

WORLD'S BEST RACEHORSE RANKINGS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

The inaugural conference of the World Thoroughbred Racehorse Rankings (subsequently renamed the World Thoroughbred Rankings (WTR)) took place in Hong Kong in December 2004.

The conference was held under the auspices of the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) and superseded the International Classifications Conference, which had been held annually since 1977 under the direction of the European Pattern Committee (EPC).

The WTR were renamed the World's Best Racehorse Rankings (WBRR) in June 2013.

WBRRC structure

The World's Best Racehorse Rankings Committee (WBRRC) is a sub-committee of the IFHA's International Grading and Race Planning Advisory Committee (IRPAC).

The WBRR are determined each year through the WBRRC, which is divided into two parts:

- a. the World's Best Racehorse Rankings Executive Committee (WBRRREC); and
- b. the World's Best Racehorse Rankings General Committee (WBRRGC).

The same persons are co-chairmen of both the WBRRREC and the WBRRGC.

The Arbitration Panel operates to adjudicate on any disputes which may arise in the course of determining the WBRR.

PART 1: WORLD'S BEST RACEHORSE RANKINGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (WBRRREC)

1.1 Composition

1.1.1 The composition of the WBRRREC is as follows:

- a. co-chairmen:
 - i. one from Asia, nominated by the Asian Racing Federation (ARF);
 - ii. one from Europe, nominated by the EPC;
- b. members:
 - i. three from Asia, nominated by the ARF (including one co-chairman);
 - ii. three from Europe, nominated by the EPC (including one co-chairman);
 - iii. three from the Americas – two nominated by North America, and one nominated by Organizacion Sudamericana de Fomento del Sangre Pura De Carrera (OSAF).

1.1.2 In exceptional circumstances, the IFHA Executive Council may approve the appointment of two joint members nominated by a particular region. If such approval is granted, both persons may attend the annual WBRR conference and any other WBRRREC meetings, but they are only entitled to one shared vote between them.

1.1.3 Subject to the prior written approval of the co-chairmen, a member may be accompanied by another person at the annual WBRR conference and any other WBRREC meetings provided that he or she:

- a. satisfies the eligibility criteria set out in paragraph 1.2.1.a. below and is from the same jurisdiction as the relevant member; and
- b. has been approved by the region that nominated the relevant member.

If such approval is granted by the co-chairmen, that person is permitted to attend and participate in deliberations, but is not entitled to vote.

1.1.4 When nominating a member for the WBRREC, the relevant regional racing federation/racing authority should give due consideration to promoting diversity of members.

1.2 Membership

1.2.1 Eligibility criteria

- a. The WBRREC is a technical, skills-based committee and, as such, only the following individuals may be appointed to it:
 - i. handicappers (or individuals with expertise in handicapping, e.g. racing secretaries);
 - ii. individuals with functional competency and relevant experience in rating racehorses for quality control purposes.
- b. Other than in exceptional circumstances and with the prior written approval of the co-chairmen, a member of the WBRREC is not permitted to assign or delegate any of his/her membership responsibilities to another person.

1.2.2 Term

Each member of the WBRREC 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.

1.2.3 IFHA Executive Council approval

The IFHA Executive Council is required to approve the appointment of each member (and any office holder) of the WBRREC. The Executive Council retains sole discretion to:

- a. approve or reject any nomination for membership;
- b. cancel any membership approval previously given.

1.2.4 Intellectual property

As a condition of membership of the WBRREC, each member (including future members) acknowledges and agrees that any intellectual property in any works created by him/her in the course of his/her work for the WBRREC is automatically assigned to the IFHA upon its creation.

1.3 Functions

1.3.1 General roles and responsibilities

The general roles and responsibilities of the WBRREC are to:

- a. administer the WBRRC;
- b. formulate policies and procedures for the WBRRC (to be approved by IRPAC and the IFHA Executive Council);
- c. report to IRPAC on matters regarding the WBRRC, including notification of any significant decisions or policies/procedures agreed;
- d. provide (either itself, or through its members or the IFHA) ratings to all international bodies and racing organisers;
- e. coordinate the publication of ratings throughout the world;
- f. advise any country on the implementation of a classification or rating system;
- g. create and update an IFHA website with all international ratings.

1.3.2 Specific roles and responsibilities

The specific roles and responsibilities of the WBRREC in relation to the WBRR are to:

- a. identify those horses (three years old and up) which have achieved a rating of 115 or higher during the relevant calendar year, along with the distance and racing surface over which they achieved their peak rating;
- b. determine the WBRR end of year rankings at the WBRR conference;
- c. facilitate publication annually of the WBRR end of year rankings, thus providing a historical record;
- d. provide (either itself or through its members) Regional Pattern Committees and National Racing Authorities with a basis for qualitative analysis of the Graded/Group and Listed races in which horses compete, and a scale and a structure through which such horses and races worldwide can be assessed.

1.4 WBRR conference & other meetings

1.4.1 The WBRREC must meet annually for the WBRR conference, and hold any other meetings at the call of the co-chairmen as necessary to fulfil its roles and responsibilities. The WBRR conference will be held in December to determine the WBRR end of year rankings, which will be published in the following January.

1.4.2 The co-chairmen will determine whether the WBRR conference and any other WBRREC meeting is held in person or virtually.

1.5 Voting rights and procedures

The following voting rights and procedures apply in respect of the WBRREC's determination of the WBRR end of year rankings:

- a. each member (including any joint members approved by the IFHA Executive Council) will be entitled to one vote;
- b. to be eligible to vote, a member must have input ratings for its home jurisdiction's races into the WBRR website throughout the year;
- c. to be eligible to vote, a member must attend the WBRR conference;

- d. to be eligible to vote, a member must have input a performance rating into the WBRR website for the performance(s) on which the relevant horse will be assessed prior to the vote being taken. Members should abstain from voting if they feel that they do not have sufficient knowledge of the relevant horse;
- e. the rating decisions shall be decided by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the co-chairmen will have a joint casting vote;
- f. each member of the WBRRREC and the WBRRGC has the right to appeal a horse's rating to the Arbitration Panel, whose decision shall be final.

PART 2: WORLD'S BEST RACEHORSE RANKINGS GENERAL COMMITTEE (WBRRGC)

2.1 Composition

2.1.1 The composition of the WBRRGC is as follows:

- a. co-chairmen (being the same persons as the co-chairmen of the WBRRREC):
 - i. one from Asia, nominated by the ARF;
 - ii. one from Europe, nominated by the EPC;
- b. members:
 - i. membership is open to handicappers (or individuals with expertise in handicapping) and racing secretaries from jurisdictions which have at least two Grade/Group 1 races in Part I of the International Cataloguing Standards Book (Blue Book) or a total of ten races (including at least one Grade/Group 1 race) in Part I of the Blue Book.

2.1.2 The co-chairmen are required to approve the appointment of each member (and any office holder) of the WBRRGC. The co-chairmen retain sole discretion to:

- a. approve or reject any nomination for membership;
- b. cancel any membership approval previously given.

2.1.3 When nominating a member for the WBRRGC, the relevant racing authority should give due consideration to promoting diversity of members.

2.1.4 As a condition of membership of the WBRRGC, each member (including future members) acknowledges and agrees that any intellectual property in any works created by him/her in the course of his/her work for the WBRRGC is automatically assigned to the IFHA upon its creation.

2.2 Functions

The roles and responsibilities of the WBRRGC are to:

- a. identify those horses (three years old and up) which have achieved a rating of 115 or higher during the relevant calendar year, along with the distance and racing surface over which they achieved their peak rating. Members of the WBRRGC who are not members of the WBRRREC should liaise with their colleagues on a regional basis prior to the annual WBRR conference, to ensure that their WBRRREC representatives have the relevant background information on the horses proposed from their jurisdiction;

- b. provide comments/feedback on, and debate, the draft WBRR interim rankings to assist the co-chairmen in their determination of the final WBRR interim rankings, which are published nine times per year (or otherwise as directed by the IFHA Executive Council), to promote and maintain interest in international racing;
- c. provide (either itself or through its members) Regional Pattern Committees and National Racing Authorities with a basis for qualitative analysis of the Graded/Group and Listed races in which horses compete, and a scale and a structure through which such horses and races worldwide can be assessed.

2.3 Meetings

The WBRRGC shall meet (either in person or virtually) at the call of the co-chairmen from time to time.

PART 3: CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE WBRRGC & THE WBRRGC

3.1 Appointment & term

3.1.1 Each of the ARF and the EPC may nominate one of its members of the WBRRGC to be a co-chairman of the WBRRGC and the WBRRGC.

3.1.2 The co-chairmen of the WBRRGC and the WBRRGC are appointed by the IFHA Executive Council for a term not exceeding 4 years, after which they are eligible for re-appointment.

3.2 Duties

3.2.1 Annual conference and end of year rankings

In respect of the annual WBRR conference and the end of year rankings, the roles and responsibilities of the co-chairmen are to:

- a. coordinate the dates and venue of the WBRR conference;
- b. confirm the date of publication of the annual WBRR with the IRPAC chairman and the relevant IFHA director or official;
- c. chair the WBRR conference and to determine when adequate debate has taken place concerning any horse's rating, and call for a vote to decide the agreed rating;
- d. produce a report (which includes the end of year rankings and a summary of matters considered/relevant discussions) and communicate it to the IRPAC chairman following the completion of the WBRR conference;
- e. oversee preparation of the draft, format, horse details and ratings for the annual edition of the WBRR;
- f. send the annual edition of the WBRR to the relevant IFHA director or official, including to facilitate publication;
- g. oversee the recording of the rating decisions taken at the WBRR conference;
- h. oversee the inputting of the agreed ratings and rankings at the WBRR conference into the WBRR website, and oversee the preparation of a full list of agreed ratings for distribution to the WBRRGC and WBRRGC members;
- i. adjudicate on applications for observers to attend the WBRR conference.

3.2.2 Interim rankings

In respect of the WBRR interim rankings, the roles and responsibilities of the co-chairmen are to:

- a. oversee preparation of the draft, format, horse details and ratings for the interim editions of the WBRR;
- b. determine the qualification for inclusion in the interim editions of the WBRR;
- c. distribute to the members of the WBRRGC the draft interim editions of the WBRR and facilitate the provision of comments/feedback/debate in respect of them;
- d. determine the final version of the interim editions of the WBRR and distribute them to the members of the WBRRGC;
- e. send the final version of interim editions of the WBRR to the relevant IFHA director or official, including to facilitate publication.

3.2.3 The co-chairmen are also responsible for providing advice in respect of the development of the content and layout of the WBRR and other relevant information on the IFHA website.

3.2.4 Day to day matters requiring IRPAC/IFHA interaction will be channelled to the co-chairmen who will liaise with the IFHA director or official responsible for the WBRR.

PART 4: ARBITRATION PANEL

4.1 The Arbitration Panel will consist of three members, being the WBRREC co-chairmen and either the IRPAC chairman or such other suitably qualified person appointed by the IFHA Executive Council (to ensure regional balance).

4.2 In exceptional circumstances, the Arbitration Panel will be available to arbitrate on any dispute or appeal arising within the WBRR during the compilation of the end of year rankings.

4.3 The decisions of the Arbitration Panel shall be final and will be communicated to all the members of the WBRREC and the WBRRGC.

PART 5: GENERAL WBRR GUIDELINES

5.1 Allowances and ratings

5.1.1 Given the established effect of weight carried over distance run, the weight allowance for winning margins on a sound surface on turf and on synthetic tracks runs from approximately 3lb per length over 5f/1000m through 2lb per length at 8f/1600m to 1lb per length over 14f+/2800m plus. The allowances used on dirt tracks will generally be smaller than those used on other sound surfaces. The specific allowances utilised will be dependent upon variables such as the condition of the track, and the pace of the race. Form on very soft and on heavy going can often be less reliable, as is the case with races which are slowly run. The allowance used for margins between beaten horses may be less than that for the winning margin.

5.1.2 The calculation of ratings will utilise the weight-for-age scale and the fillies/mares allowance applicable in the jurisdiction concerned.

5.1.3 Horses are assessed on their form throughout the year under review, and are included in the annual publication on their best sustainable performance.

5.2 Qualification for inclusion in the WBRR end of year rankings

The WBRR comprises horses aged three years old and up which are either trained in or have achieved a qualifying performance in an IFHA member country between 1st January and 31st December in the relevant year, and which have been assessed by the WBRREC at a rating of 115 or higher.

Version 1: Approved by the IFHA Executive Council on 10 December 2022

Version 2: Approved by the IFHA Executive Council on 8 October 2024