



Changes to the 2026/27 Jump Pattern

Races upgraded to the Premier Handicap programme

- **Silver Trophy** Handicap Hurdle (2m 3.5f) at Chepstow (10 October 2026)
- **Hurst Park** Steeple Chase (2m) at Ascot (21 November 2026)
- **Lanzarote** Handicap Hurdle (2m 5f) at Kempton Park (9 January 2027)
- **Morebattle** Handicap Hurdle (2m) at Kelso (6 March 2027)
- **Imperial Cup** Handicap Hurdle (2m) at Sandown Park (13 March 2027)
- **Tradesmen's Plate** – new 2m 4f Premier Handicap hurdle race at Kelso (Sun 6 December 2026)
- **Wolsey** – new 2m Premier Handicap steeple chase at Sandown Park (6 February 2027)

Other upgrades

- Mares' novices' hurdle (2m) at Windsor's Winter Millions fixture (24 January 2027) upgraded to Listed status and named the '**Round Tower**'.
- Grade 2 upgrade for both the **Yorkshire Silver Vase** Mares' Steeple Chase (2m 4.5f) at Doncaster (29 December 2026) and the **Fair Maid of Perth** Mares' Steeple Chase (3m) at Perth (21 April 2027).

Downgrades and adjustments

- Ascot's 2m Premier Handicap steeple chase (31 October 2026) downgraded to Class 2 (to facilitate the upgrade of the Hurst Park).
- **Scottish Champion Hurdle** (2m) at Ayr (17 April 2027) to be converted from a limited handicap Grade 2 to a full weight range Premier Handicap.

Venue change

- Grade 2 **Elite Hurdle** (2m) to move permanently from Wincanton racecourse to Aintree (7 Nov 2026) and renamed the '**Molyneux**'.

Jump Pattern Committee Quality Control

- Introduction of an average field size metric as part of Jump Pattern Committee's annual quality control for Premier Handicap races. Premier Handicaps are required to achieve 3-year average declarations of 10 in steeple chases and 12 over hurdles, else face possible downgrade.
- Revised ratings parameter for Premier Handicap Hurdle races (135) as part of Jump Pattern Committee's annual quality control.

Other changes

- All Jump Pattern and Listed races are to include a permanent word to establish the continuity of the race (the 'race handle'). This requirement was previously limited to Grade 1, Grade 2 and Listed races only.
- From this season all remaining standard closing Premier Handicaps will switch to an early closing system.
- Adjustments to the penalty structures for Grade 2 weight-for-age races. Non-novice Grade 2 races will no longer penalise recent Premier Handicap/Listed weight-for-age winners, which will hopefully make these races more appealing options for connections



with horses looking to step up in grade. The equivalent novice penalty structures in Grade 2 and Listed races have been altered to fit in line with the new non-novice structures, but using 3lb and 5lb amounts as before.