

2008

An Explanation to the AJC's Graded Stakes Procedure

The Arabian Jockey Club's Graded Stakes Committee ranks eligible races as Grade 1, Grade 2, or Grade 3, with Grade 1 being the highest.

CRITERIA FOR GRADING

All races that are to be considered for grading must meet the following criteria:

Purse – A race is not considered for grading unless the guaranteed purse is \$20,000 or greater for the current year and for the three previous years. If a race has been designated as a graded stakes for the current year and the purse falls below the \$20,000 level, the graded status will not be awarded to that race.

Distance – Races must be six furlongs or greater to be considered for graded status.

Restricted Races – Races are not eligible for grading if conditions for competing in them are restrictive other than by sex or age.

Longevity – Races are not considered for grading unless they are scheduled to be run under the same fundamental conditions for the current year and the three previous years. If a race is altered materially in purse, age, sex, distance, track, surface or date, it will be reviewed and may result in a grade change. Changes in a stakes name resulting from a change in sponsorship of that race will not affect grading consideration, but races are encouraged to keep the original names intact.

If a race that has been graded fails to meet any part of the criteria, it may lose its graded status for the current year. The Graded Stakes Committee will entertain a written explanation regarding the change from the racing association. If an acceptable explanation is determined, the race may be eligible for graded status in the coming year by the majority vote of the committee. If the race fails to meet the criteria a second year, it must re-qualify for grading eligibility by establishing a history of running the race for three years under the same conditions.

GRADING PROCEDURE

The AJC's Graded Stakes Committee will conduct the grading of stakes races. The attached procedure will be followed in determining graded stakes for 2008.

- List all races that meet the AJC's criteria for grading (see above).
- Sort races by category.
 - Juvenile colts/geldings
 - Juvenile fillies
 - Sprint colts/geldings
 - Sprint fillies and mares

- Route colts/geldings
- Route fillies and mares
- Data will be compared on to those races that fall within a like category.
- Within each category, review the following pertinent data:
 - Purse
 - Distance (6 furlongs or greater)
 - Time of race vs. US record at same distance
 - Size of field
- Members are expected to utilize this data together with the knowledge drawn from their own experience to make judgments as to the relative merit of each eligible race. A majority vote of the quorum of the committee is required to establish a grade for any stakes race.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

There will be no limitations as to the number of graded stakes, and not all eligible races are required to receive a grade. Graded races are segregated into divisions to allow equality of grades for similar conditions. Juvenile races are obviously restricted to 3-year-old races run at any distance 6 furlongs or greater. Sprints are races that are run at a distance from 6 furlongs to 7.5 furlongs. Route races are run at a distance of 1 mile or greater.

Racing associations and race tracks will be notified of the graded stakes status for any stakes race in their area. Any stakes race receiving graded status must fulfill the eligibility requirements or that grade will be revoked.

Grades given to a particular stakes race should be attached to the name of the race and used in advertisement or promotion of that race. For example, the Gladys Brown Edwards Arabian Cup (G1).

Geographic distribution is not considered in deliberations on grading.

Decisions on grading are not made with the thought either of promoting or suppressing sponsorship or promotional potential on behalf of any racetrack, sale company, breeder's association or individual persons or horses.

In the end, the grades are a composite of expert opinion and data analysis.