

NEW NATIONAL HUNT HANDICAP BANDS (Effective from January 1st, 2025)

Handicap Hurdles

(Minimum rating horses can now run off is 72 rather than 80)

- **0-100**
 - o 95's and 102's to be replaced by 0-100
 - Horses placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd on latest start in any Hurdle race protected first
 - Random Ballot (ballot dates from 1st January, 2025)
- **110 = 11st 12lbs**
 - o 109's to be replaced by 110 = 11st 12lbs
 - No horse rated more than 115 can enter
 - Horses rated 112 followed by horses rated 111 are protected first
 - Horses rated at the benchmark (110) (or the next highest rated entered horse) down to the minimum stipulated weight in the race are protected next (in rating order)
 - Horses rated 113, 114 & 115 are protected next in ascending order
 - Horses which are rated below the minimum stipulated weight gain the least protection with the lowest weight balloted first
- **120 = 11st 12lbs**
 - o 116's and 123's to be replaced by 120 = 11st 12lbs
 - No horse rated more than 125 can enter
 - Horses rated 122 followed by horses rated 121 are protected first
 - Horses rated at the benchmark (120) (or the next highest rated entered horse) down to the minimum stipulated weight in the race are protected next (in rating order)
 - Horses rated 123, 124 & 125 are protected next in ascending order
 - Horses which are rated below the minimum stipulated weight gain the least protection with the lowest weight balloted first

N.B. There are no ballot rule changes for Handicap Hurdles with a higher rating.

Handicap Steeplechases

- **0-100**
 - o 95's and 102's to be replaced by 0-100
 - Horses placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd on latest start in any chase protected first
 - Random Ballot (ballot dates from 1st January, 2025)
- **110 = 11st 12lbs**
 - o 109's to be replaced by 110 = 11st 12lbs
 - No horse rated more than 115 can enter
 - Horses rated 112 followed by horses rated 111 are protected first
 - Horses rated at the benchmark (110) (or the next highest rated entered horse) down to the minimum stipulated weight in the race are protected next (in rating order)
 - Horses rated 113, 114 & 115 are protected next in ascending order
 - Horses which are rated below the minimum stipulated weight gain the least protection with the lowest weight balloted first
- **120 = 11st 12lbs**
 - o 116's and 123's to be replaced by 120 = 11st 12lbs
 - No horse rated more than 125 can enter
 - Horses rated 122 followed by horses rated 121 are protected first
 - Horses rated at the benchmark (120) (or the next highest rated entered horse) down to the minimum stipulated weight in the race are protected next (in rating order)
 - Horses rated 123, 124 & 125 are protected next in ascending order
 - Horses which are rated below the minimum stipulated weight gain the least protection with the lowest weight balloted first

N.B. There are no ballot rule changes for Handicap Steeplechases with a higher rating.