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SPECIAL MAIDEN RACE BALLOTING GUIDE

Introduction

From the 2026 Taif season, selected Maiden races will use a new ballot system.

The purpose of the system is to give priority to horses that have recently demonstrated competitive race performance. The previous star system will not apply in these races.

How the Ballot Works

Horses will be grouped according to their finishing positions in their last three starts.

The ballot will be conducted in the following order:

1. Horses that finished 2nd at their last start
2. Horses that finished 3rd at their last start
3. Horses that finished 4th at their last start
4. Horses that finished 5th at their last start

5. Horses that finished 2nd at their second last start
6. Horses that finished 3rd at their second last start
7. Horses that finished 4th at their second last start
8. Horses that finished 5th at their second last start

9. Horses that finished 2nd at their third last start
10. Horses that finished 3rd at their third last start
11. Horses that finished 4th at their third last start
12. Horses that finished 5th at their third last start

After these categories have been exhausted, all remaining horses will be ordered by official rating from highest to lowest. Horses with no rating will be balloted randomly.

Important Notes

- Only finishing positions of 2nd to 5th are considered.
- Winning performances are not considered as winners are no longer eligible for Maiden races.
- A horse is only allocated to its highest qualifying category.
- The star system does not apply in these races.
- Horses on the same criteria will be separated by random ballot.
- Horses with no qualifying top five finish in their last three starts will be ranked by official rating.

Example 1:

Horse A
Last Start: 3rd
Second Last Start: 2nd
Third Last Start: 7th

Horse A will be placed in the 3rd last start category because that is its highest qualifying category.



Example 2

Horse B
Last Start: 8th
Second Last Start: 2nd
Third Last Start: 4th

Horse B will be placed in the 2nd second last start category.

Example 3

Horse C
Last Start: 7th
Second Last Start: 8th
Third Last Start: 9th

Horse C has no qualifying top five finish in its last three starts and will therefore be ranked with the remaining horses by official rating.

Frequently Asked Questions

- *Does the star system still apply?*
No. The star system does not apply in races using this ballot method.
- *What happens if two horses qualify under the same category?*
The horses will be separated by random ballot.
- *What happens if my horse has not finished in the top five in its last three starts?*
The horse will be ranked according to its official rating.
- *Why has this system been introduced?*
The system is designed to reward recent competitive performance and provide trainers with a clear and transparent ballot process.
