

Restricted Races 2026

Definition: Restricted Races

A Restricted Race is a Race restricted to horses which have:

- i) been sold or bought in by public auction at Specified Sales
For the purposes of qualifying for Flat Restricted races, horses must have been sold or bought in by public auction at specified sales. (Note: horses which were not sold at auction may also qualify via their sire's median auction value, see Restricted races)

For the avoidance of doubt horses which are unsold having failed to reach their reserves do not qualify, nor do private sales.

The "specified sales" referred to above for these races in 2026 comprise the following:-

- a) Those yearling sales administered by Arqana (France), Baden- Badener Auktionsgesellschaft (BBAG) (Germany), Goffs UK Ltd. (G.B.), Fasig-Tipton Co. Inc. (U.S.A.), Goffs Bloodstock Sales Ltd. (Ireland), Goresbridge Horse Sales Ltd. (Ireland), Keeneland Association Inc. (U.S.A.), Ocala Breeders Sales Co. Inc. (U.S.A.), Osarus Vente (France), Societa Gestione Aste (SGA) (Italy), Tattersalls Ltd. (G.B.), Tattersalls (Ireland) Ltd. (Ireland), Tattersalls (Ireland) Ltd. Cheltenham (G.B.), Tattersalls (Ireland) Ltd. Ascot (G.B.), Thoroughbid Ltd.
- b) The only specified sales for horses sold as two-year-olds in 2026 will be sales that are exclusively Breeze Up Sales and held in Europe before 1 July, 2026.

The full list of specified sales for horses sold as two-year-olds in 2026 is the:

- Tattersalls Craven Breeze Up Sale 13 – 15 April 2026
- The Goffs Breeze Up Sale 21 – 22 April 2026
- The Tattersalls Guineas Breeze Up Sale 29 – 30 April 2026
- The Arqana Breeze Up Sale Deauville 7 – 9 May 2026
- Osarus Breeze Up La Teste 13 May 2026
- The Tattersalls Ireland Breeze Up Sale 21 – 22 May 2026
- The Goffs Classic Breeze Up Sale – 27 June 2026

- ii) The last sale will govern the price if the horse is sold more than once, up to and including the relevant qualifying date as stated above.
- iii) A horse will only be considered as having been sold by public auction (under the hammer) if that sale is subsequently published, or notified in writing to the Racing Calendar Office, by the Sales Company. The auction price used will be the first published/notified sales price from the relevant auction, unless notification is subsequently received from the Sales company indicating that, for a reason acceptable to the British Horseracing Authority, a

different Sales price should be used. An amended Sales price will only be used to calculate a horse's weight in an Auction race if such notification has been received by the Racing Calendar Office and accepted by the British Horseracing Authority no later than 24 hours prior to the first scratching stage deadline in the case of an early closing race or no later than 24 hours before the declaration deadline in the case of a normal closing race.

- iv) A horse initially sold under the hammer, but whose sale was subsequently cancelled for whatever reason will still be qualified for Auction races. Such instances include the horse failing a veterinary examination, a void sale, disputed bids, etc. The auction price used will be the initial price unless notification has been received from the Sales companies indicating that the horse has been re-submitted as the result of a void sale. If the horse was not re-submitted it will still be qualified but will be assessed on the auction price of its void sale.
- v) which are the progeny of stallions which established a median price for the sale of yearlings contemporary with the entrants in the Race based on the sale or bought in price of one or more animals at Specified Sales. (sales where the horse is unsold at auction or sold privately do not qualify).

Horses will be allocated to a Band dependent on their auction or median auction value.

2yos of 2026 – Changes were made across all Bands for both Auction Values and Median Auction Values.

A horse which is a 2yo in 2026, and is by a sire without a yearling sale in 2025, would be able to use the 2024 median value in order to qualify for Restricted races; if the sire did not register a sale in 2024 either, then the 2023 median would be carried over; if no 2023 median was registered, then the 2022 would be carried over. Thus, the maximum number of years that a median value could be carried over is three years.

Band	Auction Value	Median auction value
Open	N/A	N/A
Band A Restricted	£68,001-108,800	<£44,950
Band B Restricted	£40,801 - £68,000	<£29,900

Band C Restricted	£20,401-£40,800	<£19,650
Band D Restricted	£1 - £20,400	<£10,100

2yos of 2025 – Slight changes were made to the Median auction value for horses in Bands C and D:

Band	Auction Value	Median auction value
Open	N/A	N/A
Band A Restricted	£66,001-105,600	<£42,350
Band B Restricted	£39,601 - £66,000	<£28,160
Band C Restricted	£19,801-£39,600	<£18,500
Band D Restricted	£1 - £19,800	<£9,500

For 2yos of 2024 the bandings will remain the same as for 2yos of 2023. Therefore, the bands for **2yos of 2024 and 2023** are:

Band	Auction Value	Median auction value
Open	N/A	N/A
Band A Restricted	£66,001 - 105,600	<£42,350

Band B Restricted	£39,601 - £66,000	<£28,160
Band C Restricted	£19,801 - £39,600	<£17,600
Band D Restricted	£1 - £19,800	<£8,800

All older horses will retain the bands they received in their 2yo year. As a reminder, those banding vales are listed below.

Notes:

- Horses' Bands are published on the Racing Admin site under Qualifications for each horse.
- Restricted races will continue to be framed as follows:
 - For Horses in Bands A, B, C and D
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 - For Horses in Bands C and D
 - For Horses in Band D
- Where applicable, a lower Band horse will receive a 2lb or 3lb allowance from a higher Band. So, a Band B horse will receive a 2lb allowance from a Band A. In turn, Band C will receive 3lb from Band B and, correspondingly, Band D a 3lb allowance from Band C. Allowances will be cumulative, so a Band D horse will receive 8lb from a Band A horse in a race open to Bands A, B, C and D.