



National Racing Bureau

Greyville Racecourse
150 Avondale Road
Greyville
Durban
Telephone: (031) 314 – 1777
Fax : (031) 314 – 1797

E-Mail: racing@goldcircle.co.za

12 May 2021

Dear Trainer,

CHANGES TO NATIONAL PATTERN RACE CONDITIONS

At a recent 2-day workshop of the three Racing Operators to discuss improvements to the race conditions of Graded and Listed races nationally, the following changes were agreed and will be applied from the new racing season commencing 1 August 2021 :-

- all pattern handicaps to be benchmarked at 52kg as a quality control measure to ensure that our pattern races continue to achieve the average rating levels required internationally to retain their current Graded / Listed status. These benchmarks have been set in accordance with the required levels as well as the historical reality of prior year results of the various races. The effect of the benchmarking will also benefit trainers' planning for the races as it provides advance certainty around the required ratings range for each race.
- In certain cases, where appropriate, handicap races have been changed to either pinnacle type conditions or WFA with pattern penalties to give more variety to the pattern as well as help with quality control of these races. With the exception of the staying races carrying pinnacle type conditions, there will no longer be a 6-point penalty cap on the winners of these races.
- conditions races carrying penalties for minor race wins with additional penalties for Graded / Listed race wins will now in the main be level weights with Graded / Listed wins penalties only i.e. no longer have cumulative penalties for minor race wins. There are a few exceptions amongst the early juvenile race features which effectively have juvenile plate conditions.
- the period for pattern race win penalties in conditions races to apply has been reduced from the preceding 18 months to the preceding 13 months across the board. This means horses will effectively only carry such penalties in these races for just over a year.
- with the exception of the Joburg Spring Challenge and Joburg Spring F&M Challenge (both Gr 2 races) which have now both had an 8 point cap on the winners' penalty and no penalty for placed horses added to their conditions due to the fact that they are run so early in the season, no other Grade 1 and Grade 2 races will have any form of protection from the handicappers.
- the Gauteng Summer Cup (Gr 1) and Golden Horse Sprint (Gr 1) will now have a 6kg weight range (instead of 8kg previously) - which effectively makes it a handicap with conditions to assist in quality control in retaining its Grade 1 status.
- a number of other minor tweaks to pinnacle bands in some pattern races have taken place without changing the fundamental conditions of these races, these have also been done as a quality control mechanism to retain current pattern status.

The specific conditions for each race will be contained in the Programme of Meetings Brochure as published by the respective Racing Operators from time to time.

**Yours sincerely,
Aveen Sewpersad**

National Racing Bureau Manager