



# LEICESTER RACECOURSE

A CLASSIC VENUE FOR RACING, DINING & EVENTS

## Race Types and Conditions

Here is a brief description of all the various types of races giving you a better understanding

### **Apprentice or Conditional Races**

These are races particularly for Jockeys who are not yet fully qualified. Apprentice races are Flat and Conditional races are over Jumps.

### **Amateur Races**

Races restricted to Jockeys who are not licenced professionals.

### **Auction Races**

Designed for less expensive horses. The race conditions are based on the sales price of the individual horse so the weight allowances are governed at its sales value below the stated value of the race condition.

### **Beginners Chase**

Restricted to horses that have never won a steeple chase before.

### **Bumpers (National Hunt Flat Race)**

For 'store' horses (horses breed solely for jumping) or late developing horses, 7 or younger that have never run over the fences before, giving them racing experience. - Horses can of run in a Bumper or at a Point to Point before.

### **Claimers**

Every horse can be brought after the race for a price registered at the time of entry but this reflects on the weight the horse carries. Higher the price equals higher the weight carried. To claim a horse you need to check the updated rules via the BHA.

### **Classified Stakes**

These races are determined by the horse's handicap mark but, unlike handicaps, the weight isn't. All horses carry the same weight giving an opportunity for horses to compete on level terms with similar ability.

### **Condition Races (Weight for Age or Allowance Races)**

The weights carried by the runners are determed by their sex, age and ability - horses that have won certain values of races giving weight to less successful entrants.

### **Graduation Chase**

Conditions races restricted to horses which haven't won more than two chases.



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### **Handicaps**

Handicaps were designed to give each horse a level playing field. Horses are given a 'handicap rating' after they have either won a race or run three times. The weight carried will be relevant to the horses handicap rating.

Horses handicap ratings will change according to their race record throughout their career.

### **Hunter Chase**

Restricted to both amateur rider and horses. They have to show via certificate they have been hunting a number of times. Once they have run in a Hunter Chase they can only run in Hunter Chases for that season, under a licensed Trainer.

### **Introductory Hurdle**

Conditions races for juveniles restricted to horses that have not run in more than one hurdle race.

### **Maiden**

Restricted to horses that have never won a race, hurdles or flat.

### **Median Auction**

These flat races are solely decided on the 'median' value of the Sire's offspring at the sales. A horse may only run if the Sire's median value is within the race conditions and the horse was purchased or 'bought in' at specified sales.

### **Novice**

Open to maidens and winners of either one or two races. According to the race conditions winners usually carry a penalty (extra weight) and some races can have a limit of how many times they have run in the past.

### **Novice - Chase or Hurdle Race**

Restricted to horse that have not won either race before the end of the previous season - (30th April).

### **Optional Claiming Handicaps**

The Trainer can reduce the weight carried by a horse in exchange the horse can be claimed by the values set by the BHA.

### **Pattern Races (Group and Listed Races) 'Black Type'**

**Group 1, 2 and 3 races are the top classifications (Grade 1, 2 and 3 for National Hunt)** Group 1 (Grade 1) being the highest level. Many restricted to certain age groups and run over different distances. Horses mainly run off level weights but allowances are given for older horse and fillies/mares against colts/geldings. For Group 2 and 3, penalties (weight carried) can be given to horses who have won at an equal or higher grade within a timeframe.



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**Listed Races** is a step down from Group 3 level and still of great importance and the same weight penalties apply.

*'Black Type' Group/Graded and Listed are referred to as 'black type' This refers to bold print of a pedigree, in a sales catalogue, showing the progeny has won or placed in any of the top races. Designed to highlight quality performers within a horses progeny.*

### **Restricted Handicaps**

These races are not just based on the handicap rating of the horse but limited to a particular group of horses i.e. age restrictions - veteran races or a nursery flat race limited to 2 year olds.

### **Sales Race**

Limited to horses from a particular sale, auctioned normally as yearlings. The price sold influences the weight carried, so the lower the price the lower the weight.

### **Seller**

The winner is offered for auction in the winners enclosure. All beaten horses are available to be claimed as with the rules for Claiming races. These races can be a handicap or non-handicap race.

### **The Classics**

The crown jewels of British Flat racing; 5 races are considered the ultimate test of a race horse.

Restricted to 3yrs old colts and fillies over different distances.

1000 Guineas - 1 mile - fillies only

2000 Guineas - 1 mile - Both sexes but mainly contested by colts

The Oaks - 1 1/2 miles - fillies only

The Derby - 1 1/2 miles - Both sexes but mainly contested by colts

The St Leger - 1 mile 6 1/2 furlongs - Both sexes