

## **NEW NATIONAL HUNT HANDICAP BANDS**

(Effective from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 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
    - Random Ballot (ballot dates from 1<sup>st</sup> 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
    - Random Ballot (ballot dates from 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**