

CHANGES TO FLAT HANDICAP BANDS
(Effective from March 16th, 2025 (excluding Dundalk 21/03/25))

- **0-60**
 - o Horses placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd on their latest start in any Flat race protected first.
 - o Random Ballot (ballot dates from 1st January, 2025).

- **70 (benchmark)**
 - o No horse rated more than 75 can enter.
 - o Horses rated between 61 and 70 are protected first in descending order.
 - o Horses rated 72 followed by horses rated 71 are protected next.
 - o Horses rated 60 (or the next highest rated entered horse) down to the minimum stipulated weight in the race are protected next (in rating order).
 - o Horses rated 73, 74 & 75 are protected next in ascending order.
 - o Horses which are rated below the minimum stipulated weight gain the least protection with the lowest weight balloted first.

- **80 (benchmark)**
 - No horse rated more than 85 can enter.
 - Horses rated 82 followed by horses rated 81 are protected first.
 - Horses rated at the benchmark (80) (or the next highest rated entered horse) down to the minimum stipulated weight in the race are protected next (in rating order).
 - Horses rated 83, 84 & 85 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 Handicaps with a higher rating.

N.N.B. The minimum rating horses will now run off is 40 rather than 47 and the minimum initial rating will be 45. In all cases horses rated below 40 will be balloted first (the highest rating affording the greatest protection).