

For the next two Friday nights – April 3 and 10 – sensational racing will be simulcast from Australia. The Championships at Royal Randwick will be conducted over two Friday nights and there will be \$18 million in purse money with horses from all over the world competing.

When watching races from Australia, the focus is on the horse and the bettor (punter). Some things to learn that will make the broadcast more informative.

- There is a big emphasis on betting odds. Be aware that a horse that is 3 to 1 pays \$6, not the \$8 that we are used to. The odds reflects the bet so \$2 times 3 to 1 equals \$6.
- Any horse below 2 to 1 is considered odds-on.
- A 3 to 5 shot in America pays \$3.20. In Australia (and most of the world), a horse at odds of 1.60 to 1 pays \$3.20
- You will hear commentators say a horse is “five into four.” What that means is that the odds of the horse has dropped from 5 to 1 to 4 to 1 and is taking lots of money
- A horse that is “five out to seven” is a horse whose odds have gone up from 5 to 1 to 7 to 1 and is not taking money.
- A “market mover” is a horse that is taking an extraordinary amount of late betting money
- Australia has tote betting as well as legal bookmakers allowed on the track. You will hear references to both and before the race they will run down the field’s odds on the bookmakers boards. This gives you an idea of which horses are being fancied.
- Betting on Australian racing in America has separate pools than what you see on the simulcast television feed. The American odds will be displayed on the left column of the television screen and those are what you will be getting.
- There are many times where a horse on the simulcast presentation is taking a lot of money in Australia but it might not be reflected in the American pool that you are playing into. This represents an advantage to the American bettor so it is worth paying attention to the broadcast even though those are not the odds you are betting into. Chances are, the odds that you are getting are better than what you are hearing about on the simulcast presentation.
- The past performance information now available on Australian racing has become more “Americanized.” They now include points of call information so you can what kind of running style a horse has, and a speed rating. The layout has been improved so it is visually similar to what you are used to.
- The races at Royal Randwick are run right-handed – opposite to our racing. This is true for racing in New South Wales. Racing in Victoria (Melbourne, Caulfield, Moonee Valley) is conducted left-handed.

- Turf condition is very important. There are ten numerical designations that are broken into four categories on the past performances.
- “Firm” is listed as 1 or 2 on the television screen
- “Good” is listed as 3 or 4 on the television screen
- “Soft” is listed as 5, 6 or 7 on the television screen
- “Heavy” is listed as 8, 9, 10 on the television screen
- You will rarely see a turf course listed as “Firm” since the track would be watered and kept from getting “Firm.”
- You will hear references to horses that have “mud” form or do well in “the wet.” These are horses that excel over a turf course that is water logged.
- A “Barrier” is the post position stall the horse is breaking from.
- A “Barrier Trial” is a timed workout with other horses that help them get ready for their next race. You can tell it is a barrier trial since there will not be odds posted nor are the riders weighed. They are usually conducted around 4 ½ furlongs.
- The program numbers of the horse does not reflect the post position the horse is breaking from.
- In handicap races, the highest-weighted horse receives program number One, the next highest-weighted horse receives program number two, etc.
- The post position is listed under the program number of the horse in the past performances.
- Even though Randwick is run right-handed, the post positions still indicate that post position One is down on the inside.
- Next to the trainer information, it tells you where the trainer’s operation is located. For instance, Gai Waterhouse trains at Randwick while Gerald Ryan trains at Rosehill. It gives you an indication of which trainer might have a “home-field” advantage.