

HRI DIRECTIVE 10

Elimination and Balloting out of Horses:

Where the number of horses declared exceeds the number permitted to run in the race, HRI shall reduce the number of declared runners to the recommended limit by ballot or elimination in accordance with the criteria laid out in HRI Directive 10:

In all ~~five day~~ **normal** closing races only performances up to the closing of entries will be taken into account when determining protection from balloting/elimination. In early closing races performances up to the final forfeit stage will be taken into account when determining balloting/elimination. Balloting or elimination at the overnight declaration stage will take place among those horses which are liable for ballot/elimination. Horses with the lowest ballot/elimination numbers will be the first to get into a race.

2. In Weight For Age National Hunt Races (excluding Pattern/Listed Races)

2.1 Steeplechases (other than Beginners Steeplechases)

Protection from balloting will operate in the following order **(only performances up to the time of entry will be taken into account):**

- a. Horses which have won a Grade 1, 2 or 3 Weight For Age National Hunt race run under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority.
- b. Horses which have won a Steeplechase run under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority and which do not have an official Steeplechase rating in Ireland.
- c. Horses which have won a Steeplechase run under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority and which have an official Steeplechase rating in Ireland, the highest rating affording the greatest protection.
- d. Horses which have an official Steeplechase rating in Ireland of 115 or more, the highest rating affording the greatest protection.
- e. Horses which have won a Hurdle race, an I.N.H. Flat race or a National Hunt Flat race run under Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority and which were placed 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th in either of their last two completed Steeplechases run in Ireland.
- f. Horses which have won a Hurdle race run under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority and which have completed in less than three Steeplechases run in Ireland.
- g. Horses which have won an I.N.H. Flat race or a National Hunt Flat race under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority and which have completed in less than three Steeplechases run in Ireland.

- h. Horses placed 2nd 3rd, 4th, or 5th in either of their last two completed Steeplechases run in Ireland.
- i. Horses which have completed in three or more Steeplechases run in Ireland and to which the handicapper is not prepared to allocate an official Steeplechase rating in Ireland.
- j. Horses which have completed less than three times in steeplechases run in Ireland.
- k. Horses which have the highest official Steeplechase rating in Ireland below 115 at time of entry, the highest rating affording the greatest protection.

Note: When protection is equal, horses previously balloted/eliminated from a Steeplechase run under I.N.H.S. Rules, on or subsequent to ~~January 1st of the year previous to the current year~~ **180 days prior to the date of the preliminary ballot** will be protected from balloting first, the latest ballot/elimination date at the time of the preliminary ballot stage affording greatest protection. If it is necessary to ballot among horses of equal protection, such ballot will be random. For the purposes of Section (2.1) above, 'pulled up' will be considered a completed run.

2.2 Beginners Steeplechases

Protection from balloting will operate in the following order (only performances up to the time of entry will be taken into account):

- a. **Horses which have won a Grade 1, 2 or 3 Weight for Age National Hunt race run under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority and which have completed in less than three Steeplechases run in Ireland.**
- b. **Horses which have an official Steeplechase rating in Ireland of 115 or more, the highest rating affording the greatest protection.**
- c. **Horses placed 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th in either of their last two completed weight-for-age Steeplechases run in Ireland.**
- d. **Horses which have won a Hurdle race run under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority and which have completed in less than three Steeplechases run in Ireland.**
- e. **Horses which have won a I.N.H. Flat race or a National Hunt Flat race under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority and which have completed in less than three Steeplechases run in Ireland.**
- f. **Horses which have completed in two, three or four Steeplechases run in Ireland and to which the handicapper is not prepared to allocate an official Steeplechase rating in Ireland.**
- g. **Horses which have completed less than three times in Steeplechases run in Ireland.**

- h. Horses which have the highest official Steeplechase rating in Ireland below 115 at time of entry, the highest rating affording the greatest protection.
- i. Horses which have completed five or more times in Steeplechases run in Ireland and do not have an official Steeplechase rating in Ireland.

Note: When protection is equal, horses previously balloted/eliminated from a Steeplechase run under I.N.H.S. Rules, on or subsequent to 180 days prior to the date of the preliminary ballot will be protected from balloting first, the latest ballot/elimination date at the time of the preliminary ballot stage affording greatest protection. If it is necessary to ballot among horses of equal protection, such ballot will be random. For the purposes of Section (2.2) above, 'pulled up' will be considered a completed run.

2.3 Hurdles (other than Maiden Hurdles)

Protection from balloting will operate in the following order (only performances up to the time of entry will be taken into account):

- a. Horses which have won a Grade 1, 2 or 3 Weight For Age National Hunt race or a Group 1, 2 or 3 Flat race run under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority.
- b. Horses which have won a Hurdle race run under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority and which do not have an official Hurdle rating in Ireland.
- c. Horses which have won a Hurdle race run under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority and which have an official Hurdle rating in Ireland, the highest rating affording the greatest protection.
- d. Horses which have won a Flat race, an I.N.H. Flat race or a National Hunt Flat race run under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority and which were placed 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th in either of their last two completed hurdle races run in Ireland.
- e. Horses which have won an I.N.H. Flat race or a National Hunt Flat race run under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority and which have completed in less than three hurdle races run in Ireland.
- f. Horses which have an official Hurdle rating in Ireland of 105 or more, the highest rating affording the greatest protection.
- g. Horses placed 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th in either of their last two completed Hurdle races run in Ireland.
- h. Horses which have won a Flat race run under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority on or subsequent to January 1st of the year previous to the current year and which have completed in less than three hurdle races run in Ireland.

- i. Horses which have won a Flat race run under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority and which have completed in less than three Hurdle races run in Ireland.
- j. Horses which have completed in three or more Hurdle races run in Ireland and to which the handicapper is not prepared to allocate an official Hurdle rating in Ireland.
- k. Horses which have completed less than three times in Hurdle races run in Ireland.
- l. Horses which have the highest official Hurdle rating in Ireland below 105 at time of entry, the highest racing affording the greatest protection.

Note: When protection is equal, horses previously balloted/eliminated from a Hurdle Race run under I.N.H.S. Rules, on or subsequent to ~~January 1st of the year previous to the current year~~ **180 days prior to the date of the preliminary ballot** will be protected from balloting first, the latest ballot/elimination date at the time of the preliminary ballot stage affording greatest protection. If it is necessary to ballot among horses of equal protection, such ballot will be random. For the purposes of Section (2.3) above 'pulled up' will be considered a completed run.

2.4 Maiden Hurdles

Protection from balloting will operate in the following order (only performances up to the time of entry will be taken into account):

- a. **Horses which have won a Grade 1, 2 or 3 Weight for Age National Hunt race or a Group 1, 2 or 3 Flat race run under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority and which have completed in less than three Hurdle races run in Ireland.**
- b. **Horses which have an official Hurdle rating in Ireland of 115 or more at the time of entry (105 from 1st May to 30th September), the highest rating affording the greatest protection.**
- c. **Horses placed 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th in either of their last two completed weight-for-age Hurdle races run in Ireland.**
- d. **Horses which have won an I.N.H Flat race or a National Hunt Flat race run under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority and which have completed in less than three Hurdle races run in Ireland.**
- e. **Horses which have won a Flat race run under the Rules of any Recognised Turf Authority and which have completed in less than three Hurdle races run in Ireland.**
- f. **Horses which have completed in three, four or five Hurdle races run in Ireland and to which the handicapper is not prepared to allocate an official Hurdle rating in Ireland.**

- g. Horses which have completed less than three times in Hurdle races run in Ireland.
- h. Horses which have the highest official Hurdle rating in Ireland below 115 at time of entry (105 from 1st May to 30th September), the highest rating affording the greatest protection.
- i. Horses which have completed six or more times in Hurdle races run in Ireland and do not have an official Hurdle rating in Ireland.

Note: When protection is equal, horses previously balloted/eliminated from a Hurdle race run under I.N.H.S. Rules, on or subsequent to 180 days prior to the date of the preliminary ballot will be protected from balloting first, the latest ballot/elimination date at the time of the preliminary ballot stage affording greatest protection. If it is necessary to ballot among horses of equal protection, such ballot will be random. For the purposes of Section (2.4) above, 'pulled up' will be considered a completed run.

2.5 I.N.H. Flat Races

Protection from balloting/elimination will operate in the following order:

- a. Horses which have won an I.N.H. Flat race or a National Hunt Flat race run under the Rules of any recognised Turf Authority.
- b. Horses placed 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th in either of their last two completed runs in Irish National Hunt Flat races.
- c. Horses which have completed less than three times in I.N.H. Flat races run in Ireland.

Note: When protection is equal, horses previously balloted/eliminated from an I.N.H. Flat Race in Ireland, on or subsequent to ~~January 1st of the year previous to the current year~~ 180 days prior to the date of the preliminary ballot will be protected from balloting first, the latest ballot/elimination date at the time of the preliminary ballot stage affording greatest protection. If it is necessary to ballot among horses of equal protection, such ballot will be random. For the purposes of Section (2.5) above, 'pulled up' will be considered a completed run.

4. In National Hunt Handicaps

4.1 In Handicap Steeplechases with designated rating bands of 102 or less

In the case of Steeplechases, by elimination first of the lowest weighted horses which are out of the handicap at time of entry but before any penalties have been applied. If it is necessary to ballot among horses of equal protection, such ballot will be random.

Protection from balloting/elimination will then operate in the following order (only performances up to the time of entry will be taken into account):

- Horses placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd on their last run in a Steeplechase run in Ireland, on or subsequent to 1st January of the year previous to the current year.
- Horses previously balloted/eliminated from a **Handicap** Steeplechase run in Ireland **with a designated rating band of 102 or less and within the same distance category (indicated below) of the race to be balloted** on or subsequent to 1st January of the year previous to the current year **180 days prior to the date of the preliminary ballot**, the latest ballot/elimination date at the time of the preliminary ballot stage affording greatest protection.

In all of the above, if it is necessary to ballot among horses of equal protection, such ballot will in the first place afford the greatest protection to those horses which have not run in a Steeplechase in Ireland since 22nd June 2020 for the greatest number of days at the closing of entries and thereafter will be random.

The relevant distance categories are as follows:

- **2 Miles (or such a lesser distance which for course layout reasons as may be approved by the IHRB on exceptional occasions) to less than 2 miles and 4 furlongs.**
- **2 Miles and 4 furlongs or more.**

Notwithstanding the above and in the interest of permitting as many horses as possible a reasonable opportunity to run in steeplechase handicaps with a maximum rating band of 102 or less, horses will lose their provisional ballot status which:

- **are declared to run but not a reserve in any steeplechase scheduled to be run in Ireland up to and including the day after that fixed for the closing of declarations.**
- **since the time of entry for such a race, have run in a steeplechase in Ireland without being placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd**
- **since the time of entry for such race, have run more than once in a steeplechase in Ireland or have run once and are declared to run but not a reserve in any steeplechase scheduled to be run in Ireland up to and including the day after that fixed for the closing of declarations.**

In any of these circumstances, such re-ballot will afford the greatest protection to those horses with the greatest number of days since their last run in a steeplechase in Ireland at the closing of declarations and, when such protection is equal, horses with the highest rating will be afforded the greatest protection.

4.2 In Handicap Hurdles with designated rating bands of 95 or less

By elimination first of the lowest weighted horses which are out of the handicap at time of entry but before any penalties have been applied. If it is necessary to ballot among horses of equal protection, such ballot will be random. If it is necessary to ballot among horses of equal protection, such ballot will in the first place afford the greatest protection to those horses which have not run in a Hurdle race in Ireland for the greatest number of days at the closing of entries and thereafter will be random.

Protection from balloting/elimination will then operate in the following order (only performances up to the time of entry will be taken into account):

- a. Horses placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd on their last run in a Hurdle race run in Ireland, on or subsequent to 1st January of the year previous to the current year.
- b. Horses previously balloted/eliminated from a Handicap Hurdle race run in Ireland with a designated rating band of 95 or less **and within the same distance category (indicated below) of the race to be balloted**, on or subsequent to ~~1st January of the year previous to the current year~~ **180 days prior to the date of the preliminary ballot**, the latest ballot/elimination date at the time of the preliminary ballot stage affording greatest protection.

The relevant distance categories are as follows:

- **2 Miles (or such a lesser distance which for course layout reasons as may be approved by the IHRB on exceptional occasions) to less than 2 miles and 4 furlongs.**
- **2 Miles and 4 furlongs or more.**

In all of the above, if it is necessary to ballot among horses of equal protection, such ballot will in the first place afford the greatest protection to those horses which have not run in a Hurdle race in Ireland since 22nd June 2020 for the greatest number of days at the closing of entries and thereafter will be random.

Notwithstanding the above and in the interest of permitting as many horses as possible a reasonable opportunity to run in hurdle handicaps with a maximum rating band of 95 or less, horses will lose their provisional ballot status which:

- are declared to run but not a reserve in any hurdle race scheduled to be run in Ireland up to and including the day after that fixed for the closing of declarations.
- since the time of entry for such race, have run in a hurdle race in Ireland without being placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd.
- since the time of entry for such race, have run more than once in a hurdle race in Ireland or have run once and are declared to run but not a reserve in any hurdle race scheduled to be run in Ireland up to and including the day after that fixed for the closing of declarations.

In any of these circumstances, such re-ballot will afford the greatest protection to those horses with the greatest number of days since their last run in a hurdle race in Ireland at the closing of declarations and, when such protection is equal, horses with the highest rating will be afforded the greatest protection.

4.3 In all early closing National Hunt Handicaps

By ballot among or elimination of the lowest weighted horses which are out of the handicap after any penalties have been applied at the final forfeit stage. If this fails to reduce the number to the recommended limit a further ballot or elimination will take place among the remaining horses, with the elimination of the lowest rated horses after any penalties have been applied to the horses ratings in the race at the final forfeit stage. If it is necessary to ballot among horses of equal protection, such ballot will be random

4.4 In all other National Hunt Handicaps

By ballot among or elimination of the lowest weighted horses which are out of the handicap but before any penalties have been applied. If this fails to reduce the number to the recommended limit a further ballot or elimination will take place among the remaining horses, with the elimination of the lowest rated horses but before any penalties have been applied. If it is necessary to ballot among horses of equal protection, such ballot will be random.

5 In all Pattern and Listed Races

5.2 Steeplechases

By elimination of or ballot of those horses that have the lowest steeplechase handicap ratings or if they do not qualify for an official rating have the lowest assessment made by the Handicapper **(having regard to the applicable sex allowance)** so as to reduce the number of declared runners to the recommended limit. If it is necessary to ballot among horses of equal protection, such ballot will be random. Horses which have not run will be eliminated first by random ballot.

5.3 Hurdles

By elimination of or ballot of those horses that have the lowest hurdle handicap ratings or if they do not qualify for an official rating have the lowest assessment made by the Handicapper **(having regard to the applicable sex allowance)** so as to reduce the number of declared runners to the recommended limit. If it is necessary to ballot among horses of equal protection, such ballot will be random. Horses which have not run will be eliminated first by random ballot.

6. In all Certified Hunter Steeplechases

Protection from balloting/elimination will operate in the following order:

- Horses which have won a Certified Hunters Steeplechase.
- Horses which were placed second, third or fourth in either of their last two completed Steeplechases in Ireland confined to Certified Hunters.
- Horses which have won a Point to Point Steeplechase in Ireland on and from the commencement day of the two previous Point to Point seasons, the most number of wins in this period affording the greatest protection.

Note: When protection is equal, horses previously balloted/eliminated from a Steeplechase run under I.N.H.S. Rules, on or subsequent to ~~January 1st of the year~~ ~~previous to the current year~~ **180 days prior to the date of the preliminary ballot** will be protected from balloting first, the latest ballot/elimination date at the time of the preliminary ballot stage affording greatest protection. If it is necessary to ballot among horses of equal protection, such ballot will be random. For the purposes of Section (6) above 'pulled up' will be considered a completed run.