

Racing NSW – Discretionary Handicapping Policy Statement

Post-race Benchmark ratings may be subject to a final review and alteration by the Racing NSW Handicapping Panel when the horse is next nominated and handicapped in a race.

It is important to note that there are instances where the quality of the field can affect scales used in the handicapping of races.

This more often applies in feature handicap races, where the Racing NSW Handicapping Panel has the discretion to be flexible as a consequence of a very strong nomination or alternatively one not so strong. However, this flexibility may be applied equally to standard class races, especially when a horse may have raced ~~above~~its current grade at its previous start and proves to be competitive, or where horses from the different sectors meet in a race.

This flexibility allows proper attention to all the considerations and deliberations that are necessary to frame weights in our races.

In order to accommodate these changeable circumstances and to maintain a practical approach to handicapping, it is necessary that a post-race Benchmark rating of a horse may be an **indicative** figure only and may be amended or varied later for competitive reasons, particularly when a horse has competed at a higher level than ever before and performed well.

The **indicative** Benchmark figure will be subject to a final review and alteration by the Racing NSW Handicapping Panel when the horse is next handicapped in a race. In many cases the benchmark will collate directly to the weight allotted and no variance will occur, but there will be instances where slight movement is applied by the handicapping panel.