GO RACING

RACING 101
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101

Racing in Hong Kong

Contents

Racecourse

Sha Tin Racecourse

Mainly hosts Sunday day races or twilight races (June and July) with 10 to 11 races per race meeting.

Track: Turf or All-Weather (Dirt)

Number of starters: Maximum 14

Since 1978

Happy Valley Racecourse

Mainly hosts Wednesday night races with 8 to 9 races per race meeting.

Thematic 'Happy Wednesday' at night races

Track: Turf

Number of starters: Maximum 12

Since 1845

System

Racing Season

From September to July

Total 88 race meetings

Day races and twilight races mostly take place on Sunday and night races on Wednesday
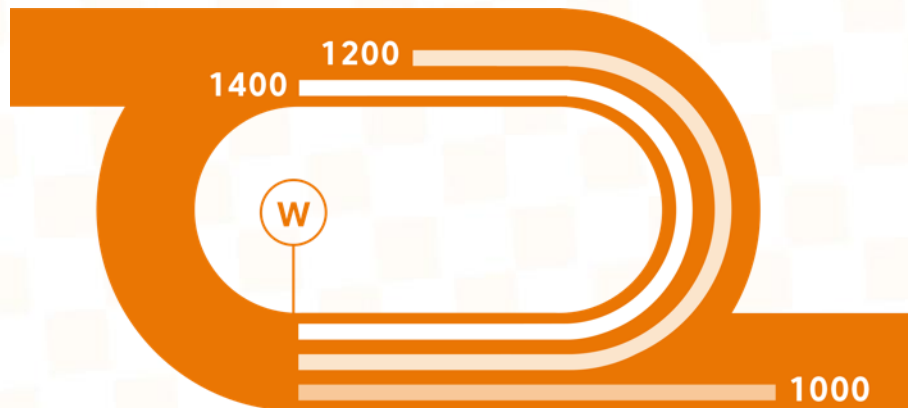
Distance

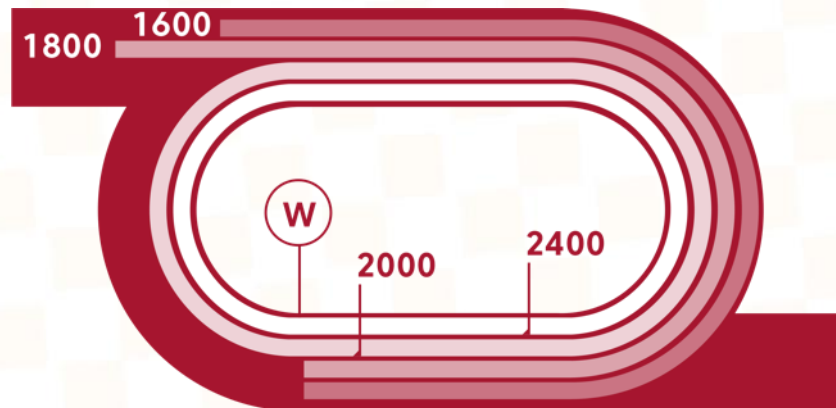Distance can be classified as short, middle and long.

All races will finish at the same winning post, whereas the position of the starting gate will be adjusted according to the distance.
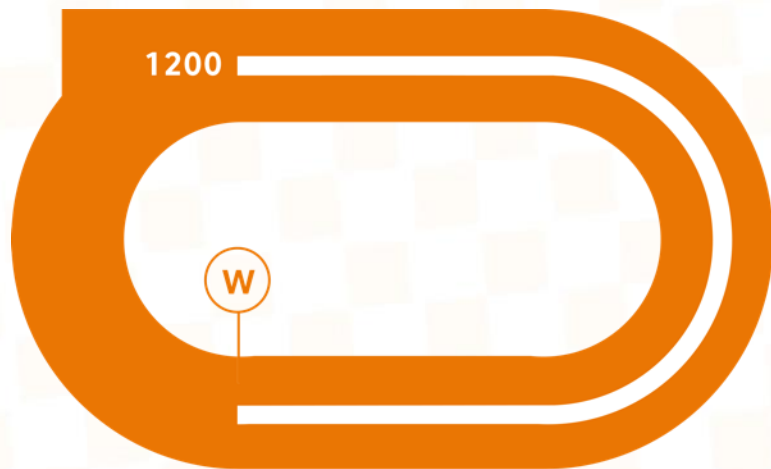
Sha Tin (Turf)

Short Distance (m)	1000	1200	1400

Middle Distance (m)	1600	1800
Long Distance (m)	2000	2400

Sha Tin (All-Weather)

Short Distance (m)	1200
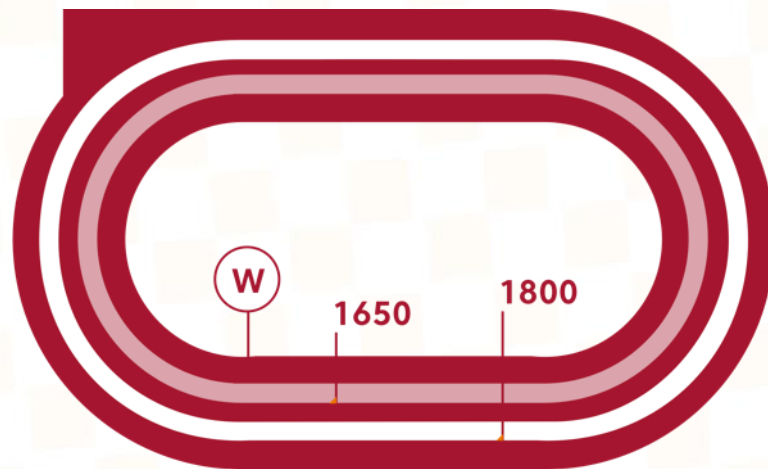
Middle Distance (m)	1650	1800

Happy Valley
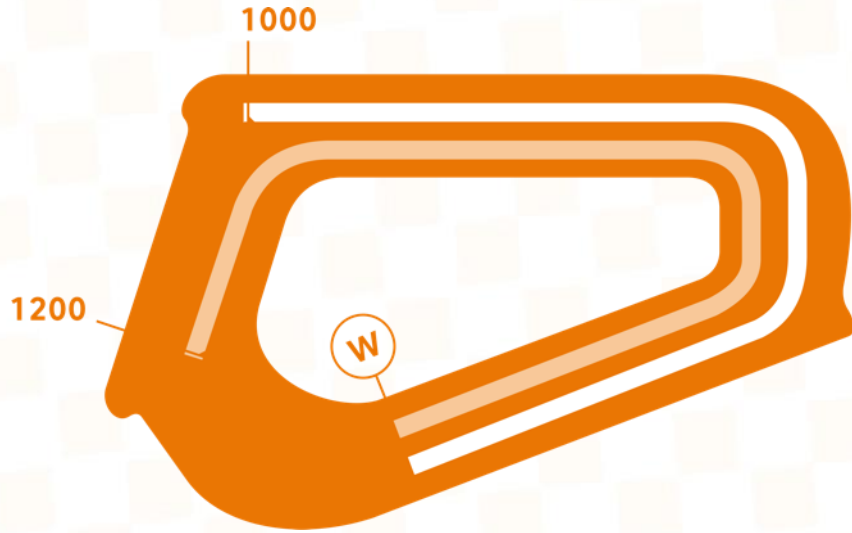
Short Distance (m)	1000	1200
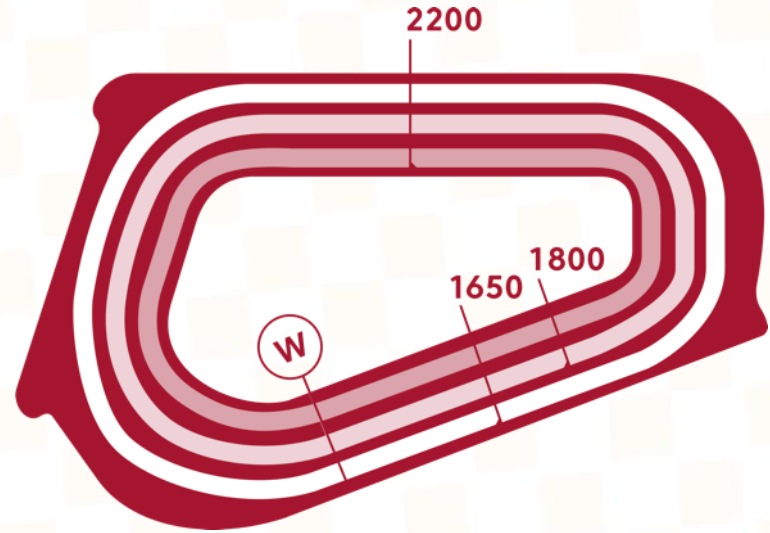
Middle Distance (m)	1650	1800
Long Distance (m)	2200	

Class and Rating

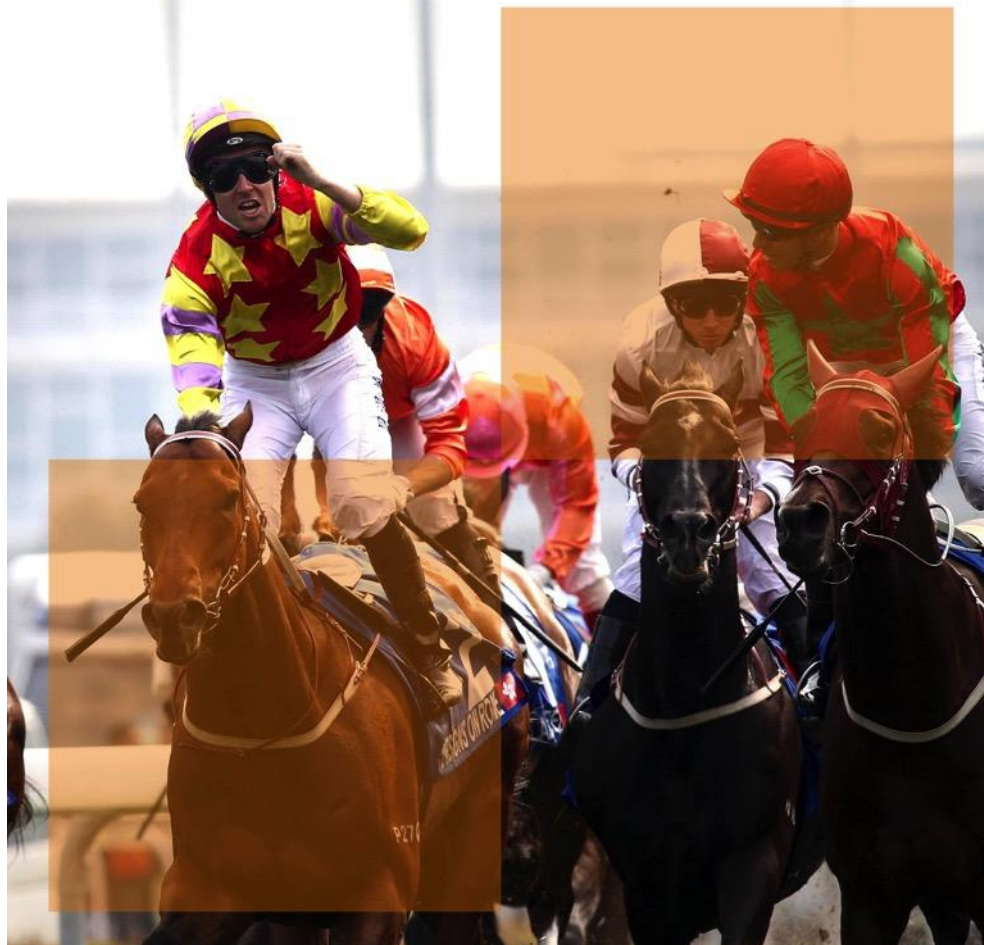Race horses are classified from Class 1 to Class 5. Class 1 is the highest class.

Runners in each race are of the same Class.

Rating determines the Class – the higher the rating, the higher the Class.

A new horse usually starts with a rating of 52. Generally speaking, 5 - 7 points will be added to the rating for each win.

It goes both ways:
- First-4 in race = likely to add points
- Losing in race = likely to deduct points

Class and Rating

Group 1   Stewards' Cup

Group Race

Group 2   Premier Bowl

Group 3   Sa Sa Ladies' Purse

Rating 85 or above   **Class 1**

Rating 80 - 100   **Class 2**

Rating 60 - 80   **Class 3**

Rating 40 - 60   **Class 4**

Rating 0 - 40   **Class 5**

Unrated   **Griffin**
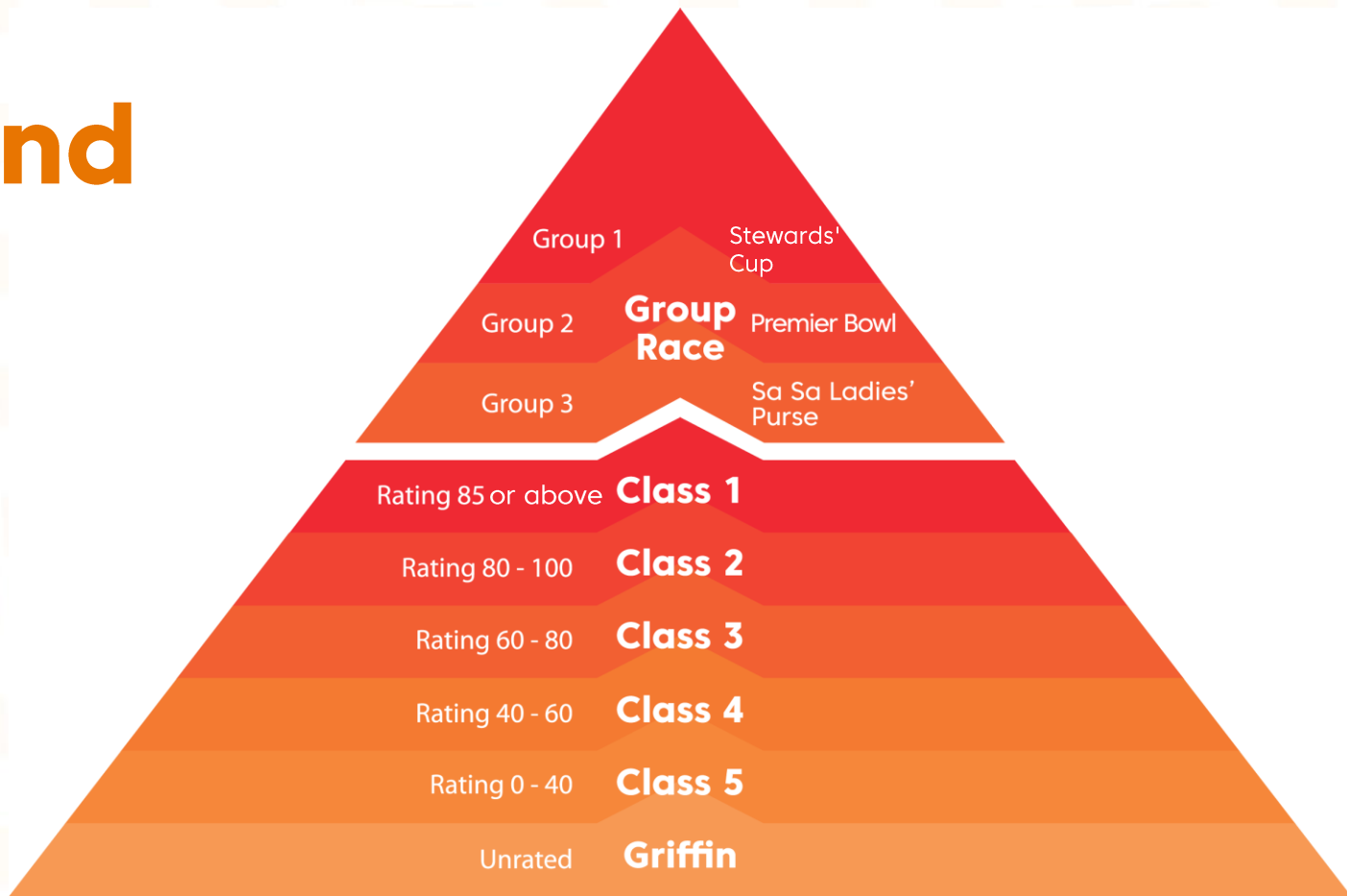
Handicap

Most races are handicaps. This means runners carry different weights to equalise their chances of winning the race.

More weights are added to the runners with higher rating.

Higher Rating

Lower Rating

Weight

Weight: The total weight a runner carries during a race (including jockey, saddle and extra metal weights).

The allocated weight is determined by a horse's rating:
Rating + 1 Point = Weight + 1lb

Runner's weight ranges from 135lbs to 115lbs

Example: A Class 3 race horse rated 80 points will carry 135lbs. Meanwhile, a horse rated 75 points will carry 130lbs.

+ 5lbs

80 Points

VS

75 Points

Draw

The draw refers to a horse's position in the starting gate.

Generally speaking, the smaller the draw number, the closer the runner is to the inside rail, hence a shorter distance to be covered at the turns and has a slight advantage over horses with bigger draw numbers.

Horse number ≠ Draw number (Horse Number 1 can be drawn 14).

Each runner's draw number is randomly assigned by computer a couple of days before the race.

HV	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

31/05/2023, WED 21:45, Class 3, 1200M, TURF, "C+3" COURSE, GOOD

Draw Statistics

	Draw	Win %	Place %
Inside	1	23%	45%
	2	15%	41%
	3	14%	34%
	4	9%	33%
	5	10%	33%
	6	9%	25%
	7	4%	23%
	8	5%	16%
	9	8%	24%
	10	3%	10%
	11	3%	14%
Outside	12	1%	4%

Season 2021/2022 to present

Happy Valley 1200M

Horse

Runners

Race Participation:
Each runner can only take part in one race on each raceday.

Gender:
Mainly classified into Gelding, Colt or Filly. Over 90% of the runners in Hong Kong are geldings.

Naming:
The Chinese name consists of 2-4 characters. The English name must contain no more than 18 letters (spaces included).

Colours:
4 major types: Chestnut, Brown, Bay and Grey.

Speed:
1000m is usually completed within 1 minute at an average speed of 60-65 km/hour.

Career

Racing career:
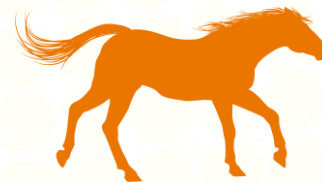Age 2-10; mandatory retirement at age 11.

Peak years:
Age 4-6

Horses born in the southern hemisphere are considered a year older on August 1 of each year (Horses born in South America are considered a year older on July 1 of each year). Horses born in the northern hemisphere are considered a year older on January 1 of each year.

Newborn ▶ **1 year old** ▶ **2 years old**

Newborn ▶ **12 years old** ▶ **18 years old**

Emotions

The ears of a horse can tell you all about his mood.

Unhappy and worried:

Ears flattened against the neck

Content and interested in the surroundings:

Ears are pricked forward

Feeling Curious:

Both ears tilted forwards

In doubt or feeling uncertain:

One ear is pricked forward and the other held back

Silks

Silks belong to the Horse Owners.
Unique colours and patterns are designed by each Horse Owner.

Julian Hui Chun Hang
& Michele Monique Reis

SAVVY CHIC,
SAVVY DELIGHT

Royal Elitist Team Syndicate
(Members include
Miu Kiu Wai, Catherina Yim,
Edmond So)

CORDYCEPS ONE

Kwok Fu Shing

DANCING CODE

Seven Heroes Syndicate
(Members include
Alex Fong)

MASTER HERO

Jockey

Jockey

Duties:
Trackwork and riding horses according to the trainers' instructions in races.

Current No. of Jockeys: 20+

Each jockey can ride in multiple races on each race day

Champion Jockey:
The jockey with the most wins in a season.

Season	Champion Jockey	Win
2022/23	Zac Purton	179 (New Record)
2021/22	Zac Purton	136
2020/21	J Moreira	157

Jockey

Jockey	Achievements
Zac Purton	He sealed the sixth champion jockey title and broke the record for notching the most winners in Hong Kong (179 wins) last season. Also, he made history in the winning of FWD QEII Cup in the 2019/20 season to become the only rider in history to have won every Group 1 race on the Hong Kong calendar.
Vincent Ho Chak-yiu	The winner of the Tony Cruz Award (the leading local rider) and added a trio of Group 1 wins to his haul with GOLDEN SIXTY in last season. Also, he has become only the second home-grown jockey to ride 500 wins in Hong Kong.
Hugh Bowman	Four-time Sydney Champion Jockey. In 2019, he was inducted into the Australian Racing Hall of Fame. Also, he won the Group 1 race THE STANDARD CHARTERED CHAMPIONS & CHATER CUP in HK last season.
Karis Teetan	He notched more than 600 wins since moved to HK in the 2013/14 season.

Zac Purton

Vincent Ho Chak-yiu

Hugh Bowman

Karis Teetan

Trainer

Trainer

Duties:
Training and caring for his horses, as well as managing stable operation.

Current No. of trainers: 20+

License:
Issued by the HKJC. A trainer must have 16 or more winners a season. If he fails to reach that total in three accumulative seasons, his license will likely be revoked.

Trainers can saddle multiple runners in each race.

Champion Trainer:
The trainer with the most wins in a season.

Trainer

Trainer	Achievements
John Size	He broke the record of 12 championships in last season. Also, he broke the record for training the most winners in Hong Kong (94 wins) in a season (2016/17).
Frankie Lor Fu-chuen	He sealed the first champion trainer title in 2021/22 season. Also, he won two Group Ones at the LONGINES HK International Races and won all legs of Four-Year-Old Classic Series, including BMW HK DERBY, in 2018/19 season.
Francis Lui Kin-wai	The trainer of GOLDEN SIXTY who won three Group 1 races in last season, and earned Horse of the Year titles, Champion Miler titles, and Most Popular Horse of the Year titles for a third consecutive year.
Tony Cruz	2-time champion trainer. He is the trainer of EXULTANT, the winner of the Horse of the Year titles in the 2019/20 season, and the legendary Hong Kong champion SILENT WITNESS. He has saddled over 1400 wins in his career.

John Size

Frankie Lor Fu-chuen

Francis Lui Kin-wai

Tony Cruz

Wager

Racecard

1. Post Time
2. Class
3. Distance
4. Going
5. Jockey's ranking
6. Trainer's ranking
7. Win odds
8. Place odds

Bet types

Win	
9	Pick the winner

Place	
6	Pick any one of the first three horses
7	
9	

Quinella (QIN)	
7+9	Pick the 1st and 2nd horses in any order

Quinella Place (QPL)	
6+7	Pick any two of the first three horses in any order
6+9	
7+9	

Bet tactics for Quinella & Quinella Place

Picking more than 2 horses can enhance the chance of winning.
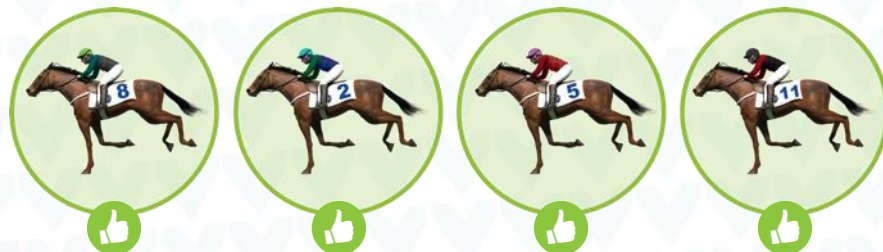
2 common tactics...

Banker:
When you think one of your favourite horses has a higher chance of winning.

Multiple:
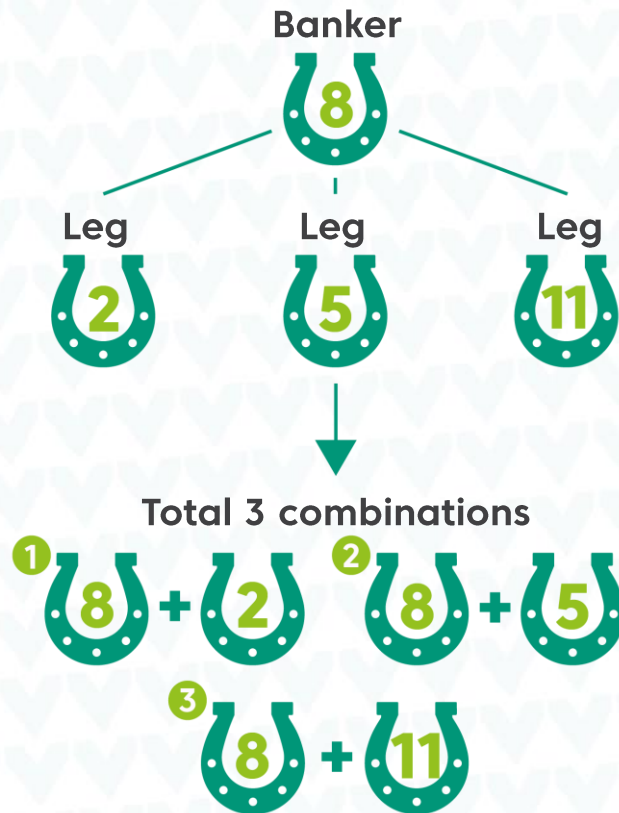When you think your favourite horses have an equal chance of winning.

Banker

A common way of placing a banker bet: 1 banker and 3 other selections.

Banker must appear in all possible combinations.

Example:
No. 8 as banker and No. 2, 5, 11 as other selections.

Banker

8

Leg   Leg   Leg
 2   5   11

Total 3 combinations

① 8 + 2   ② 8 + 5

③ 8 + 11

Example

Nominate No. 8 as banker and pick No. 2, 5, 11 as other selections.

Result scenario (1)

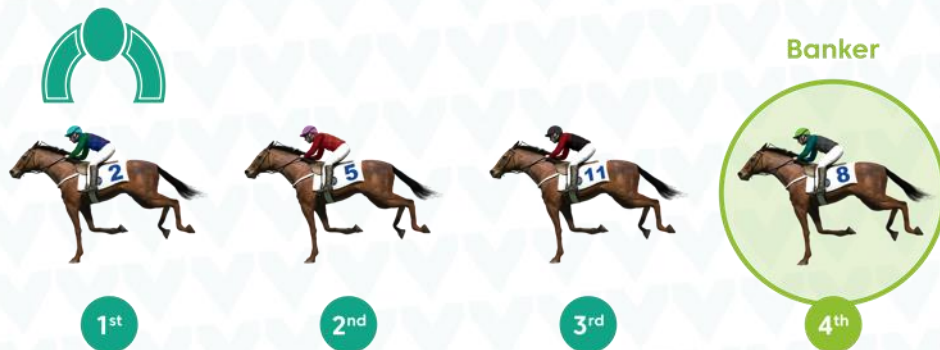| Combinations	QIN	QPL
8 - 2	✔	✔
8 - 5	-	✔
8 - 11	-	-

Result scenario (2)

Combinations	QIN	QPL
8 - 2	-	✔
8 - 5	-	✔
8 - 11	-	-

Result scenario (3)

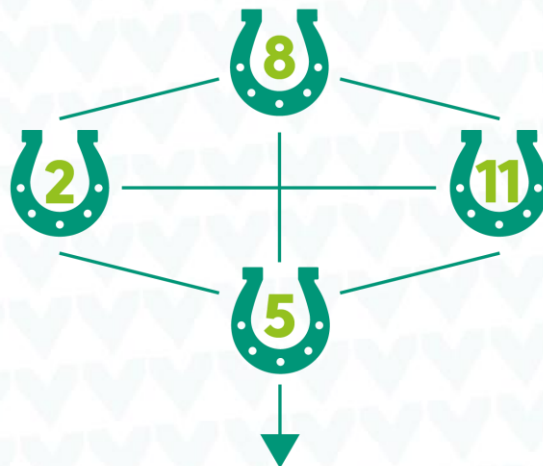| Combinations	QIN	QPL
8 - 2	-	-
8 - 5	-	-
8 - 11	-	-

Multiple

A common way of placing a multiple bet:
Boxing 4 horses (total 6 combinations).

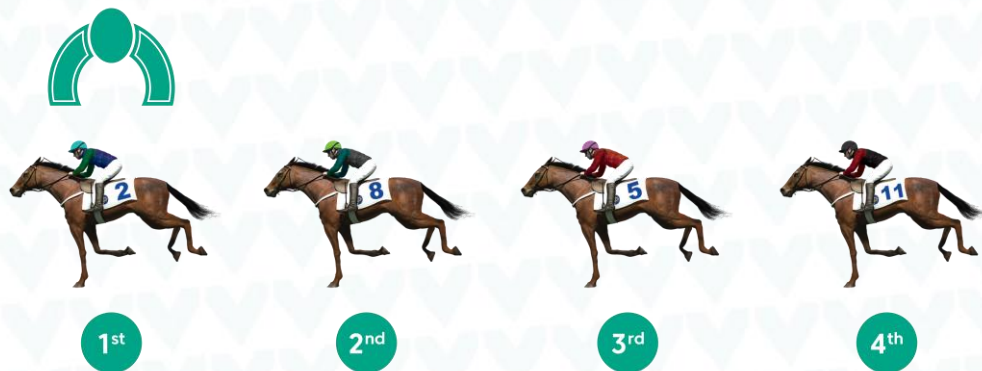Selected horses will be formed
of all possible combinations.

Total 6 combinations

Example

Boxing No. 2, 5, 8 and 11

Result scenario (1)

Combinations	QIN	QPL
2 - 5	-	✔
2 - 8	✔	✔
2 - 11	-	-
5 - 8	-	✔
5 - 11	-	-
8 - 11	-	-

Example

Boxing No. 2, 5, 8 and 11

Result scenario (2)
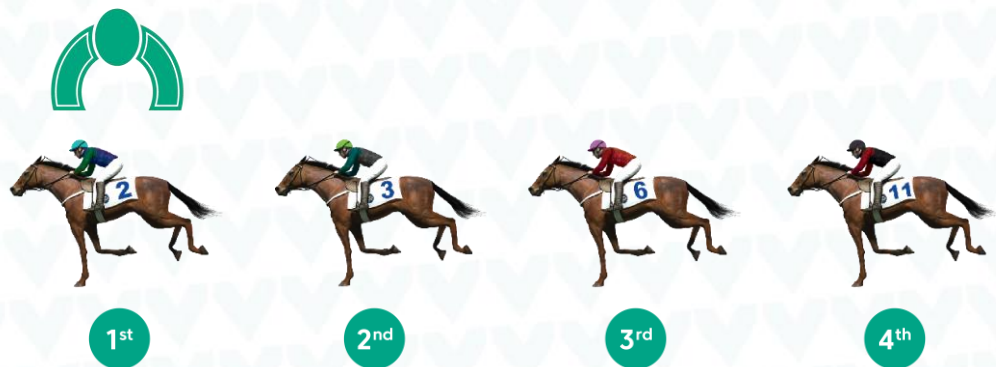
Combinations	QIN	QPL
2 - 5	-	-
2 - 8	-	-
2 - 11	-	-
5 - 8	-	-
5 - 11	-	-
8 - 11	-	-

GOLDEN SIXTY
2022/23 season
Horse of the Year