



More than R10-million is being offered as additional bonuses in the eight-series South African National Racing Championships which offer basic stakes totaling over R19-million.

The Championships are being staged jointly by Gold Circle and Phumelela and have been designed to provide added incentives to owners to campaign their better horses in South Africa for longer and to target particular races within a carefully planned and properly structured programme.

The industry has introduced the eight national championships to cater for the country's equine superstars, rewarding excellence with bonuses in each series. Except for the two series for juveniles where two races of Grade 2 status are included in the eight events, all other races in the championships are at the highest Grade 1 level.

The eight series cover all categories of racing and in each instance a bonus of at between R1-million and R2,5 million is on offer to the owner/s of any horse that can win every leg of the series in which it competes. This means, for example, that a horse that can win the three legs of the SA Champion of Champions series comprising the Vodacom Durban July, the Gommagomma Challenge and the J&B Met in succession, using any one of the races as a starting point, will win the lion's share of the basic stake for each race plus a bonus of R2,5-million.

The other seven series carry fixed season bonuses in which the winner will be required to win all the legs of the particular series within the current racing season.

The racing industry has felt the effect of the greater demand for South African horses from Mauritius in particular and the exodus from the highest echelons of the thoroughbred pool to Dubai. The All Stars Series of championship events, together with the recently announced increase in

stakes for the country's three top races, are designed to encourage owners to race locally and, for those horses that do campaign in Dubai, to be brought back to this country to further their careers.

(See excel schedule for full listing)