

# **INTERNATIONAL GRADING & RACE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IRPAC) TERMS OF REFERENCE**

## **Introduction**

The International Cataloguing Standards Committee (**ICSC**) was founded in 1981 to achieve uniformity of global cataloguing standards. It was initially made up of representatives of the racing authorities, breeders' organisations, and international auction houses of England, France, Ireland and the USA. Organizacion Sudamericana de Fomento del Sangre Pura De Carrera (**OSAF**) was added in 1995 and the Asian Racing Federation (**ARF**) was added in 1996.

In 1983, The Society of International Thoroughbred Auctioneers (**SITA**) was created, largely as a forum for the discussion of subjects of mutual interest to international thoroughbred auctioneers. The International Cataloguing Standards and International Statistics Book (**ICS Book**) contains a full listing of stakes races for the relevant year which will be accorded Group/Graded or Listed status in sales catalogues published by the sales companies that form SITA.

In 2002, the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (**IFHA**) established the International Grading & Race Planning Advisory Committee (**IRPAC**) and, in 2007, the ICSC transferred to IRPAC the responsibilities for making decisions in relation to promotions and demotions to the different parts of the ICS Book.

## **A. Purpose**

1. IRPAC is a committee of the IFHA Executive Council.
2. The primary objectives of IRPAC are to:
  - a. provide guidance to regional pattern/graded stakes committees (**Regional Committees**) in respect of black type quality control matters;
  - b. make decisions in relation to applications for inclusion in the ICS Book and proposed changes from one part of the ICS Book to another;
  - c. coordinate the annual publication of the ICS Book; and
  - d. facilitate communication between stakeholders in relation to black type quality control matters.

## **B. Membership**

3. IRPAC is composed of the following members:

### *Officeholders*

- a. Chair – appointed by the IFHA Executive Council;
- b. Vice-Chairs (2) – appointed by the IFHA Executive Council;
- c. Secretary – appointed by the IFHA Executive Council;

### *Members*

- d. 1 nominee designated by the European Pattern Committee (**EPC**);
  - e. 1 nominee designated by the American Graded Stakes Committee (**AGSC**);
  - f. 1 nominee designated by the Canadian Graded Stakes Committee (**CGSC**);
  - g. 2 nominees designated by the Asian Pattern Committee (**APC**);
  - h. 1 nominee designated by the OSAF Executive Committee;
  - i. 2 nominees designated by SITA, being its Chairman and Vice-Chairman;
  - j. 4 representatives of the breeding sector, being:
    - i. 1 nominee for North America designated by the US Jockey Club and the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association;
    - ii. 1 nominee for Europe designated by the European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders' Association;
    - iii. 1 nominee for Asia designated by the ARF; and
    - iv. 1 nominee for South America designated by OSAF.
- 4. IRPAC is assisted by 2 technical advisors, being the Co-Chairmen of the IFHA World's Best Racehorse Rankings Committee (**WBRRC**).
  - 5. Except in exceptional circumstances and with the prior written approval of the Chair, a member of IRPAC is not permitted to assign or delegate any of his/her membership responsibilities to another person.
  - 6. Each member of IRPAC is appointed as a member for a term not exceeding 4 years (as notified by the relevant nominating body), after which the member is eligible for re-nomination/re-appointment.
  - 7. The IFHA Executive Council is required to appoint the IRPAC officeholders and approve the appointment of each member of IRPAC. The Executive Council retains sole discretion to:
    - a. approve or reject any nomination for membership;
    - b. cancel any officeholder appointment or membership approval previously given.
  - 8. When appointing the IRPAC officeholders, the Executive Council should give due consideration to ensuring regional balance of the membership as a whole.
  - 9. When appointing or nominating a member for IRPAC, the relevant body should give due consideration to promoting diversity of members.

### **C. Functions**

- 10. The general roles and responsibilities of IRPAC are to:
  - a. provide guidance to Regional Committees in respect of black type quality control matters, including in relation to:
    - i. improving quality control systems;

- ii. ensuring there is a common understanding and a level of general agreement in respect of quality control principles and frameworks;
  - iii. the international racing calendar and new international races; and
  - iv. the implementation of a pattern/grading system in any country;
- b. facilitate communication between stakeholders, including Regional Committees, Regional Federations, Racing Authorities and SITA, in relation to black type quality control matters; and
- c. provide advice and regular reports to the IFHA Executive Council in relation to black type quality control matters.

11. The roles and responsibilities of IRPAC in relation to the ICS Book are to:

- a. in respect of proposed changes within the same part of the ICS Book:
  - i. consider decisions made by Regional Committees (for noting);
  - ii. provide reports of significant decisions made by Regional Committees to SITA (for noting by SITA); and
  - iii. in exceptional cases, recommend to Regional Committees that decisions made by them are reconsidered;
- b. in respect of applications for inclusion in the ICS Book and proposed changes from one part of the ICS Book to another (i.e. promotions and demotions):
  - i. consider recommendations made by Regional Committees (for decision/endorsement); and
  - ii. where endorsement is given, provide recommendations to SITA (for ratification by SITA); and
- c. coordinate the annual publication of the ICS Book.

12. For the sake of clarity, in fulfilling its functions it is not the role of IRPAC to impose conditions which seek to achieve global uniformity with respect to black type quality control.

13. The roles and responsibilities of IRPAC in relation to the WBRRC are to:

- a. consider for endorsement any amendments to the WBRRC terms of reference (to be approved by the IFHA Executive Council);
- b. consider for endorsement any policies and procedures formulated by the WBRRC (to be approved by the IFHA Executive Council); and
- c. receive from the WBRRC notification of any significant reports (including those containing the end of year rankings), decisions or policies/procedures agreed.

## D. IRPAC guidelines

14. When considering applications for inclusion in the ICS Book and proposed changes from one part of the ICS Book to another (i.e. promotions and demotions), IRPAC will have regard to the following guiding principles:

### *Eligibility*

- a. Applications for inclusion will be considered from Racing Authorities (through the relevant Regional Committee) which are members of the IFHA or any of its Regional Federations and where the relevant Regional Federation<sup>1</sup> and/or Regional Committee<sup>2</sup> (as applicable) has endorsed such application.
- b. Races must be restricted to horses as defined in Article 12 or 13 of the IFHA International Agreement on Breeding, Racing and Wagering.

### *Part I*

- a. Countries must have a Committee or Industry Group to provide oversight of, and maintain, the Group/Graded races in its country.
- b. No Group/Graded races should have any geographically-based conditions of entry in regard to the place of the horse's birth, training or ownership (i.e. they must be open to international competition).
- c. The country must adopt and implement a specific process based on ratings or other measures of quality to assess the quality of its races, as per the requirements of the relevant Regional Committee.
- d. As Part I countries are intended to comprise the world's major racing countries, granting Group/Graded race status or upgrading a race to a higher Group/Grade must be justified by the quality of the runners, as per the requirements of the relevant Regional Committee (as notified to IRPAC). Quality can be assessed by different systems including ratings, past performances and points.
- e. Except in exceptional circumstances, each country in Part I must have a minimum of (i) two Group 1/Grade 1 races, or (ii) a total of ten Group/Grade races (including at least one Group 1/Grade 1 race).
- f. Listed race status must be justified by the quality of the runners as per the requirements of the relevant Regional Committee (as notified to IRPAC). Quality can be assessed by different systems including ratings, past performances and points.
- g. Except in exceptional circumstances, Group/Graded races should be downgraded or lose their status if the quality of the runners does not justify the Group/Grade.
- h. Listed races should be downgraded if the quality of runners does not justify Listed status or if they do not adhere to published national standards that ensure quality runners.

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<sup>1</sup> European and Mediterranean Horseracing Federation, ARF or OSAF.

<sup>2</sup> EPC, AGSC, CGSC or APC.

- i. To upgrade an existing Group/Graded race, the race must have been run a minimum of two years around the same date, with similar race conditions and comparable prize money, and satisfy the relevant quality criteria.
- j. New Group 1 or 2/Grade 1 or 2 races may only be created without prior running under the following exceptional circumstances:
  - i. this creation must be induced by the implementation of a project or event of regional or global importance. Such project or event should be designed to have a major impact on the racing and/or breeding activity of all countries in the relevant region and eventually for such activity worldwide;
  - ii. the project or event must be unanimously supported by the members of each relevant Regional Committee responsible for controlling quality in the existing Group/Graded system;
  - iii. the project or event must have been notified by the Regional Committee to IRPAC, with sufficient detail and justification for exceptional circumstances no later than 30 days prior to the next scheduled IRPAC meeting; and
  - iv. any race granted Group/Graded status under exceptional circumstances must be reviewed every year by the relevant Regional Committee responsible for controlling quality in the existing Group/Graded system, and should be automatically downgraded after three runnings if the quality of the runners does not comply with the stated criteria.

#### *Promotions to Part I*

- a. Racing in these countries must be of sufficient stature in terms of number of horses competing, number of races contested and prize money distributed to justify their classification as being among the world's major racing countries.
- b. The number and percentage of races given Group/Graded or black type status in these countries should be consistent with the pattern of racing in the country without being disproportionate to the ratio of such races in the countries already in Part I.
- c. The Group/Grade and Listed races in these countries are the highest class races contested within them.
- d. Except in exceptional circumstances, in order to be eligible for promotion to Part I each country must have a minimum of (i) two Group 1/Grade 1 races or (ii) a total of ten Group/Grade races (including at least one Group 1/Grade 1 race).
- e. Ratings and other measures of quality shall have been reviewed by the relevant Regional Committee and be acceptable for Part I.
- f. Individual races of a Part II of Part III country can be promoted to Part I after two runnings if their quality complies with international Group/Graded status.

#### *Part II*

- a. The country must adopt and implement a specific process based on ratings or other measures of quality to assess the quality of its races.

- b. Races included in Part II are provided with Listed status and should be justified by the quality of the runners and any other factors considered relevant by the relevant Regional Committee (as notified to IRPAC). The percentage of black-type races to the total number of races run in that country will be taken into consideration, with a preference that it should be no higher than 3%.
- c. The ratio of the number of different horses to start in that country to the number of black type races will be taken into consideration, with a preference that it should be no lower than 40:1.
- d. The percentage of black type races which are open to foreign horses will be considered.
- e. The performances of the horses trained in that country when racing abroad, together with those of foreign-trained horses when racing in that country, will be considered.
- f. Individual races of a Part III country can be promoted to Part II after two runnings if their quality complies with the relevant criteria for Listed status.

#### *Part III*

- a. IRPAC will consider various information in respect of the relevant applicant country, including:
  - i. the number of horses in training;
  - ii. the number of races;
  - iii. details of imported horses;
  - iv. prize money structure and any bonus schemes;
  - v. a summary of their breeding industry (if any), including the number of stallions, mares and foals; and
  - vi. an overview of the Racing Authority that regulates racing in that jurisdiction.

### **E. Meetings**

- 15. IRPAC must meet at least twice annually, and hold any other meetings at the call of the Chair as necessary to fulfil its roles and responsibilities.
- 16. The Chair will determine whether any meeting is held in person or virtually.
- 17. In exceptional circumstances and with the prior written approval of the Chair, a member may appoint a proxy to attend a meeting in his/her place.

### **F. Voting rights and procedures**

- 18. The following voting rights and procedures apply in respect of decisions made by IRPAC:
  - a. each member of IRPAC is entitled to one vote;
  - b. the technical advisors are not entitled to vote;

- c. to be eligible to vote on a matter being decided at a meeting, a member (or his/her proxy) must be in attendance at the meeting in which the vote is being conducted;
- d. a matter may be decided by circulation, including by electronic means; and
- e. decisions shall be made by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Chair will have a casting vote.

Approved by the IFHA Executive Council on 7 December 2024.