratings for the placegetters. The NZPC debated the role that this race and the Ryder Stakes play in the Pattern and is not comfortable that either has a long term future. They are generally run on rain-affected tracks, struggle to meet their required benchmarks and there is little evidence that horses contesting the races develop into high-rated 3yo's. The race was moved straight to **Warning**.

**Levin RC, Ryder Stakes (L)** – this race had been recommended to be downgraded to unlisted by the sub-committee reviewing the NZ Pattern. The NZPC debated the role that this race and the Triton Stakes play in the Pattern and is not comfortable that either has a long term future. They are generally run on rain-affected tracks, struggle to meet their required benchmarks and there is little evidence that horses contesting the races develop into high-rated 3yo's. That said, after some very weak earlier performances, the last two editions of this race have rated 100.0 and 95.75, so the NZPC opted to move the race straight to **Warning**.

**Wellington RC, Levin Classic, (G1).** This race has struggled in recent years due to the impact of the Karaka 3yo Mile on its former mid-January slot. It was hoped that the move to March would attract those top 3yo's that were not aimed at the Derby or Oaks but they tended to be aimed at Australian targets instead. While the previous 2021/22 edition was potentially under-rated given the subsequent deeds of Imperatriz and I Wish I Win, the latter had clearly improved sharply from its 3yo season. The 2022/23 edition was very weak,

with a race rating of 107.75 versus the required benchmark of 113 and tolerance threshold of 111. The top-4 rated starters as opposed to placegetters rated only 108.25 and no G1 performed horses were outside the top 4. As a G1 race, this was subject to an APC vote. As an alternative to being downgraded, the NZPC offered a return to the former January date. The APC unanimously voted that the race remain at G1 status under **Warning**, subject to returning to its former January date. A further failure to meet the tolerance threshold would very likely see the race being downgraded.

**Hawkes Bay RI, Hawke's Bay Guineas (G2).** While this race has recorded some very high ratings in recent years, 2022/23 saw another weak edition at 103.75 versus the tolerance threshold of 106. However, field depth was strong, with the top 4 starters averaging 110.0 for their peak season rating.

A **Warning** was imposed.

**Wellington RC, Wellington Guineas (G2)** – this race has been moved from March to mid-January, with the impact of this being mixed. The 1400m is a better lead-in distance to the Karaka 3YO Mile but the race may no longer attract some autumn 3yo's who are not being aimed at the Derby. The rating of 103.25 was well below the 106 threshold although the race did have a satisfactory average for the top 4 starters of 108. A **Warning** was imposed. The NZPC notes that given the decision that the Levin Classic could remain at G1 status subject to returning to mid-January, this race will return to its March slot in 2023/24.

**Waikato TR, Waikato Guineas (G2).** The race rated a weak 105.25 in 2022/23 and was already carrying an Alert from rating 106.75 in the prior season. However, with the 3yo tolerance threshold this season effectively falling by 1 point to 106, this race would not in retrospect have already been on Alert. The **Alert** was maintained.

**Ashburton RC, John Griggs Stakes (G3)** – this race has generally done well in recent years given its placement as a lead-in to the Guineas races but the latest edition of 99.25 was weak relative to the 101 tolerance. The field also lacked depth compared to prior editions. An **Alert** was imposed.

**Cambridge JC, Cambridge Breeders (G3)** – a weaker than usual rating of 100.75 just fell under the 101 tolerance threshold, with field depth not being a compensating factor. An **Alert** was imposed.

**Canterbury JC, NZ 1000 Guineas (G1)** – in an exceptional year for NZ 3yo's, this race exhibited a disappointing lack of depth beyond the 4.8L winner, Legarto (112) although the 4<sup>th</sup> placegetter Romancing The Moon (107) did subsequently win the Levin Classic. The rating of 104.75 was well below the tolerance threshold of 107. The long term future of this race will likely require improved travel arrangements. An **Alert** was imposed.

**Wellington RC, NZ Oaks (G1)** – this race rated 104.75, with a dominant 3L victory by Pennyweka (112) being outweighed by far lower ratings accorded to the lesser performed placegetters. However, with the 3yo filly tolerance

threshold this season effectively falling by 1 point to 107, the previous year's race would not in retrospect have already been on Alert. The **Alert** was maintained.

**Auckland TR, Royal Stakes (G2)** – a relatively weak edition which rated 101.25 versus the 102 tolerance threshold. The top 4 starters did however rate a satisfactory 105.0. **Alert** imposed.

**Hawke's Bay RI, Ormond Memorial (G1)** – an unseasonably heavy track saw a weak renewal, with an easy 5.3L victory by Mustang Valley (111+4) not assisting with the ratings assigned to placegetters. The rating of 110.75 was below the 112 tolerance threshold. **Alert** imposed.

**Wellington RC, Captain Cook Stakes (G1)** – the race rated 110.75 versus the 112 tolerance threshold and lacked depth outside Pris De Fer (111) and Aegon (115). **Alert** imposed.

**Auckland TR, Zabeel Classic (G1)** – a particularly weak edition that rated 107.75 versus the 112 tolerance threshold. Field depth did not improve this greatly, with the average of the top 4 starters being 110.5. **Alert** imposed.

**Wellington RC, Telegraph (G1)** – an edition that lacked depth outside of the first two finishers, Levante (112+4) and Babylon Berlin (110+4). This saw a race rating of 109.0 versus the 112 tolerance threshold. **Alert** imposed.

**Wellington RC, Thorndon Mile (G1)** – this race has consistently struggled to meet its tolerance threshold in recent years, with the strong rating of 113.0 in 2021/22 removing it from Warning at that time. This season's edition reverted to a weak 109.25 versus the tolerance level of 112. The best 4 starters improved it only partially to 111.25. **Alert** imposed.

**Auckland TR, Avondale Cup (G2)**. This race was under a Warning having last achieved the minimum threshold level of 107 back in 2018/19. This year's edition rated 105.75 and the race improved only slightly to 107 when the top 4 starters were considered. The NZPC acknowledges that the race will return to 2400m in future and that ATR intends to lift prizemoney but is concerned that the race has consistently failed to reach its benchmark in recent years. Further, while it is an acknowledged lead-in to the Auckland Cup, that race itself is now a G2. It was agreed that the race have one last opportunity as a G2 under **Warning**, with the understanding that prizemoney would be materially increased.

**Canterbury JC, Winter Cup (G3)** – this race has not met the required benchmark for a number of years and this year's rating of just 95.5 missed the 102 tolerance threshold by a wide margin. There was however reasonable depth in the large field. **Alert** imposed.

**Hawke's Bay RI, G R Kelt Memorial (G3)** – after the 4 prior editions had rated between 107 and 112.25, this season saw a very weak rating of just 99.25, well below the 102 tolerance threshold. **Alert** imposed.

**Canterbury JC, New Zealand Cup (G3)** – the second weak edition in a row, rating 100.25 versus the 102 tolerance threshold. The top 4 starters did improve it a little to 103.25 but this was still well below the 105 benchmark. Moved from **Alert** to **Warning**.

**Taranaki RI, Taranaki Stakes (G3)** – this race has consistently rated in the 106-107 region but slipped to an unusually weak 100.75 in 2022/23. **Alert** imposed.

**Te Aroha JC, NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes (G1)** – after easily surpassing its 111 benchmark in the previous two editions, the 2022/23 renewal rated just 105.75 versus the 108 tolerance threshold. The top 4 starters did improve this somewhat to 109.75. **Alert** imposed.

**Auckland TR, Auckland Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes (G2)** – this race typically easily exceeds its benchmark but it failed to even meet its 103 threshold in 2022/23, with a 102.75 rating. Field depth was limited. **Alert** imposed.

**Waikato TR, Lady Norrie Stakes (G2)** – as with several other key fillies and mares races during the season, this race rated unusually poorly at 102.75, with weak field depth. **Alert** imposed.

**Egmont RC, Taranaki Breeders' Stakes (G3)** – a weaker than normal edition which rated 96.5 versus the 98 benchmark. That said, field depth was strong. **Alert** imposed.

## 5.7 Other Race Comments

**Auckland TR, Uncle Remus Stakes (L)** – the NZPC discussed a submission to upgrade this race from Listed to G3 status. The latest rating of 106.75 and the 3-year average of 107.33 do technically qualify it to be promoted, as these are both more than 2 points above the G3 benchmark of 103. However, the NZPC see the race as being a lead-up to summer/autumn Group races rather than a target in its own right. It therefore decided that the race remain Listed.

The NZPC also considered alternative proposals regarding the movement of this race. The potential transfer of Listed status to the new Aotearoa Classic for 4yo's on Karaka Million night was not supported. It was decided that the Aotearoa Classic is an entirely different race and immediate Pattern status would be very unlikely to receive APC and IRPAC approval without being first run on two occasions.

The NZPC approved the movement of the Uncle Remus Stakes (L) to Avondale Cup and Guineas Day on Saturday, 17 February and reducing the distance from 1400 metres to 1200 metres. This will be two weeks before the upgraded Mufhasa Stakes (G3) on Derby day, with horses having the option to progress on from there to the Wellington Guineas (G2) two weeks after that.

**Tauranga Racing, Tauranga Classic (L)** – this race was moved with NZPC approval to Hastings this year due to extremely heavy track conditions. It rated a satisfactory 97.5. The NZPC's review of the Pattern had recommended that this race move from its current winter slot. However, club feedback coupled with a degree of uncertainty regarding the exact placement of the NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes, saw the NZPC decide to make no changes at this point.

**Racing Taupo, 3yo Fillies, unlisted** – the NZPC considered a request to upgrade this race by circular prior to the meeting. While remaining on the list for potential future upgrades, the NZPC declined to do so at this time. Recent assessments of the race have been interrupted by Covid, poor weather and a weak edition in 2020/21 which rated 95.75. The NZPC also notes that the race tends to be an initial race in many horses' campaigns rather than a target in its own right.

**Auckland TR, Auckland Cup (G2)** – the NZPC approved a request from the club to change the race conditions from SW&P back to being a handicap.

**Auckland TR, Fulton Family Stakes (L)** – the NZPC approved a change in the registered race name to the Fulton Family stakes. This race was formerly the Jim & John Evans Metric Mile at Counties, with the linkage to this original sponsor being broken as it no longer exists.

**Autumn 2yo races** – the NZPC approved date and venue changes to improve the flow of races in the northern region:

**Waikato Racing, Star Way-Wentworth Stakes (L)** – to Sat 20 April, 1200m – Ellerslie

**Auckland TR, Great Northern Foal Stakes (L)** – to Sat 4 May, 1400m – Te Rapa.

**Auckland TR, Great Northern Champagne Stakes (L)** – to Sat 25 May, 1600m – Ellerslie.

## **5.8 Watch-List for Potential Promotion To The Pattern**

Taupo RC, 3yo fillies, Wednesday 11 August.

Auckland TR, Open 1200m, Saturday, 5 December.

Matamata RC, Lisa Chittick Plate, Fillies and Mares, 1400m Saturday 27 February.

Auckland TR, Royal Descent Stakes, Fillies and Mares, 1600m, Saturday, 12 March.

Riverton RC, Francolin Stakes, Fillies and Mares, 1400m, Saturday 3 April

Hawkes Bay RI, 2yo SW+P, 1300m, Saturday 18 April

## 5.8 Summary of Warnings and Alerts

Status	Warnings Issued	Alerts Issued	Warnings Removed	Alerts Removed
Group 1	2	9	2	3
Group 2	4	3	0	5
Group 3	1	8	0	7
Listed	3	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>

## 5.9 Warnings removed

G1	NZ 2000 Guineas	Canterbury JC
G1	NZ Derby	ATR@Ellerslie

## 5.10 Warnings Issued

G1	Manawatu Sires Produce	Manawatu RC
G1	Levin Classic	Wellington RC
G2	Avondale Cup	ATR @ Pukekohe
G2	Hawke's Bay Guineas	Hawkes Bay RI
G2	Waikato Guineas	Waikato TR



G2	Wellington Guineas	Wellington RC
G3	New Zealand Cup	Canterbury JC
L	CJC Welcome Stakes	Canterbury JC
L	Ryder Stakes	Levin RC
L	Triton Stakes	Wanganui JC

### 5.11 Alerts Removed

G1	Hawke's Bay Challenge Stakes	Hawke's Bay RI
G1	Horlicks Plate	Hawke's Bay RI
G1	Otaki Maori WFA	Otaki Maori RC
G2	ATR Rich Hill Mile	Waikato TR
G2	Eight Carat Classic	ATR@Pukekohe
G2	Great Northern Guineas	Waikato TR
G2	Sarten Memorial	Waikato TR
G2	Westbury Classic	ATR@Ellerslie
G3	Canterbury Breeders Stakes	Canterbury JC
G3	Manawatu Cup	Manawatu RC
G3	Rotorua Stakes	Racing Rotorua

G3	South Island Breeders Stakes	Canterbury JC
G3	Wellington Cup	Wellington RC
G3	Wellington Stakes	Levin RC
G3	White Robe	Otago RC
L	Dunedin Guineas	Otago RC
L	Southland Guineas	Southland RC

### 5.12 Alerts Issued

G1	Ellerslie Sires Produce	ATR@Ellerslie
G1	NZ 1000 Guineas	Canterbury JC
G1	NZ Oaks	Wellington RC
G1	Ormond Memorial	Hawke's Bay RI
G1	Captain Cook Stakes	Wellington RC
G1	Zabeel Classic	ATR@Pukekohe
G1	Telegraph	Wellington RC
G1	Thorndon Mile	Wellington RC
G1	NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes	Te Aroha JC
G2	Wakefield Challenge Stakes	Wellington RC

G2	Royal Stakes	Waikato RC
G2	Auckland TB Breeders Stakes	ATR@Pukekohe
G3	Taranaki 2YO Classic	Taranaki RC
G3	John Griggs Stakes	Ashburton RC
G3	Cambridge Breeders	Cambridge JC
G3	Winter Cup	Canterbury JC
G3	G R Kelt Memorial	Hawke's Bay RI
G3	Taranaki Stakes	Taranaki RC
G3	Lady Norrie Stakes	Waikato TR
G3	Taranaki Breeders Stakes	Egmont RC

**SECTION 6**

**2022-23 NEW ZEALAND  
CLASSIFICATIONS  
RACE RATINGS**

**(including F&M allowance, where relevant)**

<b>Two-Year-Olds</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>Minimum Expected</b>
Ellerslie Sires Produce	G1	105.25	110
Manawatu Sires Produce	G1	106.75	110
Eclipse Stakes	G2	105.25	105
Matamata Breeders Stakes	G2	103.00	101
Wakefield Challenge Stakes	G2	98.00	105
Matamata Slipper	G3	100.25	100
Taranaki 2YO Classic	G3	96.00	100
CJC Champagne Stakes	L	95.25	95
CJC Welcome Stakes	L	95.50	95
Counties Challenge Stakes	L	95.25	95
Great Northern Champagne Stakes	L	98.00	95
Great Northern Foal Stakes	L	98.25	95
Karaka Million	L	107.50	95
Ryder Stakes	L	95.75	95
Star Way 1000-Wentwood Grange Stks	L	98.75	95
Triton Stakes	L	84.00	95
Wellesley Stakes	L	100.75	95
<b>Three-Year-Olds</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>Minimum Expected</b>
Levin Classic	G1	107.75	113
NZ 1000 Guineas	G1	104.75	109
NZ 2000 Guineas	G1	111.50	113
NZ Derby	G1	111.00	113
NZ Oaks	G1	104.75	109
Avondale Guineas	G2	108.00	108
Eight Carat Classic	G2	106.00	104
Great Northern Guineas	G2	107.50	108
Hawke's Bay Guineas	G2	103.75	108

Lowland Stakes	G2	104.75	104
Royal Stakes	G2	101.25	104
Sarten Memorial	G2	108.75	108
Sir Tristram Fillies Classic	G2	105.50	104
Waikato Guineas	G2	105.25	108
Wellington Guineas	G2	103.25	108
Bonecrusher Stakes	G3	104.00	103
Cambridge Breeders	G3	100.75	103
Canterbury Stakes	G3	100.75	103
Desert Gold Stakes	G3	100.50	99
Eulogy Stakes	G3	97.75	99
Championship Stakes	G3	101.75	103
Gold Trail Stakes	G3	98.00	99
John Griggs Stakes	G3	99.25	103
Manawatu Classic	G3	106.3	103
Mongolian Khan Trophy	G3	108.25	103
Northland Breeders Stakes	G3	101.50	103
Soliloquy Stakes	G3	109.25	99
Sunline Vase	G3	101.25	99
Wellington Stakes	G3	104.25	103
Canterbury Belle Stakes	L	95.25	94
Dunedin Guineas	L	101.25	98
Gingernuts Salver	L	102.25	98
Gore Guineas	L	99.50	98
Karaka 3YO Mile	L	113.25	98
Mufhasa Stakes	L	107.25	98
NZ Bloodstock Airfreight Stks	L	96.25	94
NZ Bloodstock Insurance Stks	L	97.25	94
Oaks Prelude	L	94.75	94
Sir Colin Meads Trophy	L	99.75	98
Southland Guineas	L	99.75	98
Trevor Eagle Memorial	L	102.25	98
Trudy Thompson Memorial	L	100.50	94
Uncle Remus Stakes	L	106.75	98
Wanganui Guineas	L	96.25	98
Warstep Stakes	L	96.00	94

<b>Three-Year-Olds &amp; Older</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>Minimum Expected</b>
Captain Cook Stakes	G1	110.75	115
Hawke's Bay Challenge Stakes	G1	115.75	115
Horlicks Plate	G1	113.25	115
International Stakes	G1	113.00	115
New Zealand Stakes	G1	113.50	115

NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes	G1	105.75	111
Ormond Memorial	G1	110.75	115
Otaki Maori WFA	G1	112.75	115
Railway Handicap	G1	115.75	115
Telegraph	G1	109.00	115
Thorndon Mile	G1	109.25	115
Waikato Sprint	G1	115.75	115
Zabeel Classic	G1	107.75	115
ARC Rich Hill Mile	G2	107.50	110
Auckland Cup	G2	107.75	110
Auckland TB Breeders Stakes	G2	102.50	106
Avondale Cup	G2	105.75	110
Awapuni Gold Cup	G2	107.00	110
Foxbridge Plate	G2	111.50	110
Japan/NZ International Trophy	G2	108.00	110
Manawatu Challenge Stakes	G2	108.75	110
Thames Valley Stakes	G2	108.75	110
TravisStakes	G2	103.00	106
Westbury Classic	G2	108.25	106
Anniversary Hdcp	G3	104.25	105
Arawa Stakes	G3	109	105
Balmerino Stakes	G3	108.5	105
Canterbury Breeders Stakes	G3	99.50	101
Canterbury Gold Cup	G3	107.00	105
City Of Auckland Cup	G3	105.25	105
Concorde	G3	103.50	105
Counties Bowl	G3	103.50	105
Counties Cup	G3	105.5	105
Couplands Bakeries Mile	G3	102.75	105
Cuddle Stakes	G3	104.50	101
Darley Plate	G3	106.00	105
Easter Stakes	G3	106.75	105
Evergreen Stakes	G3	96.50	101
FC Johnstone Handicap	G3	107.75	105
G R Kelt Memorial	G3	99.25	105
Great Northern Challenge Stakes	G3	106.00	105
Lady Norrie Stakes	G3	102.50	106
Manawatu Breeders Stakes	G3	101.5	101
Manawatu Cup	G3	102.50	105
Marton Metric Mile	G3	109.75	105
New Zealand Cup	G3	100.25	105
Rotorua Stakes	G3	101.00	101
South Island Breeders Stakes	G3	99.25	101
Stewards Stakes	G3	99.25	105

Taranaki Stakes	G3	100.75	105
Thompson Handicap	G3	105.75	105
Trentham Stakes	G3	107.00	105
Waikato Gold Cup	G3	104.75	105
Wellington Cup	G3	102.25	105
White Robe	G3	103.00	105
Winter Cup	G3	95.50	105
AG Challenge Stakes	L	98.75	100
Anzac Handicap	L	98.50	100
City Of Napier Sprint	L	100.25	100
CJC Great Easter Stakes	L	101.25	100
Dunedin Gold Cup	L	97.50	100
Feilding Cup	L	101.50	100
Flying Handicap	L	103.50	100
George Adams	L	97.25	100
Hawkes Bay Cup	L	100.25	100
James Hazlett Stakes	L	100.00	100
Fulton Family Metric Mile	L	104.50	100
Kaimai Stakes	L	98.00	100
Levin Stakes	L	101.25	100
Lightning Handicap	L	104.75	100
Marton 1600	L	101.50	100
Marton Cup	L	102.00	100
Matamata Cup	L	106.25	100
Metropolitan Trophy	L	103.25	100
Newmarket Hdcp	L	100.00	100
NZ St Leger	L	100.50	100
Opunake Cup	L	102.00	100
Pegasus Stakes	L	99.25	100
Riverton Cup	L	99.50	100
Rotorua Challenge Plate	L	104.75	100
Rotorua Cup	L	98.75	100
Spring Classic	L	103.75	100
Tauranga Classic	L	97.5	96
Timaru Cup	L	100.50	100
Timaru Stakes	L	102.50	100
Wairarapa TB Breeders Stakes	L	102.00	96
Wanganui Cup	L	102.25	100
Westminster Handicap	L	102.25	100

**Nb.** The right-hand column (Minimum expected) is the expected benchmark rating figure for that grade of race