

## Alex Bird Trophy 2026 – Competition Rules and Guidelines

1. **Selection Process:** Each entrant must make one selection for each race on the relevant day of the meeting. The selection must be a named horse.
2. **Entry Submission Deadline:** Entries for all races on a given day must be received before the start of the first race. Entries should be submitted to Mark Banks via email at [zafonic93@gmail.com](mailto:zafonic93@gmail.com) (with copies to [alexbird@googlegroups.com](mailto:alexbird@googlegroups.com)) or by text or WhatsApp to 07745 895779. Please include the entrant's name, the selected horse, and the race time.
3. **Non-Runner Rule:** If a selected horse is a non-runner, the entrant's selection will automatically be transferred to the favourite. In the case of joint favourites, the selection will default to the joint favourite with the lowest race card number (i.e., horse number 1).
4. **Reserve Selections:** Due to the complexities involved in scoring, reserve selections for non-runners are no longer accepted.
5. **Substitute Entrants:** Entrants who are unable to submit their selections during a meeting may designate a substitute to submit their entries on their behalf.
6. **Failure to Submit Selections:** Entrants who fail to submit selections will score no points.
7. **Multiple Entries:** Entrants may submit a maximum of two entries per meeting. If choosing this option, please clearly indicate your entries as "Entry 1" and "Entry 2."
8. **Scoring System:** Points are awarded based on the finishing positions of the selected horses, with additional bonus points available for winners and placed horses depending on their starting price.
9. **Points Allocation (per race):**

1 <sup>st</sup> place	15 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	10 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> place	5 points
4 <sup>th</sup> place	2 points

Placed points follow normal bookmaker each-way terms:

4 places: for handicaps with 16 or more runners; 3 places: for races with 8 to 15 runners; and 2 places: for races with 5 to 7 runners

10. **Bonus Points for Winners:** Bonus points are awarded for winners with a starting price of 5/1 or greater. The bonus points replicate the starting price (e.g., a 5/1 winner scores 5 points; a 17/2 winner scores 8.5 points; a 33/1 winner scores 33 points, etc.).
11. **Bonus Points Cap:** To ensure competitive balance while still rewarding bold selections, bonus points for winners are capped at 50 points. If a winner's starting price exceeds 50/1, they will receive the maximum of 50 points, regardless of the actual odds.
12. **Bonus points for placed horses:** Bonus points for placed horses are awarded when the starting price is 5/1 or greater, calculated as one-quarter of the odds—for instance, a horse placed at 14/1 earns 3.5 points. If the result includes more than one decimal place, it is rounded up to the nearest tenth, so a horse placed at 11/1 would receive 2.8 points. To maintain fairness and consistency with the bonus system for winners, the maximum starting price eligible for bonus placed points is also capped at 50/1.
13. **Dead Heat Scoring:** In the event of a dead heat, both the win and place points will be shared equally between the horses involved. Any applicable bonus points will also be halved. The bonus points for placed horses will only be halved if the dead heat creates an "extra place," which occurs depending on the number of runners in the race. For example, if there is a dead heat for 2nd place in a seven-horse race, it would create an extra place.