

**Report of the
NEW ZEALAND PATTERN COMMITTEE**

**Group & Listed Race
Schedule for
2024/25 Season**

**Following review of
2023/24 Season**

16 SEPTEMBER 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Pattern Review for races run in the 2023/24 season has been completed by the NZ Pattern Committee (NZPC). The schedule of Group and Listed Races to be run in the 2024/25 season has been finalised.
2. Under the revised schedule, the total number of Pattern flat races scheduled in 2024/25 will rise by 2 races to 144 races.
3. The NZPC has made 3 downgrades, upgraded 2 races to the Pattern and made no removals from the Pattern:

Wellington RC, Levin Classic from G1 to G2

Auckland TR, Avondale Cup from G2 to G3

Auckland TR, Mufhasa Stakes from G3 to R(L) given its change to being a restricted entry race, the NZB Kiwi

Matamata RC, Lisa Chittick Champagne Stakes from unlisted to Listed

Auckland TR, Aotearoa Classic from unlisted to Listed

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.

This saw 8 races removed from the Pattern in 2023/24. Further, to bolster confidence in quality of the NZ Pattern, the NZPC removed the previously allowed tolerance band of 3 points across all categories of Listed races. Removing this tolerance band has seen no further downgrades so far but it will likely impact gradually over time.

The significant and welcome prizemoney increases that occurred in 2023/24, and which are expected to continue, will likely have a positive impact on race quality in coming seasons. However, whether this drives a lasting reversal in the trend of a declining NZ thoroughbred foal crop, and thence race numbers, remains to be seen.

A sharp decline in the number of races run in recent seasons had earlier seen the NZ Pattern race percentage increase to over 6%. However, the 8 race removals in the 2023/24 season, combined with a moderate lift in the number of planned races in 2024/25, has seen this percentage decline a little. While it is still unduly high at over 5%, the NZPC felt that the ratings of the 2 races promoted were so strong that there was little choice but to lift them. With the overall proportion of

Pattern races still being too high, the bar to promotion of further races is very high.

5. The NZPC continues to strongly endorse 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.
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 twelfth 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. 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 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.
9. The NZPC retains a degree of concern with the WBRR ratings assigned to NZ 3yo races but this was much less of an issue in 2023/24 compared to what we felt were unduly low ratings assigned to the stellar crop in the previous 2022/23 season. NZ-derived ratings for horses rated >112 are subject to moderation by the APC handicappers.

We do see a structural issue that NZ 3yo ratings tend to begin at the bottom end of global norms unless the horse performs well overseas in the same season, which may often be at the end of a long campaign. Further, many NZ horses that race overseas achieve markedly higher ratings as older horses, suggesting their earlier 3yo ratings were unduly conservative. The WBRR Race Ratings used to evaluate race quality are appended as Section 6 of this Report.

10. There are currently 17 races on Alert (20 last year) and 12 races on Warning (10 last year).
11. It is a significant concern that 7 of the races currently on Warning are of G1 status. While several of these should bounce back given their generally acceptable ratings over time, several others are at risk of being downgraded to G2 status in the next few years. The NZPC discussed a range of measures including higher prizemoney, linked bonuses, race locations, transport availability and the strength of lead-up programmes as factors that may bolster the ratings of those races that are struggling. We look forward to supporting ongoing actions by NZTR and clubs in these areas.
12. The NZPC wishes to acknowledge the retirement of Mr Jeff McCall during the season and record its appreciation of his many years of invaluable service.

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 Gus Wigley, 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 and NZTR 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

Pattern 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 percentage varies across different racing jurisdictions and tends to reflect both the number of Pattern races and the number of lower end races. The NZPC considers a 5% target is appropriate for New Zealand given our large number of competitive trials and absence of "picnic" and "non-TAB" races.

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. The race's status as a target or a lead-up race is also a key factor.

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).
- b) 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 Pattern. The NZPC maintains a "watch list" of 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 and/or NZTR to the NZPC at the earliest opportunity.

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 maintained, removed, or the race may be downgraded.
- (e) Under the APC Ground Rules, 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 race fails to meet its 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 have included 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) 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.
- (h) 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.
- (i) 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, 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 remain at Group 1 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 19 G1; 26 G2; 46 G3 and 53 Listed races. The NZ Pattern 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 2024/25 season, the Committee supports the Minimum Stakes Levels adopted by NZTR and set out below. It notes that the Summer Calendar will have higher minimums.

Meeting Category	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Listed
Iconic	\$400,000	\$175,000	\$120,000	\$90,000
Premier	\$400,000	\$175,000	\$120,000	\$90,000
Feature	\$400,000	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$80,000
Industry	\$400,000	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$80,000

- 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** 2 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 in the prior season, the ratio of Pattern races remains above the ideal target of 5%.
- 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.

This saw 8 races removed from the Pattern in 2023/24. Further, to bolster confidence in quality of the NZ Pattern, the NZPC removed the previously allowed tolerance band of 3 points across all categories of Listed races. Removing this tolerance band has seen no further downgrades so far but it will likely begin to impact over time.

The significant and welcome prizemoney increases that occurred in 2023/24, and which are expected to continue, will likely have a positive impact in coming seasons. However, whether this drives a lasting reversal in the trend of a declining NZ thoroughbred foal crop, and thence race numbers, remains to be seen.

A sharp decline in the number of races run in recent seasons had earlier seen the NZ Pattern race percentage increase to over 6%. However, the 8 race removals in the 2023/24 season, combined with a moderate lift in the number of planned races in 2024/25, has seen this percentage decline a little. While it is still unduly high at over 5%, the NZPC felt that the ratings of the 2 races promoted were so strong that there was little choice but to lift them. With the overall number of Pattern races still being concerningly high, the bar to promotion of further races is very high.

The NZPC continues to strongly endorse 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.

- 4.8** Fillies & mares (3YO & older) as a group have historically not been particularly well catered for in the NZ Pattern compared to other

comparable racing jurisdictions. This is gradually being addressed and there are now 14 black type opportunities excluding races limited to 3yo fillies only. It is extremely concerning that all 3 G1 races for fillies and mares are under Warning following the 2023/24 season. The NZPC welcomes NZTR's intent to significantly lift prizemoney for these races.

- 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 retains a degree of concern with the WBRR ratings assigned to NZ 3yo races but this was much less of an issue in 2023/24 compared to what we felt were unduly low ratings assigned to the stellar crop in the previous 2022/23 season. NZ-derived ratings for horses rated >112 are subject to moderation by the APC handicappers.

We do see a structural issue that NZ 3yo ratings tend to begin at the bottom end of global norms unless the horse performs well overseas in the same season, which may often be at the end of a long campaign. Further, many NZ horses that race overseas achieve markedly higher ratings as older horses, clearly suggesting their earlier 3yo rating was unduly conservative. The WBRR Race Ratings used to evaluate race quality are appended as Section 6 of this Report.

SECTION 5

SUMMARY

5.1.1 As a result of the review, the number of black type races for 2024/25 compared with previous seasons is as follows:

Status	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018-19
Group 1	19	20	20	20	21	21	21
Group 2	26	26	25	27	27	27	26
Group 3	46	46	47	44	43	44	44
Listed	53	50	58	59	56	58	59
Total	144	142	150	150	147	150	150
PJR	12	14	14	14	14	14	14

5.1.2 The 2024/25 list reflects 3 downgrades and 2 new Pattern races.

5.2 Downgrades

Wellington RC, Levin Classic from G1 to G2. This race had failed to meet the G1 criteria in the previous year but the APC chose to give it one final opportunity at the G1 level, with a change of date from mid-March to mid-January and a sharp lift in prizemoney. The race again missed its required tolerance threshold of 111, with a rating of 109.5. There were no special factors such as track conditions or high rated horses finishing outside the top 4. The race has been heavily impacted by the Karaka Million 3yo race and there is no prospect that this will change in the future. It was the unanimous recommendation of the NZPC that this race be downgraded to G2 and that the extra prizemoney that had been devoted to this race be reallocated to other G1 races under threat such as the NZ Oaks. The NZPC will be happy to consider the optimal placement of this race and the Wellington Guineas in the calendar should any proposals for change be put forward.

Auckland TR, Mufhasa Stakes, from G3 to R(L). This downgrade is more of a mechanical nature given that this race will turn into the high prizemoney slot-race, the NZB Kiwi over 1500m from 2024/25 onwards. Given the non-traditional restricted entry conditions, the NZPC was of the view that this race be accorded R(L) status.

Auckland TR, Avondale Cup from G2 to G3. This race was under a Warning having last achieved the minimum threshold level of 107 back in

2018/19. This year's edition rated an extremely weak 101.5, which was well below the tolerance threshold of 107 and benchmark of 110. While the field had reasonable depth, the top 4 starters still only rated 106.5. The NZPC acknowledges that ATR intends to lift prizemoney but the consistent underperformance of the race led the NZPC to view it as best placed as a G3 level handicap.

5.3 Upgrades

Auckland TR, Aotearoa Classic, from unlisted to Listed. This newly introduced \$1m race over 1600m for 4 year olds rated an extremely strong 108.25, with the top 4 starters being even stronger at 111.5. This comfortably rated above the Listed benchmark of 100 and the G3 benchmark of 105. While it has only been run once, the NZPC was satisfied that its prizemoney and calendar placement will almost certainly continue to see it rate extremely well and become a significant target that is likely to attain Group status. Given these exceptional circumstances, we unanimously agreed to introduce it to the Pattern as a Listed race in the first instance.

Matamata RC, Lisa Chittick Champagne Stakes, from unlisted to Listed. This 1400m fillies and mares race in February has been on the watch-list for potential inclusion in the Pattern for several years. The latest edition rated a strong 102 and the 3-year Pattern Race Rating is 100.81. These are well above the 96 benchmark for Listed level and actually compare well to the 101 benchmark for G3 races. The NZPC viewed the race as rating extremely well in its own right, that it filled a gap in the Pattern and that it may improve further in the future given the move of the G1 NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes to the new Champions' Day in March. The NZPC approved the Matamata RC request that the registered race name be the Lisa Chittick Champagne Stakes.

5.4 Warnings/Alerts Removed

Auckland TR, Ellerslie Sires Produce Stakes (G1). The 108 race rating was above the tolerance threshold of 107 although still below the 110 benchmark. The previous year's rating of 105.25 was viewed as unusually low and affected by a subsequent disqualification. The **Alert** was removed.

Manawatu RC, Manawatu Sires Produce Stakes (G1). Pleasingly, this race rated 109 versus the 107 tolerance threshold and 110 benchmark. The top 4 starters rated 109.75 and earlier editions had also seen strong ratings on this alternative basis. This had seen the race survive a potential downgrade vote by the APC. The **Warning** was removed.

Taranaki RI, Taranaki 2YO Classic (G3) – rated 99 versus the 97 tolerance threshold and 100 benchmark. The NZPC noted and supported the movement of the race to a new second day of the Karaka Million festival in 2024/25. The NZPC approved a name change to the **Colin Jillings 2YO Classic**. The **Alert** was removed.

Canterbury JC, Welcome Stakes (L). After a succession of weak editions, the race improved to 95.5 in 2022/23. However, the NZPC had maintained a Warning as we were concerned at the generally weak ratings for the race in its previous spring time-slot and strongly supported its move to the autumn in 2023/24. Pleasingly, the race rated 96.25 in its new slot and the **Warning** was removed.

Levin RC, Ryder Stakes (L) – in the prior season, 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 we are not particularly comfortable with either race. They are generally run on rain-affected tracks and there is only sporadic evidence that horses contesting the races develop into high-rated 3yo's. However, the last three editions of this race have all exceeded the 95 benchmark with ratings of 95.5, 95.75 and 100.0. Given this consistent performance, the **Warning** was removed.

Waikato TR, Waikato Guineas (G2). The race rated 107 versus the tolerance threshold of 106 and benchmark of 108. Over time, the race has generally met its benchmark, especially when the top 4 starters as opposed to finishers are considered. The **Alert** was removed.

Ashburton RC, John Griggs Stakes (G3) – this race has generally done well in recent years given its placement as an early lead-in to the Guineas races and the 2023/24 edition rated 102 versus the tolerance of 101 and benchmark of 103. The **Alert** was removed.

Cambridge JC, Cambridge Breeders (G3) – typically a highly competitive autumn sprint race for 3yo's, the prior edition had rated unusually poorly. This year's running returned to form with a rating of 103.75 – comfortably above the 103 benchmark. The **Alert** was removed.

Wellington RC, Captain Cook Stakes (G1) – the race rated 112, right in line with its tolerance threshold. The field had solid depth but no high-rated horses outside the top 4 finishers. This race has consistently flirted with but just met the tolerance threshold in most years. The **Alert** was removed.

Canterbury JC, Winter Cup (G3) – a much-improved edition in the 2023/24 season which rated at 104.5 versus the 102 tolerance threshold and 105 benchmark. **Alert** removed.

Hawke's Bay RI, G R Kelt Memorial (G3) – this has generally been a very strong race but rated unusually poorly in the prior season. It returned to form

with a 109.75 rating this year, comfortably above the 105 benchmark. **Alert** removed.

Canterbury JC, New Zealand Cup (G3) – despite its iconic status, this race has been close to its 102 tolerance threshold for some time. Pleasingly, it just made it in the 2023/24 season, with a rating of 102.0. **Warning** removed.

Taranaki RI, Taranaki Stakes (G3) – this race has rated consistently well but had an unusually weak edition in the prior season. This year's rating of 105.0 met the required benchmark. **Alert** removed.

Auckland TR, Auckland Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes (G2) – this race typically easily exceeds its benchmark but it had failed to even meet its 103 threshold back in 2022/23. It returned to a more normal 107.25 versus the 106 benchmark in the 2023/24 season. **Alert** removed.

Waikato TR, Lady Norrie Stakes (G2) – this race has rated well over time and returned to form this season with a 105.5 rating versus the tolerance threshold of 103 and benchmark of 106. **Alert** removed.

Egmont RC, Taranaki Breeders' Stakes (G3) – an extremely strong edition in 2023/24 due to the presence of Prowess. The rating of 106 was well above the 101 benchmark. **Alert** removed.

5.5 Warnings Imposed or Maintained

Wellington RC, Wakefield Challenge Stakes (G2) – another weak edition, rating at 98 for the second year in a row versus the tolerance threshold of 102. The average of the top 4 starters did improve to 103.25 but that was still below the 105 benchmark. The NZPC discussed the placement of this race relative to that of the Wellesley Stakes (L) in terms of timing, distance and the travel requirements for 2yo horses. Any proposed improvements from NZTR would be received positively. A **Warning** was imposed.

Wanganui JC, Triton Stakes (L) – the NZPC is not convinced regarding the role that this race plays in the NZ Pattern given it is invariably run on a rain-affected track and there is only sporadic evidence that horses contesting it develop into high-class 3yo's. It was moved to Warning following the Pattern Review in the prior 2022/23 season. This year's edition did rate 97.50 compared to the 95 benchmark but the NZPC decided to maintain its **Warning** status.

Hawke's Bay RI, Hawke's Bay Guineas (G2) – this race has at times attracted very high ratings but has weakened in recent years. It was run under Warning in 2023/24 and again failed to meet its tolerance with a rating of 105 versus the 106 required. The NZPC decided not to downgrade the race and give it one further chance due to its good long term track record, the unseasonable heavy track conditions and the slight improvement to 106 from

the top 4 starters. One more weak edition would almost certainly see a downgrade. **Warning** maintained.

Wellington RC, Wellington Guineas (G2) – this race was moved back to mid-March to give the Levin Classic one last chance in its former mid-January time-slot. The race has at times rated very well but with a rating of 103, failed to meet its tolerance of 106 for the third year in a row. The NZPC decided to allow one more chance given the improvement to 107 from the top 4 starters and the potential for a refinement to the placement of this race and the Levin Classic. **Warning** maintained.

Canterbury JC, NZ 1000 Guineas (G1) – another disappointing edition with a rating of 105.75 versus the tolerance of 107 and benchmark of 109. While it was a deep 18 horse field of prior winners, the highest rating that any of these starters achieved over the season was the 108 achieved in this race by the winner, Molly Bloom. Considering the top 4 starters only saw a slight improvement to 106.5. The NZPC fears for the long-term future of this race at a G1 level. A **Warning** was imposed.

Wellington RC, NZ Oaks (G1) – after years of solid ratings, we have now had two weak editions in a row, with this season rating 102.75 versus the 107 tolerance threshold. There was no improvement from considering the top 4 starters. Unlike in some past editions, the NZPC had no concerns with the assessed ratings. There appears to be an increasing trend for staying fillies to target the NZ Derby and/or Australian carnivals rather than travel to Wellington. The NZPC hopes that a significant prizemoney increase that is planned for the upcoming season will see the race return to its former level. A **Warning** was imposed.

Auckland TR, Royal Stakes (G2) – another weak edition which rated 100 versus the 102 tolerance threshold. This race perhaps struggles at its January place in the calendar but obvious potential alternatives are not clear and it is viewed as giving an early opportunity to staying fillies. The NZPC would look favorably on any establishment of a bonus or series for 3yo staying fillies. **Warning** imposed.

Hawke's Bay RI, Ormond Memorial (G1) – another weak edition, which repeated last year's rating of 110.75 versus the 112 tolerance threshold. The top 4 starters only improved it to 111.5. The NZPC does hold some fears for the future of this race given an apparent preference for some horses to target Australia in the spring and the ample opportunities for G1 2000m horses later in the season. **Warning** imposed.

Auckland TR, Zabeel Classic (G1) – while the race improved from a particularly weak rating of 107.75 the year before, the 111.5 in this year's edition still failed to meet the 112 tolerance threshold. The top 4 starters did improve this slightly to 112.25 but it has been some years since it has met the 115 benchmark. A strong edition is urgently required in the season ahead. **Warning** imposed.

Wellington RC, Telegraph (G1) – this year’s edition rated 110.5 versus the 112 tolerance threshold. The race did suffer from severe interference and the top 4 starters rated 111.75. However, this race has not made its benchmark for some years and has been on Warning in the past. With the Railway Handicap moving to the Karaka Millions carnival, the NZPC holds significant concern regarding the future of this race. Hopefully, being part of the Champions Sprint Series may improve its quality. **Warning** imposed.

Wellington RC, Thorndon Mile (G1) – this race has consistently struggled to meet its tolerance threshold in recent years, with the solid rating of 113 back in 2021/22 removing it from Warning at that time. This season’s edition was on a rain-affected track and rated 110.5 versus the tolerance level of 112. However, the best 4 starters did improve the race to 112.25. **Warning** imposed.

Auckland TR, NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes (G1) – through its history, this race has typically been one of NZ’s stronger G1 performers relative to its required benchmark. However, it has now concerningly experienced two consecutive weak editions, with this year’s race rating at 106.75 versus the 108 tolerance. The top 4 starters did average 108.5. While the race may be bolstered by a sizeable prizemoney increase in its new Champions Day placement, the NZPC also holds a slight concern that some fillies and mares may opt for other races at that time. **Warning** imposed.

5.6 Alerts Imposed or Maintained

Auckland TR, Eclipse Stakes (G2) – this race normally rates well but experienced an unusually weak edition at 101.75, just below the 102 tolerance threshold. **Alert** imposed.

Auckland TR, Great Northern Champagne Stakes (L) – this 1600m 2yo race has effectively swapped dates with the 1400m Great Northern Foal Stakes to make for a more logical distance progression in the autumn. However, the temporary Ellerslie track issues saw the race re-locate to Pukekohe and be run in very testing conditions. The NZPC expects this to be a one-off. The rating of 90.75 was well below the 95 benchmark. **Alert** imposed.

Canterbury JC, NZ 2000 Guineas (G1) – this race has tended to rate poorly in recent years but was removed from an earlier Warning thanks to a solid edition in 2022/23. However, notwithstanding a strong rating from the impressive winner, Crocetti, a lack of depth saw the race rate at only 109.25 versus the 111 tolerance and 113 benchmark. **Alert** imposed.

Southland RC, Southland Guineas (L) – this year’s ratings were affected by the 5.5 length margin by the winner, Aberlour and limited subsequent form from the placegetters. The rating of 96.5 was below the 98 benchmark. **Alert** imposed.

Canterbury JC, Canterbury Belle Stakes (L) – an unusually weak edition which rated at 93.5 versus the required 94 benchmark. **Alert** imposed.

Hawkes Bay RI, Horlicks Plate (G1) – this year's edition was run on a heavy track and rated 111.75, just missing the 112 tolerance threshold. While the race has missed occasionally in recent years, it has generally recorded solid ratings. The top 4 starters rated 113. **Alert** imposed.

Racing Tauranga, Thames Valley Stakes (G2) – a far weaker edition than usual due to the unseasonal heavy track. The rating of 103.5 should be a one-off blip but was well below the 107 tolerance and 110 benchmark. **Alert** imposed.

Auckland TR, Auckland Cup (G2) – an unusually weak edition which rated 104 versus the 107 tolerance threshold. **Alert** imposed.

Racing Tauranga, Japan/NZ International Trophy (G2) – this race's late March placement does see it occasionally suffer from being run on a heavy track and that was the case for this edition. The rating of 106.5 was a touch below the 107 tolerance threshold. **Alert** imposed.

Manawatu RC, Manawatu Cup (G3) – a weak edition which rated 100 compared to the tolerance threshold of 102. **Alert** imposed.

Waikato TR, Easter Handicap (G3) – after several strong editions at the G3 level, this year's race rated just 101.25 versus the 102 tolerance threshold. **Alert** imposed.

Canterbury JC, Metropolitan Trophy (L) – typically a strongly rating race for its level, this year's edition came in at 98.5 compared to the 100 benchmark. However, the field had reasonable depth, with the top 4 starters averaging 102.25. **Alert** imposed.

Hawkes Bay RI, Marton Cup (L) – run on an unseasonal heavy track at the alternative Hastings venue, the unusually low rating of 97.5 versus the benchmark of 100 is likely to be a blip. **Alert** imposed.

Otago RC, Dunedin Gold Cup (L) – this year's edition rated 96 versus the benchmark of 100. While last year's race also failed at 97.5, an Alert had not been imposed because a 3 point tolerance still applied for Listed races. This race has struggled to meet its 100 benchmark in most seasons and may perhaps be better placed as a high stakes heritage handicap. **Alert** imposed.

Otaki-Maori RC, Hawke's Bay Cup (L) – raced on a heavy track away from its normal Hastings venue, this race struggled for both starter numbers and quality. The 94 rating was well below the 100 benchmark. **Alert** imposed.

Rangitikei RC, Marton 1600 (L) – this year’s rating of 98 was below the 100 benchmark but the race did have good depth, with the top 4 starters rating a strong 105. **Alert** imposed.

Waikato TR, Travis Stakes (G2) – an unusually weak edition which rated 101.25 versus the 103 threshold. The NZPC discussed how the move of the NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes may impact the flow of horses into this race in the future, although this may be offset to a degree by a move in the Manawatu Breeders’ Stakes. **Alert** imposed.

5.7 Other Race Comments

Auckland TR, Counties Challenge Stakes (L) – the NZPC discussed a submission to upgrade this race from Listed to G3 status. While the latest edition rated a strong 103.75, the Pattern Race rating of 98.58 was well below the 102 level that is required as a minimum for promotion. At least two further strong editions would likely be required.

Auckland TR, Concorde Handicap (G3) – the NZPC approved a change in conditions from handicap to SW&P and a move from Karaka Millions Day to New Year’s Day.

Auckland TR, Railway Handicap (G1) – the NZPC approved a move from New Year’s Day to Karaka Millions Day.

Auckland TR, Trevor Eagle Memorial (L) and **Uncle Remus Stakes (L)** – the NZPC deferred consideration of requested date changes awaiting further advice and analysis from the club and NZTR.

Auckland TR, Trevor Eagle Memorial (L) - the NZPC discussed a submission to upgrade this race from Listed to G3 status. While it just met the theoretical requirements for promotion, the NZPC considered that there is ample opportunity for 3yo’s in that distance range and that it would revisit this in the event of another strong edition in the current season.

Racing Taupo, 3yo Fillies, unlisted – the NZPC met in May to consider a request to upgrade this race. While remaining on the list for potential future upgrades, the NZPC declined to do so at this time. The NZPC agreed that the race continues to rate very well and that it exceeds the minimum level required to be promoted. However, the NZPC believes the race is a starting point for the season rather than a target in its own right and that there are numerous opportunities for the horses that contest the race. The NZPC agreed that it will again consider the race in May 2025 when it will have information regarding the strength of the 2024/25 edition.

Riverton RC, Francolin Stakes, unlisted – the NZPC declined a request to upgrade the race to Listed status as its latest rating of 96.25 and 3-year

Pattern Race Rating of 93.13 were below the 98 benchmark that is required as a minimum for promotion for this class of race.

5.7 Watch-List For Potential Promotion To The Pattern

Taupo RC, 3yo fillies, Wednesday 11 August.

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

Auckland TR, Karaka Cup, Open 2200m, Saturday, 22 January.

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	7	2	1	2
Group 2	4	5	0	3
Group 3	0	2	1	7
Listed	1	8	2	0
Total	12	17	4	12

5.9 Warnings removed

G1	Manawatu Sires Produce	Manawatu RC
G3	New Zealand Cup	Canterbury JC
L	CJC Welcome Stakes	Canterbury JC
L	Ryder Stakes	Levin RC

5.10 Warnings Issued

G1	NZ 1000 Guineas	Canterbury JC
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G1	NZ Oaks	Wellington RC
G1	Ormond Memorial	Hawke's Bay RI
G1	Zabeel Classic	ATR
G1	Telegraph	Wellington RC
G1	Thorndon Mile	Wellington RC
G1	NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes	ATR
G2	Wakefield Challenge Stakes	Wellington RC
G2	Hawke's Bay Guineas	Hawke's Bay RI
G2	Wellington Guineas	Wellington RC
G2	Royal Stakes	ATR
L	Triton Stakes	Wanganui JC

5.11 Alerts Removed

G1	Ellerslie Sires Produce	ATR
G1	Captain Cook Stakes	Wellington RC
G2	Waikato Guineas	WTR
G2	Auckland Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes	ATR
G2	Lady Norrie Stakes	WTR
G3	Taranaki 2YO Classic	Taranaki RI
G3	John Griggs Stakes	Ashburton RC
G3	Cambridge Breeders	WTR
G3	Winter Cup	Canterbury JC
G3	G R Kelt Memorial	Hawke's Bay RI
G3	Taranaki Stakes	Taranaki RI
G3	Evergreen Stakes	Egmont RC

5.12 Alerts Issued

G1	NZ 2000 Guineas	Canterbury JC
G1	Horlicks Plate	Hawke's Bay RI

G2	Eclipse Stakes	ATR
G2	Thames Valley Stakes	Racing Tauranga
G2	Auckland Cup	ATR
G2	Japan/NZ International Trophy	Racing Tauranga
G2	Travis Stakes	WTR
G3	Manawatu Cup	Manawatu RC
G3	Easter Handicap	WTR
L	Great Northern Champagne Stakes	ATR
L	Southland Guineas	Southland RC
L	Canterbury Belle Stakes	Canterbury JC
L	Metropolitan Trophy	Canterbury JC
L	Marion Cup	Wellington RC
L	Dunedin Gold Cup	Otago RC
L	Hawke's Bay Cup	Hawke's Bay RI
L	Marion 1600	Rangitikei RC

SECTION 6

2023-24 NEW ZEALAND

CLASSIFICATIONS

RACE RATINGS

(including F&M allowance, where relevant)

Two-Year-Olds	Group	2023-2024	Benchmark
Ellerslie Sires Produce	G1	108.00	110.00
Manawatu Sires Produce	G1	109.00	110.00
Wakefield Challenge Stakes	G2	98.00	105.00
Eclipse Stakes	G2	101.75	105.00
Matamata Breeders Stakes	G2	99.75	101.00
Taranaki 2YO Classic	G3	99.00	100.00
Matamata Slipper	G3	103.00	100.00
CJC Welcome Stakes	L	96.25	95.00
Counties Challenge Stakes	L	102.75	95.00
Wellesley Stakes	L	97.75	95.00
Karaka Million	L	105.25	95.00
Star Way Stakes	L	99.25	95.00
Great Northern Foal Stakes	L	99.00	95.00
CJC Champagne Stakes	L	96.75	95.00
Great Northern Champagne Stakes	L	90.75	95.00
Triton Stakes	L	97.50	95.00
Ryder Stakes	L	95.50	95.00

Three-Year-Olds Open	Group	2023-2024	Benchmark
NZ 2000 Guineas	G1	109.25	113.00
NZ Derby	G1	111.50	113.00
Levin Classic	G2	109.50	113.00
Hawke's Bay Guineas	G2	105.00	108.00
Sarten Memorial	G2	108.25	108.00
Great Northern Guineas	G2	108.00	108.00
Wellington Guineas	G2	103.00	108.00
Waikato Guineas	G2	106.75	108.00
Avondale Guineas	G2	109.75	108.00
Northland Breeders Stakes	G3	105.50	103.00
John Griggs Stakes	G3	102.00	103.00

Canterbury Stakes	G3	104.50	103.00
Wellington Stakes	G3	103.25	103.00
Bonecrusher Stakes	G3	109.75	103.00
Mongolian Khan Trophy	G3	105.00	103.00
Manawatu Classic	G3	104.00	103.00
Championship Stakes	G3	101.75	103.00
Cambridge Breeders	G3	103.75	103.00
Wanganui Guineas	L	99.00	98.00
Sir Colin Meads Trophy	L	102.50	98.00
Trevor Eagle Memorial	L	107.00	98.00
Uncle Remus Stakes	L	102.75	98.00
Northern Guineas Prelude	L	98.50	98.00
Karaka 3YO Mile	L	109.50	98.00
Gore Guineas	L	102.75	98.00
Dunedin Guineas	L	101.75	98.00
Southland Guineas	L	96.50	98.00
Mufhasa Stakes	LR	105.25	103.00

Three-Year-Olds Fillies & Mares	Group	2023-2024	Benchmark
NZ 1000 Guineas	G1	105.75	109.00
NZ Oaks	G1	102.75	109.00
Soliloquy Stakes	G2	106.50	104.00
Eight Carat Classic/Ladies Mile	G2	105.00	104.00
Royal Stakes	G2	100.00	104.00
Sir Tristram Fillies Classic	G2	104.75	104.00
Lowland Stakes	G2	103.00	104.00
Gold Trail Stakes	G3	103.50	99.00
Eulogy Stakes	G3	99.00	99.00
Desert Gold Stakes	G3	100.00	99.00
Sunline Vase	G3	101.25	99.00
Trudy Thompson Memorial	L	99.00	94.00
Canterbury Belle Stakes	L	93.25	94.00
Oaks Prelude	L	98.25	94.00
NZ Bloodstock Insurance Stks	L	96.25	94.00
NZ Bloodstock Airfreight Stks	L	94.50	94.00
Warstep Stakes	L	98.50	94.00

Weight-For Age Open	Group	2023-2024	Benchmark
Hawke's Bay Challenge Stakes	G1	112.75	115.00
Horlicks Plate	G1	111.50	115.00
Ormond Memorial	G1	110.75	115.00
Captain Cook Stakes	G1	112.00	115.00

Zabeel Classic	G1	111.50	115.00
Telegraph	G1	110.50	115.00
Waikato Sprint	G1	113.00	115.00
International Stakes	G1	113.50	115.00
New Zealand Stakes	G1	112.00	115.00
Otaki Maori WFA	G1	113.50	115.00
Foxbridge Plate	G2	112.25	110.00
Thames Valley Stakes	G2	103.50	110.00
Manawatu Challenge Stakes	G2	110.00	110.00
Arawa Stakes	G3	106.00	105.00
Balmerino Stakes	G3	107.00	105.00
White Robe	G3	106.25	105.00
Canterbury Gold Cup	G3	105.50	105.00
AG Challenge Stakes	L	107.75	100.00

Handicap & Set Weight + Penalty	Group	2023-2024	Benchmark
Railway Handicap	G1	112.25	115.00
Thorndon Mile	G1	110.50	115.00
ARC Rich Hill Mile	G2	107.75	110.00
Avondale Cup	G3	101.50	110.00
Auckland Cup	G2	104.00	110.00
Japan/NZ International Trophy	G2	106.50	110.00
Awapuni Gold Cup	G2	107.00	110.00
Winter Cup	G3	104.50	105.00
Marton Metric Mile	G3	108.75	105.00
G R Kelt Memorial	G3	109.75	105.00
Thompson Handicap	G3	108.75	105.00
Couplands Bakeries Mile	G3	108.00	105.00
New Zealand Cup	G3	102.00	105.00
Counties Cup	G3	108.75	105.00
Counties Bowl	G3	108.50	105.00
Great Northern Challenge Stakes	G3	110.25	105.00
Waikato Gold Cup	G3	103.75	105.00
FC Johnstone Handicap	G3	103.50	105.00
Manawatu Cup	G3	100.00	105.00
City Of Auckland Cup	G3	103.00	105.00
Anniversary Hdcp	G3	107.00	105.00
Trentham Stakes	G3	105.75	105.00
Concorde	G3	103.00	105.00
Wellington Cup	G3	102.50	105.00
Taranaki Stakes	G3	105.50	105.00
King's Plate	G3	106.00	105.00
Easter Handicap	G3	101.25	105.00

Matamata Cup	L	108.00	100.00
Spring Classic	L	101.50	100.00
Jim & John Evans Metric Mile	L	108.25	100.00
Westminster Handicap	L	104.25	100.00
Pegasus Stakes	L	103.50	100.00
Metropolitan Trophy	L	98.50	100.00
Stewards Stakes	L	104.50	100.00
Wanganui Cup	L	104.50	100.00
James Hazlett Stakes	L	102.25	100.00
Marton Cup	L	97.50	100.00
Timaru Stakes	L	101.75	100.00
Dunedin Gold Cup	L	96.00	100.00
Kaimai Stakes	L	103.75	100.00
Lightning Handicap	L	104.75	100.00
Flying Handicap	L	103.25	100.00
Hawkes Bay Cup	L	94.00	100.00
City Of Napier Sprint	L	103.25	100.00
Anzac Handicap	L	101.75	100.00
CJC Great Easter Stakes	L	104.00	100.00
Rotorua Cup	L	102.50	100.00
Marton 1600	L	98.00	100.00
Opunake Cup	L	103.75	100.00

Fillies and Mares – WFA, Handicap & Set Weight + Penalty	Group	2023-2024	Benchmark
NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes	G1	106.75	111.00
Auckland TB Breeders Stakes	G2	107.25	106.00
Lady Norrie Stakes	G2	105.50	106.00
Westbury Classic	G2	108.50	106.00
Travis Stakes	G2	101.25	106.00
Evergreen Stakes	G3	106.00	101.00
Canterbury Breeders Stakes	G3	103.25	101.00
Cuddle Stakes	G3	101.50	101.00
South Island Breeders Stakes	G3	100.25	101.00
Manawatu Breeders Stakes	G3	100.50	101.00
Rotorua Stakes	G3	105.50	101.00
Wairarapa TB Breeders Stakes	L	103.50	96.00
Tauranga Classic	L	101.75	96.00

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