

Programming Changes from 1st August 2020

Racing NSW has today announced changes to programming of Metropolitan and Provincial races that will take effect from 1 August 2020.

The changes below follow a period of reviewing the major changes to programming and handicapping that have been operating since September 2018, as well as extensive consultation with trainers.

- 1) Increase the standard minimum Metropolitan Midweek race to BM72 level from BM70.**
- 2) Decrease the Conditional Provincial BM70 level down to BM68 level. Schedule some standard BM68 races when required.**
- 3) Introduction of a Conditional Open race into the Provincial area, with these to be programmed once or twice monthly – same conditions as current *Conditional BM races.**
- 4) Class 2 Provincial races will be deleted from programmes and replaced with benchmark races.**
In addition, there will be a lower standard first win penalty for provincial winners – benchmark 59, down from benchmark 60. The maximum benchmark increase for winning a Provincial Class 1 race will be four points.
- 5) Introduction of a 3yo only Graduation race for Metropolitan midweek programmes.**
A progressive race for 3yo's, the Graduation race is explained below.

3YO Graduation Race

Conditions:

Handicap race, 61kg equalling benchmark 68

No horse can carry more than 63kg irrespective of benchmark

All maidens carry set-weights - 55kg (males) and 53kg (females), irrespective of form

Horses become ineligible after winning two Graduation races

Ballot order will be

First balloted - maiden horses, ordered on average prizemoney over their last 3 starts, then First Starters by lot; then

Non-maiden horses by benchmark

These changes to the programming will build on the success of important programming and handicapping changes that have been in operation since 1 September 2018. Those changes have driven an increase in the average field size in both Metropolitan and Provincial races.

The largest increase in average field sizes can be seen in Provincial benchmark races with over one extra starter per race (9.58) compared to the previous year (8.51). Along with the progressive tiered programming structure, a crucial component of this increase was the ability for country performed horses to now utilise a lower Metropolitan/Provincial benchmark instead of their higher Country benchmark.

Programming Structure for the Metropolitan and Provincial area.

Effective 1 August 2020

Metro Saturday (BM=60kg)		Metro Midweek (BM=61kg)		Provincial (BM=61kg)
Group 1,2,3 and Listed (59kg min topweight required)				Group 3 and Listed (59kg min topweight required)
Open/BM94				
BM88		BM 88 (Carnival only)		
BM78,		BM78		
3&4YO BM78,		(Carnival Period & Friday Nights)		
3YO BM78				
3YO BM72		BM72		*Conditional Open
3&4YO BM72		3&4YO BM72		
		3YO GRADUATION RACE (Special conditions, BM68)		BM68 – (*Conditional, with some Standard)
		3&4YO BM64		BM64
				Class 1
		Maidens		Maidens

***Provincial Conditional race conditions:** Restricted to horses who have started in a minimum of 4 races in Australia of provincial and/or country status as recognised by Racing NSW within the previous year from the race date.