



Changes to awards criteria

NSWROA HAS MADE CHANGES TO THE AWARDS CRITERIA FOR RACING'S NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS – THE NEW SOUTH WALES THOROUGHBRED INDUSTRY'S NIGHT OF NIGHTS WORDS: SHARON HUNT (EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSWROA)

NSW Racehorse Owners Association oversees the following awards:-

- NSW Two-Year-Old of the Year
- NSW Three-Year-Old of the Year
- NSW Sprinter/Miler of the Year
- NSW Middle Distance Horse of the Year
- NSW Stayer of the Year
- NSW Champion Horse of the Year

So by way of background for readers, hereunder are some facts regarding the awards.

For all categories, with the exception of the NSW Champion Horse of the Year, eligibility criteria for the awards are:-

For all horses predominately trained in NSW, points earned in any open Group or Listed Race were eligible to be counted;

For all other horses, only points earned in open Group or Listed Races that were run in NSW were eligible to be counted;

Only points earned in races in the relevant categories are included in the calculations. Points from any one race can only be earned in one of the categories.

The NSW Champion Horse of the Year award is based on total points earned across all the categories.

The Racing NSW Handicapping Panel provides the nominees and judges the winners of both the NSW Country Champion Horse of the Year and the Provincial Champion Horse of the Year awards.

The Queen of the Autumn Award – which is tallied by Australian Turf Club – is awarded to the leading filly or mare on a point score basis over a series of 19 races. Points are awarded as follows:-

Queen of the Autumn Points Score			
	1st	2nd	3rd
Group 1 Race	16	13	11
Group 2 Race	10	8	6
Group 3 Race	5	4	3
Listed Race	4	2	1

The races in the series comprise the Light Fingers Stakes, Breeders Classic, Triscay Stakes, Millie Fox Stakes, Wiggle Stakes, Surround Stakes, Aspiration Quality, Wenona Girl Stakes, Coolmore Classic, Birthday Card Stakes, Epona Stakes, Vinery Stakes, Queen of the Turf Stakes, Adrian Knox Stakes, Sapphire Stakes, P J Bell Handicap, ATC Oaks, Emancipation Stakes and the James Carr Stakes.

And so now to the changes to the awards criteria.

The changes, which are applicable for the 2012-2013 season onwards, include the introduction of:-

- a new awards category – NSW Miler of the Year; and
- a new points system.

In the past, NSWROA has provided three awards by distance category at Racing's Night of Champions, being sprinter/miler (which covered all races up to 1600m), middle-distance (which covered from 1601m to 2399m)

and stayer (which covered 2400m and further).

It has become apparent that these distance categories were not an accurate reflection of the attributes of the horses we were trying to reward. In addition, there was a massive concentration of numbers in the sprinter/miler category as you would expect.

Therefore NSWROA has expanded the awards criteria by introducing an additional category. The new criteria will encompass the following distance parameters:-

Sprinter – up to 1499m

Miler – 1500m to 1700m

Middle-Distance – 1701m to 2299m

Stayer – 2300m and longer

The points system has also been revised to widen the gap between Group One and the other levels so that there is greater relative reward for Group One racing.

Previously, the points system rewarded consistency in Black Type events, rather than the results in the best races.

The new points system for the 2012-2013 season

onwards is as follows:-

	1st place	2nd place	3rd place
Group 1 Race	36	18	9
Group 2 Race	20	10	5
Group 3 Race	12	6	3
Listed/ Restricted Listed Race	8	4	2

Racing's Night of Champions is the flagship event of the NSW Racehorse Owners Association which is conducted in August each year.

The event pays homage to the best New South Wales racing has to offer in recognising the achievements of both horses and their humans.

To view information regarding the 2012 event, visit the NSWROA website www.nswroa.com.au **RNSW**