

GROUP AND LISTED RACE GENERAL CRITERIA FOR 2013 - 2014

At the time when applications for Group Race Status are considered, the following guidelines are adopted by the Review committee in assessing what is an appropriate feature event that qualifies for group status.

Group races or “black type” events as they are also known, were initially devised to sort out and distinguish for the purpose of sale catalogues, the difference in quality of races. The black type system was and still is primarily intended to produce a listing of superior races which reflect the best product that harness racing provides.

The Group Race List defines those races, which have most reliably provided a measure of the merit of horses competing, and to rate the races accordingly. The end users of this information include breeders and purchasers of standardbreds, auctioneer, bloodstock agents, owners, trainers, the media and the racing public at large.

It is essential that a structured feature race programme is established encompassing the various age group sectors. The aim is to provide a sensible sequence of major events that cater for the better-performed horses and in turn also provides the ideal platform for promotional purposes and maximises benefits to the industry.

1. The object is to produce a listing of superior races, which reflect the present day character of New Zealand racing with regard to providing for horses of different ages and sexes.
2. Primary considerations in assessing the standing of races include:
 - (a) Class of horse racing
 - (b) Historical importance and place on the calendar.
 - (c) Prize money
 - (d) Conducted where possible at “Premier” and bigger meetings.
 - (e) Totalisator and Fixed Odds turnover
3. In respect of historical importance, a race must have no fewer than two previous editions before consideration is given to inclusion as a Group Race.
4. Maintaining continuity of races on the Group Schedule is regarded as desirable so long as the continuity is credible.
5. Sales series races are not eligible for Group status due to the restricted nature of their entry.

In principle Group races should attract the very best horses available therefore the winner of the event has to be a cut above the average to earn “black type” recognition.

THE FOLLOWING GENERAL CRITERIA APPLY FOR EACH RESPECTIVE GROUP RACE CATEGORY:

Group I – Minimum Stake \$80,000

A handicap, Free-For-All, Discretionary or Classic Race being a race of national importance, with a superior stake and that has consistently attracted the best eligible horses from all parts of New Zealand

Group II – Minimum Stake \$40,000

A Handicap, Free-For-All, Discretionary or Classic Race being a race of national importance that consistently attracts the better-performed horses in the appropriate class or age group.

Group III – Minimum Stake \$25,000

A Handicap, Free-For-All, Discretionary or Classic Race being a race of national and/or regional importance, which consistently attracts the better performed horses in the appropriate class or age group. May be run as a Preferential Barrier Draw.

Listed

A PGG Wrightson Yearling Sales Series race that offers a superior stake and is a race of national importance, attracting horses from all parts of New Zealand.

Country Cup Championship Finals - Minimum Stake \$25,000

GROUP RACE STRUCTURE FOR 2013/14 SEASON

Group I events =	35
Group II events =	21
Group III events =	30
Listed Races =	7
Total Group & Listed Races =	93
(3.4% of approximately 2,700 races to be run this season)	