

**Report of the
NEW ZEALAND PATTERN COMMITTEE**

**Group & Listed Race
Schedule for
2025/26 Season**

**Following review of
2024/25 Season**

15 SEPTEMBER 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Pattern Review for races run in the 2024/25 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 2025/26 will be unchanged at 144 races.

3. The NZPC has made 1 downgrade and 2 upgrades within the Pattern:

Wellington RC, Thorndon Mile from G1 to G2

Auckland TR, Uncle Remus Stakes from Listed to G3

Auckland TR, Aotearoa Classic from Listed to G3

4. NZPC has been concerned for some time that the percentage of Pattern Races has been well above the international norm of 5% of total races run. Therefore 8 races were removed from the Pattern in 2023/24 and 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 have occurred in the last two seasons, and which are expected to remain in place, will likely have a positive impact on race quality in coming seasons. While this wasn't evident in the 2yo and 3yo ratings in the 2024/25 season, an encouraging lift in NZ domiciled yearling purchases in 2025 may feed through in due course.

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 modest lift in the number of planned races in 2024/25, has seen this percentage decline a little. With a further modest increase in the number of races planned for 2025/26, the percentage will reduce further, albeit it will still be above 5%. This creates a high bar to promote new races to the Pattern.

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 has allowed 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. The concept worked well in the 2024/25 season.
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 thirteenth 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 will unusually 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. 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 has historically had some concerns with the WBRR ratings assigned to NZ 3yo races. However, aside from one or two stand-outs, the 2024/25 season crop did not have great depth. NZ-derived ratings for horses rated >112 and all horses which finish in the first four placings in a Group 1 race, 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 21 races on Alert (17 last year) and 11 races on Warning (12 last year).
11. It is a significant concern that 5 of the races currently on Warning are of G1 status, with 4 of these having been given a likely final reprieve after failing to meet the required ratings for 3 consecutive years.

NZ's relatively small scale means we can struggle at times for genuine G1 depth beyond the top several horses. With prizemoney having increased sharply, the long-term future of G1 status for a number of NZ races will

require trainers with high-rating horses to focus on NZ targets for at least part of their campaigns.

There has clearly been an impact on the traditional G1 Pattern from the growth of innovation races as high prizemoney targets - the NZB Kiwi and the Karaka 2yo and 3yo races being the key examples. While these races typically rate highly, their restricted entry conditions mean they can only be of Listed status. These races are critical to the industry, so the Pattern must adjust to take them into account.

The placement and conditions of the G1 races under threat was discussed at length in terms of all possible measures including prizemoney, linked bonuses, race locations, transport availability and the strength of lead-up programmes. We acknowledge and support the ongoing actions taken by NZTR and clubs in these areas.

Two key changes to endangered races have been approved for the 2025/26 season.

Wellington RC, NZ Oaks, G1 will move from its traditional late-March date at Trentham to mid-February at Ellerslie, 2 weeks prior to the NZ Derby. It will remain at 2400m. The uncertain status of Trentham was an important factor in this move. A key priority of the NZPC is to retain the G1 status of this critical race after 3 weak editions. This move is strictly for one year only, with all implications being assessed thereafter.

Auckland TR, NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes, G1 will move from 8 March at Ellerslie to 28 March at Awapuni. This follows its one-year trial on Champions Day at Ellerslie, but it was clear that the depth of genuine G1 level horses could not sustain the number of G1 races on that day. The NZPC is confident the race can return to its former strength in its new position, with an attractive and logical fillies and mares race sequence now in place.

A number of other race date and distance changes have been approved to fit with the changes of these two races.

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").

While there is a degree of debate arising from the current positioning of Australia, the NZPC considers that the retention of New Zealand's

inclusion in Part One of the Blue Book is 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 percentage 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://nztr.co.nz/sites/nztrindustry/files/2025-08/Revised-APC-Ground-Rules_23042024.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 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 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 2025/26 season will see a pyramid of 18 G1; 27 G2; 48 G3 and 51 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 had previously agreed it would 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. This situation did arise during the 2024/25 season and the NZPC supported the move of the Canterbury JC, Champagne Stakes to the artificial surface. This should be viewed as a special situation due to extremely heavy track conditions and an absence of suitable meetings to transfer the race to. It should not be viewed as being a precedent.

- 4.4** For the 2025/26 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** No new races were introduced into the schedule of Pattern races for 2025/26. The NZPC requires that any promotions meet a clear gap in the Pattern. While the percentage of Pattern races has improved markedly in the last two seasons, it remains above the ideal target of 5% and this creates a high although not impossible bar for promotions.
- 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.

NZPC has been concerned for some time that the percentage of Pattern races has been well above the international norm of 5% of total races run. Therefore 8 races were removed from the Pattern in 2023/24 and 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 have occurred in the last two seasons, and which are expected to remain in place, will likely have a positive impact on race quality in coming seasons. While this wasn't evident in the 2yo and 3yo ratings in the 2024/25 season, an encouraging lift in NZ yearling purchases in 2025 can be expected to feed through in due course.

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. Such races have been run successfully under this formula for many years in the UK and Europe.

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. However, this is continuing to improve and the changes to the structure in 2025/26 re the NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes and surrounding support races create a logical series of races that the NZPC believes will prove attractive. There are now 14 black type opportunities excluding races limited to 3yo fillies only and this may grow slightly in the years ahead. It is extremely concerning that 2 of the 3 G1 races for fillies or mares are under Warning following the 2024/25 season and had to survive an APC vote. While the Warning on the NZ 1000 Guineas was removed, the race only just made its tolerance threshold and lacked genuine depth.

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://nztr.co.nz/sites/nztrindustry/files/2025-08/Revised-APC-Ground-Rules_23042024.pdf

4.10 The NZPC has historically had some concerns with the WBRR ratings assigned to NZ 3yo races. However, aside from one or two stand-outs, the 2024/25 season crop did not have great depth. NZ-derived ratings for horses rated >112 and all horses which finish in the first four places in a Group 1 race, 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.

SECTION 5

SUMMARY

5.1.1 As a result of the review, the number of black type races for 2025/26 compared with previous seasons is as follows:

Status	2025/26	2024/25	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
Group 1	18	19	20	20	20	21	21
Group 2	27	26	26	25	27	27	27
Group 3	48	46	46	47	44	43	44
Listed	51	53	50	58	59	56	58
Total	144	144	142	150	150	147	150
PJR	12	12	14	14	14	14	14

5.1.2 The 2025/26 list reflects 1 downgrade and 2 upgrades.

5.2 Downgrades

Wellington RC, Thorndon Mile from G1 to G2. This race has teetered on the edge of being downgraded for at least the last decade, with ratings that have typically been below the 112 tolerance threshold, let alone the 115 benchmark. The last 3 years have seen ratings of 109.25, 110.5 and 111.25. While this year's edition had solid depth with 15 starters, the highest rated horse was 112 and the average of the best 4 starters was still below the threshold at 111.5. The NZPC is concerned that when a G1 race is downgraded, it is likely lost as a G1 race forever, but the view on balance was that this race would be better placed as a high stakes G2 handicap. The NZPC recommends that it revert to being a handicap and that it retain its current prizemoney if possible. A club request to move the date was considered but it was viewed that the race is best placed in its current slot.

5.3 Upgrades

Auckland TR, Aotearoa Classic, from Listed to G3. This \$1m race over 1600m for 4 year-olds was raised into the Pattern with Listed status for the 2024/25 after only one previous edition. While this season's race rated a little below the first year's 108.25, the rating of 105.75 was still extremely strong for the level. The G3 benchmark is 101, so this race easily makes that mark and the NZPC had little hesitation in upgrading it to G3 level. It may require a

slight strengthening to move further up to G2 level but this is certainly possible in future years.

Auckland TR, Uncle Remus Stakes, from Listed to G3. This 1400m 3yo SWP race had earlier been moved from December to late February. It now occupies a calendar position that is 2 weeks prior to the NZB Kiwi. That saw this year's edition rate 107 versus the G3 benchmark of 103. While it has only had one year in this position, the NZPC believes it will continue to rate extremely strongly given its proximity to the NZB Kiwi and therefore decided to upgrade it to G3 status without waiting for any further editions.

5.4 Warnings/Alerts Removed

Auckland TR, Great Northern Champagne Stakes (L). This 1600m 2yo race in mid-May holds an important place in the Pattern for later maturing and staying oriented 2yo's but has historically struggled at times due to varying track conditions. The free-draining nature of the new Ellerslie track will likely make this an issue of the past. This year's rating of 95.5 exceeded the 95 benchmark. The **Alert** was removed.

Hawkes Bay RI, Hawkes Bay Guineas (G2). This race had earlier retained its G2 status on a last-chance basis following 3 sub-standard editions. Pleasingly, this season's race rated amongst the very best of all the year's 3yo race ratings with an outcome of 109.5 versus the benchmark of 108. The **Warning** was removed.

Southland RC, Southland Guineas (L) – the prior year's ratings had been impacted by a wide margin winner. This year's outcome of 98.5 narrowly beat the 98 benchmark and the top 4 starters were stronger again at 99.75. The race was aided by the winner, Pivotal Ten rating 105(+4). The NZPC discussed the fortnightly spacing of the 3 key southern Guineas races and requested NZTR to investigate if a 3-week gap was possible at some point in the series to maximise the quality of available starters. **Alert** removed.

Canterbury JC, NZ 1000 Guineas (G1) – in a year that lacked depth at the top end of the 3yo ratings, this race was perhaps fortunate to rate 107.25 versus the 107 tolerance threshold. The field lacked depth but it was aided immensely by the subsequent 112 rating earned by the second-placed filly, Alabama Lass. There remains some risk to the long-term future of this race but the NZPC is heartened by further prizemoney increases, transport subsidies and a move in the calendar placement to the first day of the Christchurch carnival. It is critical to the industry that this race becomes consistently stronger and succeeds. **Warning** removed.

Canterbury JC, Canterbury Belle Stakes (L) – normally a solid Listed race, the prior year had rated an unusually weak 93. This year returned to 97.75 versus the 94 benchmark. **Alert** removed.

Auckland TR, Zabeel Classic (G1) – this year's edition featured a stirring battle between Snazzytavi and La Crique, with the 117 rating El Vencedor back in third. The 115 race rating made it the strongest race of the season and it met its required benchmark. **Warning** removed.

Racing Tauranga, Thames Valley Stakes (G2) – the prior year had rated an unusually weak 103.5 due to an unseasonal heavy track. This season saw a strong rebound to 109.5 versus the 107 tolerance and 110 benchmark. **Alert** removed.

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. That had seen the prior year's edition rate 106.5 and narrowly miss its 107 threshold. This season's edition was certainly not the strongest of G2 races but the 107 outcome just met the threshold and the top 4 starters did rate a solid 110. **Alert** removed.

Manawatu RC, Manawatu Cup (G3) – the prior season had seen an unusually weak rating of 100 but this season bounced back to 105, meeting the required benchmark. **Alert** removed.

Auckland TR, Easter Handicap (G3) – this former G1 race has weakened in recent years, with varying track conditions being unhelpful. This season rated 103.25 versus the threshold of 101 and benchmark of 105. The top 4 starters rated 106.5. Looking forward, the well-performing Ellerslie track lends confidence that this race will perform well at the G3 level. **Alert** removed.

Canterbury JC, Metropolitan Trophy (L) – typically a strongly rating race for its level, this year's edition returned to form with a strong 103.5 rating versus the required benchmark of 100. **Alert** removed.

Wellington RC, Marton Cup (L) – the prior season's edition had been run on an unseasonal heavy track at the alternative Hastings venue and rated a lowly 97.5. This season rated an adequate 100.5. **Alert** removed.

Wellington RC, Hawke's Bay Cup (L) – after previously been run on a heavy track and rating an awfully weak 94, this season's edition at Trentham rated a solid 101.25, with top 4 starters being a strong 104.5. **Alert** removed.

Rangitikei RC, Marton 1600 (L) – the prior season had been unlucky with a sharp divergence between the highest rated starters versus finishers. This year's race was a solid 102, with the top 4 starters being a strong 105. **Alert** removed.

Waikato TR, Travis Stakes (G2) – the prior year had rated 101.25 versus the 103 threshold and the NZPC was concerned regarding the follow-on effects of the (now) one-off move of the NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes to Champions Day. However, this season did see a 104.5 rating versus the threshold of 103 and benchmark of 106. Looking forward, the programme for

2025/26 has a logical sequence of lead-up races which should see this race perform well. **Alert** removed.

5.5 Warnings Imposed or Maintained

Wellington RC, Wakefield Challenge Stakes (G2) – this race has struggled for a consistent home in recent years due in part to the advent of the Karaka 2yo race. This season's edition was a 5-horse field and failed for the third consecutive year, with a rating of 101.25 versus the 102 tolerance threshold. The race's placement was discussed at length and a requested move to Awapuni on 20 December was approved in the hope that this location may attract better numbers and quality. This is likely a last opportunity to maintain G2 status. The **Warning** was maintained.

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 a Warning following the Pattern Review in the 2022/23 season. The 2023/24 edition did rate 97.5 compared to the 95 benchmark but it had been maintained at Warning status given the NZPC's reservations. This year's edition narrowly missed the threshold at 94.5. Options for a move earlier into the autumn are severely limited, so the NZPC approved the club's request to vary the race timing with Matariki given the absence of other Listed races at that time of year. The **Warning** was maintained.

Canterbury JC, NZ 2000 Guineas (G1) – a weak edition outside of the impressive winner, Savaglee (113) that rated 107.5 versus the tolerance of 111 and benchmark of 113. The top 4 starters only lifted it to 108.75. As with the 1000 Guineas, there is a risk to the long-term future of this race but the NZPC is heartened by further prizemoney increases, transport subsidies and a move in the calendar placement to the last day of the Christchurch carnival. It is critical to the industry that this race becomes consistently stronger and succeeds. **Warning** imposed.

Wellington RC, Wellington Guineas (G2) – this race has struggled for a consistent slot since the advent of the Karaka 3yo race. The March timing now faces further pressure from some NZB Kiwi horses ending their preparation at that race. Despite a \$300k stake, this year's edition failed for the third year in a row, rating 104 versus the 106 tolerance threshold. Despite attracting an 18-horse field, the top 4 starters only improved slightly to 105. However, the race does have a strong rating history for its top 4 starters and it will move to Awapuni in 2025/26. On this basis, the NZPC agreed to give it one last chance at G2 level. **Warning** maintained.

Wellington RC, NZ Oaks (G1) – the race will move from its traditional late-March date at Trentham to late-February at Ellerslie, 2 weeks prior to the NZ Derby. It will remain at 2400m. The uncertain status of Trentham was an

important factor in this move. A key priority of the NZPC is to retain the G1 status of this critical race after 3 weak editions. This move is strictly for one year only, with all implications being assessed thereafter. After many years of solid ratings, we have now had three weak editions in a row which could potentially have seen the race downgraded. This season rated 106 versus the 107 threshold and a lack of depth did not see the top 4 starters improve this. A **Warning** was maintained.

Matamata RC, Horlicks Plate (G1) – a weak edition that rated 109.25 versus the tolerance threshold of 112 and the benchmark of 115. The top 4 starters only came in at 112.25. The NZPC notes that the race will be run at Te Rapa in 2025/26. **Warning** imposed.

Waikato TR, Ormond Memorial (G1) – this year's edition was staged at Te Rapa due to the Hastings track outage but again missed its mark with a rating of 110.25 versus the 112 threshold. This did raise the risk of being downgraded however the NZPC was satisfied that the field depth was solid with a 113.5 outcome for the top 4 starters. It will be run at Ellerslie in 2025/26 and urgently requires a stronger edition if it is to maintain its G1 status. **Warning** maintained.

Wellington RC, Telegraph (G1) – this year's edition was extremely unlucky to only rate 111.75. The top 4 starters rated 114, while Crocetti and Babylon Berlin were scratched on race morning. While this was the third failure in a row, the strong field depth and its now ideal placement 3 weeks prior to the Railway saw the NZPC decline to downgrade it. **Warning** maintained.

Auckland TR, Auckland Cup (G2) – an extremely low rating of 99.5 versus the 107 tolerance threshold. It was impacted by the well-exposed Australian horse, Interpretation (105) carrying 59kg and finishing a 3-length third. There is little appetite at the NZPC for any further downgrade of this race but given the second consecutive failure, a **Warning** was imposed.

Otago RC, Dunedin Gold Cup (L) – this year's edition rated 98.25 versus the benchmark of 100. The top 4 starters rated 99.75. This race has struggled to meet its 100 benchmark in most seasons but plays an important role on a key day for Otago racing and is one of a small number of Pattern races run at 2400m+. **Warning** imposed.

Auckland TR, NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes (G1) – throughout its history, this race has typically been one of NZ's strongest G1 performers but it has concerningly now had three consecutive weak editions. This year's race had been run as a one-year trial on Champions Day at Ellerslie but it was clear that the depth of genuine G1 level horses could not sustain the number of G1 races on that day. The rating of 107.25 compared to the tolerance threshold of 108 although the top 4 starters did rate 109 and it has consistently surpassed the threshold on this basis. The NZPC has approved a move to Awapuni on 28 March and is confident the race can return to its former strength in its new position, with an attractive and logical fillies and mares race sequence now in place. **Warning** maintained.

5.6 Alerts Imposed or Maintained

Auckland TR, Ellerslie Sires Produce Stakes (G1) – rated 106.25 versus the 107 tolerance threshold. Field depth was solid but it lacked a horse with a stand-out rating. The scratching of La Dorada also impacted on the rating of the race. **Alert** imposed.

Manawatu RC, Manawatu Sires Produce Stakes (G1) – this race did benefit from the presence of La Dorada (112) but lacked other high rating horses. The race rated 106 and the top 4 starters were 106.75 versus the 107 tolerance threshold. **Alert** imposed.

Auckland TR, NZ Derby (G1) – after surpassing the tolerance threshold of 111 in the prior two editions, this year's race rated only 108, with the top 4 starters being 109.5. While the winner Willydoit was visually impressive, his 112 rating was held back by the 108 rating of the 2nd placed Australian visitor, Thedooroflove. This year's 3yo crop did not achieve high ratings. Looking forward, the move of the NZ Oaks to 2 weeks prior to the NZ Derby may see a degree of cross-pollination between the races. **Alert** imposed.

Auckland TR, Great Northern Guineas (G2) – the rating of 105.25 narrowly missed the 106 tolerance threshold. The NZPC acknowledges the top 4 starters averaged 108.5 and this is unlikely to be a race that is at risk in the future. **Alert** imposed.

Auckland TR, Avondale Guineas (G2) – the rating of 105 missed the 106 threshold but the top 4 starters did rate 108 with Willydoit finishing 10th in a race that was run at a very slow pace. Again, this race is unlikely to be in danger in the future. **Alert** imposed.

Manawatu RC, Manawatu Classic (G3) – normally a solid late-season 3yo staying race, this edition rated 100.25 versus the 101 threshold, with an unusually weak field that lacked depth. **Alert** imposed.

Otago RC, Dunedin Guineas (L) – rated 97 versus the 98 threshold, with the top 4 starters being a solid 100. There was some discussion about the desirability of a slightly greater gap between the three southern Guineas races to maximise the chances of horses racing in all of them. **Alert** imposed.

Wellington RC, Captain Cook Stakes (G1) – rated 110 versus the 112 threshold but the top 4 starters did average 114, with the 117 rated El Vencedor unplaced. The race was impacted by Perfect Scenario (107) and Puntura (106) finishing 3rd and 4th. Field depth was solid. **Alert** imposed.

Canterbury JC, Canterbury Gold Cup (G3) – raced on a heavy track and rated 100.75 versus the 102 threshold but the top 4 starters rated 103.75. Unlikely to be at major risk looking forward. **Alert** imposed.

Wanganui JC, Marton Metric Mile (G3) – rated 101.75 to just miss the 102 tolerance threshold. The top 4 starters rated 106.5, with Belardo Boy (107) and Lightning Jack (109) being unplaced. **Alert** imposed.

Canterbury JC, New Zealand Cup (G3) – rated 99.75 versus the tolerance threshold of 102. However, the top 4 starters did average a solid 104. **Alert** imposed.

Waikato RC, Waikato Gold Cup (G3) – rated 100.75 versus the 102 threshold, with the top 4 starters only improving slightly to 101.75. **Alert** imposed.

Auckland TR, City Of Auckland Cup (G3) – rated 100.25 versus the 102 threshold although the top 4 starters were a robust 105.5. **Alert** imposed.

Wellington RC, Wellington Cup (G3) – rated 100.75 versus the 102 threshold but the top 4 starters were 104.75. **Alert** imposed.

Auckland TR, Avondale Cup (G3) – after being downgraded from G2 last year, this race rated 101.25 versus the 102 threshold. The top 4 starters in the 18-horse field did however average 105. **Alert** imposed.

Canterbury JC, Spring Classic (L) – rated just 96.5 versus the 100 benchmark, with the top 4 starters only being 97.75. **Alert** imposed.

Canterbury JC, Stewards Stakes (L) – after earlier being a G3 race, this year's edition rated 99 versus the 100 benchmark. However, the top 4 starters were 105.75 and this race is likely to maintain its status in the future. **Alert** imposed.

Taranaki RI, Opunake Cup (L) – unlucky to rate 99.75, just missing the 100 benchmark. The top 4 starters averaged 105.5 and this race is unlikely to be a future concern. **Alert** imposed.

Auckland TR, Westbury Classic (G2) – rated 102.25 versus the 103 threshold but the race depth was excellent, with the top 4 starters being 108.5. The NZPC notes that the move of this race to Champions Day from 2025/26 onwards will likely strengthen it. **Alert** imposed.

Canterbury JC, South Island Breeders Stakes (G3) – rated 96.5 versus the 98 threshold, with the top 4 starters only a slight improvement at 97.75. This autumn race has tended to be one of the weaker performing F&M races but is still likely to retain its status looking forward. **Alert** imposed.

Racing Tauranga, Tauranga Classic (L) – the rating of 95.75 narrowly missed the 96 threshold. This race has generally met its mark easily. **Alert** imposed.

5.7 Other Race Comments

Wellington RC – Wellesley Stakes (L) – the NZPC supported a club request to move this race to 3 January, to provide a 3-week turnaround to the Karaka 2yo race.

Wellington RC, Levin Classic (G2) - the NZPC supported a club request to move this 1400m race to 3 January, to provide a 3-week turnaround to the Karaka 3yo race.

Auckland TR, Trevor Eagle Memorial (L) – the NZPC discussed but denied a club request to move this 3yo 1500m race from its slot in late November. While it is a congested period for 3yo racing, it is performing very well in its current position.

Manawatu RC, Eulogy Stakes (G3) – the NZPC denied a club request to reduce the distance from 1600m to 1400m. The race is performing well in its current slot and sits well with the move to run the NZ Oaks one month earlier.

Auckland TR, Sir Patrick Hogan Stakes (G2) – the NZPC denied a club request to reduce the distance to 1600m. The race met its threshold this year, the NZPC is reluctant to reduce middle distance opportunities for 3yo's, and it may be enhanced by the earlier running of the NZ Oaks.

Marton JC, Lowland Stakes (G2) – the NZPC approved a move to run this 2100m race at the last day of racing at Trentham on 31 January to fit with the move of the NZ Oaks.

Racing Taupo, 3yo Fillies, unlisted – the NZPC met in May to consider a request to upgrade this race. The NZPC again declined to do so despite a solid race rating of 98.25 versus the 94 benchmark. The NZPC believes the race is a starting point for the season rather than being a target race in its own right. The ratings earned by the fillies running in this race were well below their season-peak ratings. The 5-horse field in 2024/25 also fell away sharply after Alabama Express and Archaic Smile. The NZPC agreed that it will again consider the race in May 2026 when it will have information regarding the strength of the 2025/26 edition.

Auckland TR, Kings Plate (G3) – the NZPC denied a club request to alter the conditions of this 1200m race on Champions Day from SW&P to handicap. While the field was small in 2024/25, the race is performing strongly and there is some future potential that it could be upgraded to G2, for which a gap does exist in the Pattern.

Auckland TR, Fulton Family Stakes (L) - the NZPC denied a club request to upgrade this 1500m race in early February to G3. While it is performing strongly, the latest rating of 105.75 and Pattern Race Rating of 106.75 are not quite sufficient at this stage. There are also ample current opportunities at this distance range in the Pattern.

South Canterbury RC, Timaru Cup, unlisted – the NZPC considered but denied a club request to return this race to Listed status. Field depth was solid but the race rating of 97.5 did not meet the 100 benchmark. With the proportion of Listed races still being at the high end of global benchmarks, NZPC considers this race is best placed as a high prizemoney heritage handicap.

Auckland TR, Westbury Classic (G2) – the NZPC approved a request to move this 1400m fillies and mares race from Karaka Millions day in late January to Champions Day in early March. This will replace the NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes and fit well with the autumn programme.

Wellington RC, Cuddle Stakes (G3) – the NZPC approved a move to Awapuni on 28 February, 3 weeks prior to the new date for the NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes.

Auckland TR, Royal Descent Stakes, unlisted – the NZPC noted the strong ratings of this 1400m fillies and mares race and expects these to be enhanced by the race moving to 24 January. This race will likely be a strong candidate for promotion to the Pattern.

Riverton RC, Francolin Stakes, unlisted – the NZPC declined a request to upgrade the race to Listed status as its latest rating of 87.25 and 3-year Pattern Race Rating of 90.81 were well below the 96 benchmark for the race category and the 98 mark that is required as a minimum for promotion.

5.7 Watch-List for Potential Promotion to the Pattern

Taupo RC, 3yo fillies, 17 August 2025.

Auckland TR, Royal Descent Stakes, Fillies and Mares, 1600m, 24 January 2026.

5.8 Summary of Warnings and Alerts

Status	Warnings Issued	Alerts Issued	Warnings Removed	Alerts Removed
Group 1	6	4	3	0
Group 2	3	3	0	3
Group 3	0	9	0	1
Listed	2	5	0	8
Total	11	21	3	12

5.9 Warnings Removed

G1	Hawke's Bay Guineas	Hawke's Bay RI
G1	NZ 1000 Guineas	Canterbury JC
G1	Zabeel Classic	Auckland TR

5.10 Warnings Issued or Maintained

G1	NZ 2000 Guineas	Canterbury JC
G1	NZ Oaks	Wellington RC
G1	Horlicks Plate	Matamata RC
G1	Ormond Memorial	Waikato TR
G1	Telegraph	Wellington RC
G1	NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes	Auckland TR
G2	Wakefield Challenge Stakes	Wellington RC
G2	Wellington Guineas	Wellington RC
G2	Auckland Cup	Auckland TR
L	Triton Stakes	Wanganui JC
L	Dunedin Gold Cup	Otago RC

5.11 Alerts Removed

G2	Thames Valley Stakes	Racing Tauranga
G2	Japan/NZ International Trophy	Racing Tauranga
G2	Travis Stakes	Waikato RC
G3	Manawatu Cup	Manawatu RC
L	Great Northern Champagne Stakes	Auckland TR
L	Southland Guineas	Southland RC
L	Canterbury Belle Stakes	Canterbury JC
L	Easter Handicap	Auckland TR
L	Metropolitan Trophy	Canterbury JC
L	Marton Cup	Wellington RC
L	Hawke's Bay Cup	Wellington RC
L	Marton 1600	Rangitikei RC

5.12 Alerts Issued

G1	Ellerslie Sires Produce	Auckland TR
G1	Manawatu Sires Produce	Manawatu RC
G1	NZ Derby	Auckland TR
G1	Captain Cook Stakes	Wellington RC
G2	Great Northern Guineas	Auckland TR
G2	Avondale Guineas	Auckland TR
G2	Westbury Classic	Auckland TR
G3	Avondale Cup	Auckland TR
G3	Manawatu Classic	Manawatu RC
G3	Canterbury Gold Cup	Canterbury JC
G3	Marton Metric Mile	Wanganui JC
G3	New Zealand Cup	Canterbury JC
G3	Waikato Gold Cup	Waikato JC

G3	City of Auckland Cup	Auckland TR
G3	Wellington Cup	Wellington RC
G3	South Island Breeders Stakes	Canterbury JC
L	Dunedin Guineas	Otago RC
L	Spring Classic	Canterbury JC
L	Stewards Stakes	Canterbury JC
L	Opunake Cup	Taranaki RI
L	Tauranga Classic	Racing Tauranga

SECTION 6

2024-25 NEW ZEALAND CLASSIFICATIONS RACE RATINGS

(including F&M allowance, where relevant)

Two-Year-Olds	Group	2024-2025	Benchmark
Ellerslie Sires Produce	G1	106.25	110.00
Manawatu Sires Produce	G1	106.00	110.00
Wakefield Challenge Stakes	G2	101.25	105.00
Eclipse Stakes	G2	102.75	105.00
Matamata Breeders Stakes	G2	98.50	101.00
Colin Jillings 2-Year-Old Classic	G3	101.50	100.00
Matamata Slipper	G3	102.50	100.00
CJC Welcome Stakes	L	100.00	95.00
Counties Challenge Stakes	L	100.25	95.00
Wellesley Stakes	L	104.00	95.00
Karaka Million	LR	97.25	95.00
Star Way Stakes	L	99.50	95.00
Great Northern Foal Stakes	L	95.75	95.00
CJC Champagne Stakes	L	95.50	95.00
Great Northern Champagne Stakes	L	95.50	95.00
Triton Stakes	L	93.75	95.00
Ryder Stakes	L	96.25	95.00

Three-Year-Olds Open	Group	2024-2025	Benchmark
NZ 2000 Guineas	G1	107.50	113.00
NZ Derby	G1	108.00	113.00
Levin Classic	G2	107.25	113.00
Hawke's Bay Guineas	G2	109.50	108.00
Sarten Memorial	G2	109.25	108.00
Great Northern Guineas	G2	105.25	108.00
Waikato Guineas	G2	106.00	108.00
Avondale Guineas	G2	105.00	108.00
Wellington Guineas	G2	104.00	108.00
Northland Breeders Stakes	G3	102.75	103.00
John Griggs Stakes	G3	102.25	103.00
Canterbury Stakes	G3	101.25	103.00
Wellington Stakes	G3	104.25	103.00

Bonecrusher Stakes	G3	104.00	103.00
Mr Tiz Trophy	G3	105.25	103.00
Manawatu Classic	G3	100.25	103.00
Championship Stakes	G3	101.75	103.00
Cambridge Breeders	G3	104.00	103.00
Wanganui Guineas	L	99.75	98.00
Sir Colin Meads Trophy	L	105.00	98.00
Trevor Eagle Memorial	L	104.00	98.00
Northern Guineas Prelude	L	103.25	98.00
Karaka 3YO Mile	LR	108.00	98.00
Gore Guineas	L	98.50	98.00
Southland Guineas	L	98.50	98.00
Uncle Remus Stakes	L	107.00	98.00
Dunedin Guineas	L	97.00	98.00
Mufhasa Stakes (NZB Kiwi)	LR	110.00	98.00

Three-Year-Olds Fillies	Group	2024-2025	Benchmark
NZ 1000 Guineas	G1	107.25	109.00
NZ Oaks	G1	106.00	109.00
Soliloquy Stakes	G2	104.50	104.00
Eight Carat Classic	G2	103.50	104.00
Royal Stakes	G2	102.50	104.00
Sir Tristram Fillies Classic	G2	104.25	104.00
Lowland Stakes	G2	105.75	104.00
Gold Trail Stakes	G3	105.75	99.00
Eulogy Stakes	G3	102.00	99.00
Desert Gold Stakes	G3	99.75	99.00
Sunline Vase	G3	99.00	99.00
Canterbury Belle Stakes	L	97.75	94.00
Trudy Thompson Memorial	L	100.00	94.00
NZ Bloodstock Insurance Stakes	L	97.50	94.00
Oaks Prelude	L	98.00	94.00
NZ Bloodstock Airfreight Stakes	L	96.75	94.00
Warstep Stakes	L	97.75	94.00

4YO WFA	Group	2024-2025	Benchmark
Aotearoa Classic	L	105.75	100

Weight-For Age Open	Group	2024-2025	Benchmark
Hawke's Bay Challenge Stakes	G1	112.25	115.00

Horlicks Plate	G1	109.75	115.00
Ormond Memorial	G1	110.25	115.00
Captain Cook Stakes	G1	110.00	115.00
Zabeel Classic	G1	115.00	115.00
Telegraph	G1	111.75	115.00
Waikato Sprint	G1	112.50	115.00
International Stakes	G1	113.50	115.00
Otaki Maori WFA	G1	112.00	115.00
New Zealand Stakes	G1	113.25	115.00
Foxbridge Plate	G2	111.25	110.00
Thames Valley Stakes	G2	109.50	110.00
Manawatu Challenge Stakes	G2	110.25	110.00
Arawa Stakes	G3	111.25	105.00
Balmerino Stakes	G3	108.00	105.00
White Robe	G3	106.50	105.00
Canterbury Gold Cup	G3	100.75	105.00
AG Challenge Stakes	L	103.50	100.00

Handicap & Set Weight + Penalty	Group	2024-2025	Benchmark
Thorndon Mile	G1	111.25	115.00
Railway Handicap	G1	114.50	115.00
ARC Rich Hill Mile	G2	107.00	110.00
Auckland Cup	G2	99.50	110.00
Japan/NZ International Trophy	G2	107.00	110.00
Awapuni Gold Cup	G2	107.50	110.00
Winter Cup	G3	102.00	110.00
Marton Metric Mile	G3	101.75	105.00
G R Kelt Memorial	G3	102.50	105.00
Thompson Handicap	G3	107.50	105.00
Couplands Bakeries Mile	G3	105.25	105.00
New Zealand Cup	G3	99.75	105.00
Counties Bowl	G3	113.00	105.00
Counties Cup	G3	103.75	105.00
Great Northern Challenge Stakes	G3	107.25	105.00
Concorde	G3	113.00	105.00
FC Johnstone Handicap	G3	106.25	105.00
Waikato Gold Cup	G3	100.75	105.00
Manawatu Cup	G3	105.00	105.00
City Of Auckland Cup	G3	100.25	105.00
Anniversary Hdcp	G3	102.25	105.00
Trentham Stakes	G3	102.00	105.00
Wellington Cup	G3	100.75	105.00
Taranaki Stakes	G3	104.00	105.00

Avondale Cup	G3	101.25	105.00
King's Plate	G3	113.75	105.00
Easter Handicap	G3	103.25	105.00
Spring Classic	L	96.50	100.00
Westminster Handicap	L	103.00	100.00
Metropolitan Trophy	L	103.75	100.00
Pegasus Stakes	L	102.25	100.00
Stewards Stakes	L	99.00	100.00
Wanganui Cup	L	102.00	100.00
Matamata Cup	L	106.25	100.00
Marton Cup	L	100.50	100.00
Timaru Stakes	L	100.00	100.00
Fulton Family Mile	L	105.75	100.00
James Hazlett Stakes	L	102.75	100.00
Kaimai Stakes	L	102.50	100.00
Dunedin Gold Cup	L	98.25	100.00
Lightning Handicap	L	106.75	100.00
Flying Handicap	L	102.00	100.00
Hawkes Bay Cup	L	101.50	100.00
City Of Napier Sprint	L	105.50	100.00
Anzac Handicap	L	101.00	100.00
CJC Great Easter Stakes	L	102.00	100.00
Rotorua Cup	L	101.25	100.00
Marton 1600	L	102.00	100.00
Opunake Cup	L	99.50	100.00

Fillies and Mares – WFA, Handicap & Set Weight + Penalty	Group	2024-2025	Benchmark
NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes	G1	107.25	111.00
Auckland TB Breeders Stakes	G2	106.50	106.00
Lady Norrie Stakes	G2	106.50	106.00
Westbury Classic	G2	102.25	106.00
Travis Stakes	G2	104.50	106.00
Evergreen Stakes	G3	102.00	101.00
Canterbury Breeders Stakes	G3	98.00	101.00
South Island Breeders Stakes	G3	96.50	101.00
Cuddle Stakes	G3	101.75	101.00
Manawatu Breeders Stakes	G3	100.50	101.00
Rotorua Stakes	G3	99.00	101.00
Wairarapa TB Breeders Stakes	L	99.00	96.00
Lisa Chittick Plate	L	102.50	96.00

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