American Graded Stakes Committee

Grading Process

American Graded Stakes Committee

The purpose of the American Graded Stakes Committee is to provide owners and breeders of Thoroughbred horses a reliable guide to the relative quality of Thoroughbred bloodstock by identifying those U.S. races whose recent renewals have consistently attracted the highest quality competition.

TOBA
Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

American Graded Stakes Committee - History

- The grading of races began as a TOBA project in 1973, primarily at the request of European authorities anxious that North America have a method, similar to their Pattern race system implemented in 1972, for identifying the highest quality black-type events.

- In 1981 international auction houses and national breeders organizations and racing authorities formed the International Cataloguing Standards Committee "to achieve uniformity of cataloguing standards throughout the world," recognizing the TOBA North American Graded Stakes Committee as the grading authority for North American races.

TOBA

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

Committee Composition

- The TOBA American Graded Stakes Committee comprises 11 members: six TOBA Members, appointed by TOBA's chairman and confirmed by its trustees, with three-year terms three of which may be consecutive and five Racing Official Members, elected by the six TOBA Members, with three-year terms three of which may be consecutive.

- Representing TOBA: Everett Dobson (chairman), Barbara Banke, Reynolds Bell, Jr., Craig Bernick, Walker Hancock, and J. Michael O'Farrell.

- Racing Official Members: Kevin Greely, Ben Huffman, Steve Lym, Martin Panza, and Tom Robbins.

Criteria for Eligibility

- Meets minimum purse requirements - $75,000 for eligible and Listed and once graded, $100,000 for Grade III, $200,000 for Grade II and $300,000 for Grade I

- Has been run two consecutive prior years with materially the same conditions

- Satisfies objective criteria for graded races for its age/sex/distance division

- Is not restricted other than for non-winners of a sweepstakes

- Meets or exceeds guidelines in the committee's drug testing protocol

- Adoption of certain Association of Racing Commissioners International model rules on medication

Grading Divisions

The committee grades races in 15 divisions, evaluating the quality of the field of each eligible race in a given division relative to the quality of the field of other races in that division. These divisions are:

1) Two-year-olds (2YO)

2) Two-year-old Fillies (2YO F)

3) Three-year-old Route, Dirt (3YO R D)

4) Three-year-old Route, Turf (3YO R T)

5) Three-year-old Sprint (3YO SPR)

6) Three-year-old Filly Route, Dirt (3YO F R D)

7) Three-year-old Filly Route, Turf (3YO F R T)

8) Three-year-old Filly Sprint (3YO F SPR)

9) Three-year-old & Up Route, Dirt (3&UP R D)

10) Three-year-old & Up Route, Turf (3&UP R T)

11) Three-year-old & Up Sprint (3&UP SPR)

12) Three-year-old & Up Fillies & Mares Route, Dirt (3&UP F/M R D)

13) Three-year-old & Up Fillies & Mares Route, Turf (3&UP F/M R T)

14) Three-year-old & Up Fillies & Mares Sprint (3&UP F/M SPR)

15) Three-year-old & Up Sprint Turf (3&UP SPR T)

Grading Information

- Information supplied to the members of the committee includes statistical data for the last five years for all eligible races indicating quality of the field based on 1) points assigned for best performance in unrestricted black type stakes; 2) percentage of graded stakes winners in the field; 3) quality points achieved; 4) the official charts of the five most recent renewals; 5) North American Rating Committee (NARC) Ratings; and (6) Thoro-Graph figures.

- Members are expected to utilize this data, together with the knowledge drawn from their own experience, to make individual judgments as to the relative merit of the eligible races.

Sample Workbook Race Page

Each race has two pages in the divisional workbooks, a summary page with the chart of the most current renewal and a second page with the charts of the prior four renewals.

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

ALL 3UP (279-38-50-81-54-56)

BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC CD 11/03/18 3UP R D (90-14-14-28-15-19)

RANKINGS	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	CUM
by NARC Rates	1	1	1	1	1	**1.0**
by Points	1	4	1	1	1	1.6
by Percentages	3	1	8	4	1	3.4

SPECIFICATIONS						
Grade	I	I	I	I	I	
Distance	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	
Surface	D	D	D	D	D	
Purse	5,000G	5,000G	6,000G	6,000G	6,000G	
Starters	14	8	9	11	14	

POINTS						
Six	7(7)	8(8)	7(7)	7(7)	11(11)	
Four	4(4)		2(1)	4(3)	2(1)	
Three	3(2)				1(2)	
Two						
One						
Total	67	48	50	58	77	60.0

QUALITY POINTS						
Grade I	7	8 ^{1}	7	7 ^{1}	11 ^{2}	8.0
Grade I & II . . .	11 ^{1}	8 ^{1}	8	10 ^{2}	12 ^{2}	9.8
Grade I, II & III	13 ^{1}	8 ^{1}	8	10 ^{2}	14 ^{2}	10.6

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	CUM
NARC Rates	124.0	124.8	128.3	126.3	123.8	125.4
Points	67	48	50	58	77	60.0
Percentages	93%	100%	89%	91%	100%	94.6

BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC [G1] CHURCHILL DOWNS, Nov 3 2018

DISTANCE	COND	WINNER'S TIME	VALUE	RUNNERS
1 1/4 miles	D Fast	2:02.93	$5,520,000	14

NAME OF RUNNER	FP	LENGTHS	WT	EARNED	ODDS	-C-NARC--O-			QPTS	PTS
Accelerate	1		126	$3,300,000	2.7	126	126	126	G1	6
Gunnevera	2	1	126	1,020,000	30.8	122	122	122	G2	4
Thunder Snow (IRE)	3	1 3/4	126	540,000	14.5	120	120	120	G1	6 FOR
Yoshida (JPN)	4	1 3/4	126	300,000	14.5	120	120	120	G1	6
Mendelssohn	5	4	122	180,000	13.3	117	116	117	G1	6
Lone Sailor	6	5 1/2	122	60,000	90.9	113	113	113	G3	3
West Coast	7	7 1/4	126	60,000	6.6	110	110	124	G1	6
Discreet Lover	8	7 1/2	126	60,000	53.3	115	110	115	G1	6
Axelrod	9	8	122		51.7	109	109	113	G3	4
Pavel	10	9	126		39.7	108	107	117	G1	6
Mind Your Biscuits	11	30 3/4	126		9.1	77	77	120	G1	6
McKinzie	12	31	122		3.9	76	76	117	G1	6
Catholic Boy	13	34 3/4	122		5.1	123	71	123	G1	6
Roaring Lion	14	60 1/4	122		19.7	43	43	43	G1	6 EUR

BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC

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Rankings

An annual look at how the race ranks compared to its divisional peers by NARC Rates, Points and Percentage of GSW along with the five-year average ranking for each

BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC			ALL 3UP (279-38-50-81-54-56)			
		CD 11/03/18	3UP R D (90-14-14-28-15-19)			
RANKINGS	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	CUM
by NARC Rates	1	1	1	1	1	1.0
by Points	1	4	1	1	1	1.6
by Percentages	3	1	8	4	1	3.4

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

Specifications

The reader is given a five-year summary of the major conditions of the subject race.

SPECIFICATIONS					
Grade	I	I	I	I	I
Distance	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Surface	D	D	D	D	D
Purse	5,000G	5,000G	6,000G	6,000G	6,000G
Starters	14	8	9	11	14

Points

Each horse is assigned a Point value based upon its best performance 24 months before or after the race in question, including performance in the renewal of the race under consideration, as follows:

Six (6) Points: **Grade I Stakes Winner**

Four (4) Points: **Grade II Stakes Winner or Second in Grade I**

Three (3) Points: **Grade III Stakes Winner or Second in Grade II or Third in Grade I**

Two (2) Points: **Won a Listed or Listed Restricted Stakes or Second in Grade III or Third in Grade II**

One (1) Point: **Won a non-Listed Grade Eligible Stakes or an open non-Listed Black Type Stakes or Second in a Listed Stakes or Third in Grade III**

POINTS						
Six		7(7)	8(8)	7(7)	7(7)	11(11)
Four		4(4)		2(1)	4(3)	2(1)
Three		3(2)				1(2)
Two						
One						
Total		67	48	50	58	77	60.0

TOBA
Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

Quality Points

For each renewal the number of runners in the field which in the 24 months before or after the race in question, including the race in question, won a Grade I race (G1 Quality Point); a Grade I or Grade II race (G2 Quality Point); a Grade I, Grade II, or Grade III race (G3 Quality Point); only the highest win-level is recognized.

QUALITY POINTS						
Grade I	7	8 [1]	7	7 [1]	11 [2]	8.0
Grade I & II . . .	11 [1]	8 [1]	8	10 [2]	12 [2]	9.8
Grade I, II & III	13 [1]	8 [1]	8	10 [2]	14 [2]	10.6

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

NARC Rates

This number serves as an expression of each race-renewal's quality based on past performances of horses in the field as evaluated by the North American Rating Committee (NARC). For 2019, NARC is a panel of racing secretaries, each of whom every week assigns a hypothetical weight ("Rating") to every horse competing in North American open stakes races and stakes races with the non-winners of a sweepstakes condition with a purse of at least $75,000.

The NARC RATE for each renewal of the race under consideration is derived by allocating to each runner in the field the highest NARC rating achieved by that runner in the year of that renewal and averaging the highest four allocated NARC Ratings.

NARC Rates	124.0	124.8	128.3	126.3	123.8	125.4
Points	67	48	50	58	77	60.0
Percentages	93%	100%	89%	91%	100%	94.6

Race Charts

Sets forth the results of the most recent renewal of the race under consideration; the opposite, left-hand, page sets forth results information for up to four prior renewals

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BREEDERS' CUP CLASSIC [G1]   CHURCHILL DOWNS, Nov  3 2018
   DISTANCE              COND   WINNER'S TIME      VALUE    RUNNERS
   1 1/4 miles           D Fast      2:02.93    $5,520,000     14
NAME OF RUNNER           FP LENGTHS WT    EARNED    ODDS  -C-NARC--O- QPTS PTS
Accelerate                1        126 $3,300,000   2.7 126 126 126   G1   6
Gunnevera                 2  1     126  1,020,000  30.8 122 122 122   G2   4
Thunder Snow (IRE)        3  1 3/4 126    540,000  14.5 120 120 120   G1   6 FOR
Yoshida (JPN)             4  1 3/4 126    300,000  14.5 120 120 120   G1   6
Mendelssohn               5  4     122    180,000  13.3 117 116 117   G1   6
Lone Sailor               6  5 1/2 122     60,000  90.9 113 113 113   G3   3
West Coast                7  7 1/4 126     60,000   6.6 110 110 124   G1   6
Discreet Lover            8  7 1/2 126     60,000  53.3 115 110 115   G1   6
Axelrod                   9  8     122              51.7 109 109 113   G3   4
Pavel                    10  9     126              39.7 108 107 117   G1   6
Mind Your Biscuits       11 30 3/4 126               9.1  77  77 120   G1   6
McKinzie                 12 31     122               3.9  76  76 117   G1   6
Catholic Boy             13 34 3/4 122               5.1 123  71 123   G1   6
Roaring Lion             14 60 1/4 122              19.7  43  43  43   G1   6 EUR
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Divisional Index

The five-year average for each statistical measurement on the race pages in the workbooks is carried forward to an index page. The index is color-coded to identify those races in the bottom 20th percentile of a grade level (red) and those above the bottom 20th percentile of the next higher grade level (green).

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

Legend

		Purse	%GSW	PTS	G1	G2	G3	NARC	RQS	
↑	Upgrade									
↓	Downgrade									
T	Turf race									

3YO SPR

Red: below 20th percentile of grade level
Green: above 20th percentile of higher grade level

		Purse	%GSW	PTS	G1	G2	G3	NARC	RQS	
Gr.1	2	$401	56.9%	31.0	1.8	3.6	5.4	113.4		Avg
Gr.1	20%	$341	49.4%	29.0	1.8	3.2	4.6	113.1		20%
Gr.2	2	$300	42.5%	23.3	1.1	2.4	3.7	109.3		Avg
Gr.2	20%	$240	36.2%	18.3	1.0	2.0	2.6	107.8		20%
Gr.3	6	$192	35.8%	15.5	0.3	1.2	2.5	106.2		Avg
Gr.3	60%	$140	34.2%	13.0	0.1	1.1	2.2	104.9		20%
L	8	$113	19.1%	12.5	0.1	0.5	1.4	102.3	71.5	Avg
L	44%	$100	9.8%	10.9	0.0	0.4	0.8	99.4	67.4	20%

'18 Gr.	'14	'15	'16	'17	#	Dist	Mth	Purse	Stake --- PER 2018 WORKBOOK	T		%GSW	PTS	G1	G2	G3	NARC	RQS	Page Num
I					5	7.0	Aug-18	$502	H. ALLEN JERKENS S. PRESENTED		SAR	69.4%	34.4	1.8	4.2	6.8	113.7		160
I					5	7.0	Dec-17	$301	MALIBU S.		SA	44.4%	27.6	1.8	3.0	4.0	113.0		161
II					5	7.0	Jun-18	$400	WOODY STEPHENS S. PRESENTED		BEL	52.8%	31.6	1.0	3.0	5.6	111.8		162
II					5	7.0	Feb-18	$200	SAN VICENTE S.		SA	32.1%	15.0	1.2	1.8	1.8	106.8		163
III					5	6.0	Sep-18	$300	GALLANT BOB S.		PRX	32.6%	18.8	0.4	1.2	2.8	108.0		164
III				↓	5	6.5	Jul-18	$200	AMSTERDAM S.		SAR	34.4%	16.6	0.4	1.2	2.2	107.3		165
III				↓	5	7.0	Feb-18	$200	SWALE S.		GP	36.7%	14.6	0.4	1.2	2.2	106.9		166
III					5	7.0	Apr-18	$250	BAY SHORE S.		AQU	37.1%	15.8	0.2	1.4	2.6	106.5		167
III					5	7.0	May-18	$100	LAZARO BARRERA S.		SA	32.3%	11.6	0.2	1.0	2.0	104.5		168
III					5	6.0	Mar-18	$100	HUTCHESON S.		GP	41.7%	15.8	0.0	1.2	3.0	104.1		169
L					5	6.0	May-18	$200	CHICK LANG S.		PIM	26.2%	15.4	0.0	1.0	2.2	105.2	74.1	170
L	↑				5	7.0	Nov-17	$100	CITY OF LAUREL S.		LRL	19.1%	15.0	0.2	0.4	1.8	104.8	76.2	171
L					5	5.5	Aug-18	$100	QUICK CALL S.	T	SAR	11.6%	13.0	0.0	0.6	1.0	104.2	70.2	172
L			↑		4	6.0	Sep-18	$100	ALLIED FORCES S.	T	BEL	21.1%	10.7	0.0	0.3	1.3	102.9	72.3	173
L			↓		5	7.0	Jun-18	$75	CARRY BACK S.		GP	21.4%	13.4	0.0	0.4	1.8	102.5	72.9	174
L		↑			5	6.0	Apr-18	$150	BACHELOR S.		OP	18.9%	12.2	0.0	0.4	1.4	101.2	73.4	175
L					5	6.0	Apr-17	$78	SAN PEDRO S.		SA	29.6%	10.2	0.2	0.6	1.6	97.9	68.0	176
L					5	6.0	May-18	$101	TOM RIDGE S.		PID	4.8%	9.8	0.0	0.2	0.4	99.4	65.2	177
U					2	6.5	Sep-18	$257	FRANKLIN-SIMPSON S.	T	KD	10.5%	12.5	0.0	0.0	1.0	104.5	69.6	178
U					5	7.0	May-18	$98	PARADISE CREEK S.	T	BEL	0.0%	6.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	101.2	66.4	179
U					4	6.0	May-18	$90	GOLD FEVER S.		BEL	21.1%	8.0	0.3	0.5	1.0	102.1	70.0	180
U					5	6.5	Feb-18	$78	BAFFLE S.	T	SA	3.6%	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	101.7	70.6	181
U					4	5.0	Apr-18	$100	WILLIAM WALKER S.	T	CD	12.5%	6.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	101.5	67.3	182
U					3	6.0	Nov-17	$200	STEEL VALLEY SPRINT S.		MVR	16.0%	11.7	0.0	0.3	1.3	101.4	75.3	183
U					2	7.0	Jul-18	$74	CONCERN S.		LRL	22.2%	7.5	0.0	0.0	1.0	99.5	66.6	184
U					4	6.5	May-17	$79	DESERT CODE S.	T	SA	0.0%	9.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	99.7	67.1	185
U					4	5.0	Feb-18	$75	TEXAS GLITTER S.	T	GP	3.0%	8.5	0.0	0.0	0.3	100.4	63.8	186
U					5	7.0	Jan-18	$100	FRANK WHITELEY, JR S.		LRL	3.0%	7.4	0.0	0.2	0.2	95.7	68.8	187
U					5	6.0	Feb-18	$125	GAZEBO S.		OP	8.8%	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.6	98.8	67.3	188
U					5	7.0	Feb-18	$150	JIMMY WINKFIELD S.		AQU	0.0%	7.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	96.8	69.9	189
U					5	7.0	Apr-18	$85	ROBERT HILTON MEMORIAL S.		CT	2.8%	6.6	0.0	0.0	0.2	96.0	70.8	190
U					2	6.0	Jan-17	$98	LOST IN THE FOG S.		AQU	0.0%	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	96.0	68.1	191

Thoro-Graph Race Figures

The Thoro-Graph figures earned in the subject race by the first four finishers are averaged to arrive at the annual Race Figure. The five annual Race Figures are averaged to arrive at the Race Figure in this table.

	THREE-YEAR-OLDS			
Gr	Stake	Track	RaceF	WinFig
1	MALIBU S.	SA	1.0	-0.6
1	H. ALLEN JERKENS S.	SAR	1.0	-0.3
3	GALLANT BOB H.	PRX	1.8	0.4
2	WOODY STEPHENS S.	BEL	2.0	-0.1
3	AMSTERDAM S.	SAR	2.6	-0.8
L	CITY OF LAUREL S.	LRL	3.5	1.3
3	BAY SHORE S.	AQU	3.6	1.8
L	CHICK LANG S.	PIM	3.6	0.3
U	GOLD FEVER S.	BEL	4.7	2.1
U	STEEL VALLEY SPRINT S.	MVR	4.7	2.4
3	SWALE S.	GP	5.1	2.6
L	ALLIED FORCES S. (T)	BEL	5.2	-0.4
L	BACHELOR S.	OP	5.2	2.3
2	SAN VICENTE S.	SA	5.7	2.4
3	HUTCHESON S.	GP	5.8	2.7
3	LAZARO BARRERA MEMORIAL S.	SA	5.9	3.6
U	CONCERN S.	LRL	6.1	2.8
U	JIMMY WINKFIELD S.	AQU	6.1	4.2
U	FRANKLIN-SIMPSON S.	KD	6.2	4.9
L	QUICK CALL S. (T)	SAR	6.2	4.9
L	CARRY BACK S.	CRC	6.3	2.8
U	GAZEBO S.	OP	6.7	4.2
U	ROBERT HILTON MEMORIAL S.	CT	6.9	3.8
U	FRANK WHITELEY, JR S.	LRL	6.9	4.1
U	LOST IN THE FOG S.	AQU	7.4	5.1
U	WILLIAM WALKER S.(T)	CD	7.5	4.7
L	SAN PEDRO S.	SA	7.8	4.7
L	TOM RIDGE S.	PID	7.8	5.5
U	BAFFLE S. (T)	SA	8.3	6.2
U	DESERT CODE S. (T)	SA	8.5	7.2
U	TEXAS GLITTER S.	GP	8.7	6.3
U	PARADISE CREEK S. (T)	BEL	8.9	6.0

Voting

- Races highlighted in red (downgrade) or green (upgrade) on a divisional index must be discussed by the committee. In addition, any committee member can request a discussion and vote on any race.

- Eight affirmative votes are required to upgrade any race and six affirmative votes are required to downgrade a race.

- In the end, the workbooks and other information represent the committee's latest best effort to provide itself with the least imperfect array of "hard data" to aid, inform, and support an evaluation process that must finally depend on the integrity, experience, and judgment of the committee members themselves. The calculations can supplement, but cannot supplant, the collective wisdom of the committee. The grades are a composite of expert opinion, rather than the result solely of statistical analyses.

GRADES Beginning of 2019 Session	ALL RACES		2YO	9.2%	RD	34.4%	RT	34.4%	SPR	17.6%	SPRT	4.4%	2019 GRADES	
GRADE I	103	23.0%	15	36.6%	37	24.0%	32	20.8%	17	21.5%	2	10.0%	103	22.9%
GRADE II	130	29.0%	13	31.7%	43	27.9%	46	29.9%	23	29.1%	5	25.0%	131	29.1%
GRADE III	215	48.0%	13	31.7%	74	48.1%	76	49.4%	39	49.4%	13	65.0%	216	48.0%
ALL GRADED	448	53.1%	41	41.4%	154	62.9%	154	59.0%	79	43.4%	20	35.1%	450	55.8%
LISTED	176	20.9%	18	18.2%	49	20.0%	47	18.0%	45	24.7%	17	29.8%	187	23.2%
Non-Listed Eligible	220	26.1%	40	40.4%	42	17.1%	60	23.0%	58	31.9%	20	35.1%	170	21.1%
ALL GR, L & NLE	844		99		245		261		182		57		807	

(Rightmost vertical label: ALL RACES)

At the beginning of the 2019 grading session, 186, or 41.5%, of the graded races are turf races.