

THE
IRISH JOCKEYS
ASSOCIATION CLG



24th October 2017

Our Ref: ARC/LD/J30

The Irish Jockeys Association Members

Re: Proposed increase in weights in flat maidens and conditions races

Dear IJA Member

At a meeting held in the Turf Club on 5th October the Irish Racehorse Trainers Association brought a proposal for discussion to the meeting that weights in maidens should be raised by 2 pounds from 9 stone to 9 stone 2 for fillies, 9 stone 5 to 9 stone 7 for colts and in open maidens the weight should be 9 stone 3. They also requested that in conditions races the rates should be raised by 2 pounds.

I attended this meeting with Chris Hayes, Shane Foley, Ross Coakley and Niall McCullagh and I enclose herewith a copy of the letter sent by the Trainers Association to Denis Egan of the Turf Club and Jason Morris of HRI.

The Irish Jockeys Association has not sought a weight increase in these races but following discussion it was agreed that a meeting of all members of the Association riding on the flat should be held to discuss this matter and to ascertain your views.

Accordingly, I suggest that we hold a meeting at **RACE on Tuesday, 7th November 2017, at 3.00 p.m.** for the purposes of discussing this issue and I invite everyone who has an interest in this matter to attend.

It is very important that you avail of the opportunity to give your views on this proposal so that we can respond to the Trainers Association and Turf Club meaningfully.

Best regards.

Yours truly

Andrew Coonan
Executive Secretary

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28th July 2017

Dear Denis and Jason,

I am writing to you in relation to the jockeys weights meeting held at the Turf Club on the 17th February and also at our board meeting on the 5th July where the issue of increasing flat jockeys weights were discussed.

There are a number of issues which were highlighted by Dr. Adrian McGoldrick.

1. The mental health issues where jockeys are under pressure trying to make weights. The constant wasting and riding while dehydrated is neither good for the individual or his competitors.
2. Our population is getting bigger and it is harder to attract and recruit young people to become apprentices.
3. We have to adapt to our own situation in Ireland even if the UK and France are not willing to come on board. In Ireland we have to do the right thing and lead by example, other countries may then follow our example and way of thinking and that is to raise the weights for our flat jockeys.

The IRTA feels that the minimum weight in handicaps should stay the same as at present with a review at a later date, as we are fortunate to have a number of top class light weight jockeys riding. The majority of our jockeys struggle to do the weights in our maiden and condition races and some black type races.

Our proposal is to raise the weights in these races by 2lbs.

Open maidens – Fillies 9-2lbs Colts 9-7lbs

Colts or fillies maidens only 9-3lbs

In the black type races an effort should be made to try not go above 10 -00st especially in 3 year old only races.

If you need any more details on the above please contact me on my mobile 087-2588770

Kind Regards

Michael Grassick