



# ARABIAN JOCKEY CLUB GRADED STAKES AND LISTED RACES

October 18, 2024

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### 1. Purpose

The Purpose of the Graded Stakes and Listed Races Program is to provide the Arabian Racing Industry with a process by which Stakes and Listed races in the United States are reviewed and awarded a grade or listed status to reflect the quality of the race and the quality and accomplishment of the horses competing. The activities to support the graded or listed status will be addressed in this program document.

### 2. Graded Stakes Committee

The Graded Stakes Committee (GSC) is appointed by the Arabian Jockey Club (AJC) and is accountable to the AJC Board of Directors. The Committee members have the following responsibilities:

- Use the policies, procedures, criteria and quality measures of the GS Program to review and grade or list races submitted by applicants
- Communicate race grade and listed decisions to the AJC Board for ratification. GS Committee Chair is responsible for communicating with AJC Race Committee Chair. The AJC Race Committee Chair presents the decisions to the AJC Board of Directors.
- Participate regularly to meet and discuss (in person or via electronic means) throughout the year to review applications and provide grading or listed status.
- Respond within 10 days to all requests from the committee chair. If after 2 missed meetings, or 2 non-responses to requests, GSC member may be removed from Committee.
- Racing associations and racetracks will be notified of the graded stakes or listed status for any stakes races in their area.

### 3. Application Process

Beginning in 2016, a Stake and Listed Race Grading Request Application form will be required to ensure consistent information is collected for all races where a sponsor, affiliate or track is requesting a Grade or Listed status. This application should be submitted annually by Dec. 1 of the year prior to running for all U.S. sponsored races. Internationally sponsored races will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Applicant must submit the dollar amount to be contributed by the sponsor to the total purse of a potential graded stakes race. The percentage of the sponsor contribution to the total stakes purse will be a factor taken under consideration by the committee when a grade is assigned. The applicant should include only the sponsor contributions to the race's purse. Additional monies for race marketing or other purposes will not be considered.

### 4. Definitions

CRITERIA – standards by which races will be reviewed for graded or listed status.

GRADES - There are three different levels of graded stakes races, the top ranking being a Grade I Stakes. They are higher-class races for bigger purses and often involve competitors that belong to the same gender, age and class. The second highest ranking would be a Grade II and the third level would be a Grade III. These races may be "weight-for-age", with weights adjusted only according to age, and also there are 'set weights' where all horses carry the same weight. Furthermore, there are "conditions" races, in which horses carry weights that are set by conditions, such as having won a certain number of races, or races of a certain value. Finally, some graded stakes are "handicaps", in which an official handicapper assigns weights to each horse in an attempt to equalize the competition.

GRADED RACE – a race which meets all criteria for grading consideration and demonstrates a history



LISTED RACE – A race which meets most of the criteria used for grading, but which does not meet the longevity criteria. Listed races may, in the future transition to graded races, however they can remain as listed.

SPRINT RACE – A race which is a minimum of 6 furlongs, but less than 8 furlongs.

ROUTE RACE – 8 f and up

## 5. Policy Statements

- Geographic distribution is not considered in deliberations on grading or listing.
- There will not be limitations as to the number of graded stakes. Not all races submitted will necessarily receive graded or listed status. The majority of the GSC will determine if a race is graded or listed.
- Generally, Grade I races will number less than Grade II's and likewise with the Grade III's.
- 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, breeders association or individual persons or horses.
- 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 or listed status will be rescinded for that race.
- If a race that has been graded fails to meet any part of the criteria, it may lose its grade or listed 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 or listed 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 two years under the same conditions.
- Any stakes race receiving graded or listed status must fulfill the eligibility requirements or that grade or listed status will be revoked.
- If any state affiliate has any racetrack post a graded stakes in their condition book, or on any website PRIOR to its being approved by the AJC, GSC, and BOD, shall result in that race losing its grade for that year.

## 6. Procedure

- Applications for Grading and for Listed stakes will be reviewed annually by the GSC
- Criteria will be evaluated for each application to ensure all criteria are met
- List all races that meet the AJC criteria for grading
- Sort races by category.
  - Juvenile colts/geldings
  - Juvenile fillies
  - Sprint colts/geldings
  - Sprint fillies and mares
  - Route colts/geldings
  - Route fillies and mares
- Quality will be reviewed and considered when assigning a grade or listed status. Data will be compared to those races that fall within a like category. Within each category, review the Quality of previous fields
- 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 or listed status for any race.

## 7. Criteria

Purse – A race is not considered for grading status unless the **guaranteed purse** meets the following minimum criteria:

- Grade 1 \$50,000 minimum
- Grade 2 \$30,000 minimum
- Grade 3 \$20,000 minimum

These amounts apply to the current year and for the two previous years.

To allow a graded stakes race that is unable to meet the minimum purse requirement to maintain its advertised level, It may be allowed one "Flex Year" to allow time for correction. To keep the same grade in future additions, the race must maintain the appropriate minimum purse on a "Two out of Three Year" basis – the year being applied for and the two previous



running's. Failure to comply will result in future applied for stakes assigned grades appropriate to its current purse level. The purse amount for the Flex Option Year if applied, shall not be less than 10% of the required minimum purse amount for the grade applied for.

**Distance** – Races must be **six furlongs or greater** to be considered for graded or listed 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 graded or listed status unless they are scheduled to be run under the same fundamental conditions for the current year and have run under those conditions for the **two 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 graded or listed status change.

## 8. Grading Technique

The grading of races will be based on the quality of the race and the quality of the field. This will be determined by statistical analysis of the data for the following, as well as a comparison to

- A. **Ranking** of the race's previous running for a particular year by purse, number of runners and the time of the race for the distance. Purse and number of runners shall be compared to the average purse and average number of runners of all stakes eligible (meeting criteria) to be graded. The times for eligible stakes races will be compared to the North American records at that distance and similar track conditions.
- B. **Percentage of stakes winners** in the field – when compared to the total number of runners in the field.
- C. The GSC Committee members are expected to utilize this data, together with the knowledge from their own racing industry experience, to make individual decisions as the grading of eligible races. A majority vote of a quorum of the GSC is required to establish a grade for any stakes race.

## 9. Naming of Races

- Grades given to a particular stakes or listed race must be attached to the name of the race and used in advertisement, promotion and results of that race. For example: the Gladys Brown Edwards Arabian Cup (G1).
- Graded Stakes and Listed race names must remain the same but the sponsor's name may change from year to year. Sponsor name changes should be as prefix or suffix to the name. For example: Delaware Park Juvenile Championship sponsored by XYZ Arabians or XYZ Arabians presents Delaware Park Juvenile Championship. If a race is a sprint race, the word "Sprint" shall appear in the naming of the race.

## 10. International Sponsors

Due the international nature of Arabian racing and the need to promote and receive sponsorship of events such as the UAE Presidents Cup and The Global Festival Races of HH Sheikh Mansoor bin Zayed Al Nahyan as well as newly proposed events of significance, the Graded Stakes Committee may award graded stakes status to such races at its discretion on a case-by-case basis. These must also be approved through the application process to the Graded Stakes Committee by either the Arabian Jockey Club, the sponsor, the track or the Arabian racing state affiliate. All races will be invitational.

## 11. Definition of Black Type

- Black Type races denote a level of accomplishment in racing and should be designated for a significant industry accomplishment.
- Purse must be \$20,000 or more.
- Graded Stakes and Listed Stakes qualify by nature of their criteria.
- Other races may qualify if they meet the purse threshold.
- Races cannot be less than 6 furlongs



## 12. Black Type Designation by Stakes Race Type

Type of Race	Purse	Description	Black Type Eligible?
Graded Stakes	>\$20,000	Meets Graded Stakes Criteria for purse, distance, history, & criteria	YES
Listed Race Stakes	>\$20,000	Meets many GSC criteria, but not yet graded.	YES
Non-listed Stakes	>\$20,000	Restricted races, i.e. State Bred	YES
Non-Listed Stakes	<\$20,000	Restricted races or those Less than 6 furlongs	NO

## APPROVAL AND AUTHORITY TO PROCEED

We approve the program as described above and authorize the Graded Stakes Committee to carry out their responsibilities.

Name	Signature	Title	Date
Kathryn Kroll Smoke		AJC Board	
Jim Meyer		AJC Board	
Bruce Johnson		AJC Board	