

Racing Queensland Limited

POLICY ON THE STANDARDS REQUIRED FOR LICENSED VENUES, INCLUDING VENUE LICENSING PROCEDURES

DATE POLICY WAS MADE

This policy was made on 1 July 2010.

COMMENCEMENT DATE

This policy comes into effect on 1 July 2010.

PURPOSE

The *Racing Act 2002* (Act) authorises Racing Queensland Limited (Racing Queensland) to make policies for the sound management of the industry. Section 81(k) of the Act requires Racing Queensland to make a policy on the standards required for licensed venues, including criteria for different categories of venues.

The standard of racing venues is critically important for the integrity of racing, the safety and comfort of spectators, participants and officials, and the welfare of animals. Owners of licensed venues must ensure that the facilities at their venues are of a sufficient standard to protect the safety of officials, licensees, Queensland racing industry participants, the general public and racing animals.

The purpose of this policy is to manage the licensing of venues where racing and training activities of racing animals is undertaken.

Integrity

Racing venues must have sufficient facilities to allow stewards to properly supervise preparations for racing and the conduct of races themselves. Stabling/kenneling and swabbing facilities must be secure enough to guarantee the integrity of pre and post-race sampling, where applicable, of horses/greyhounds and to ensure the security and safety of racing animals, licensees and officials.

Safety and comfort

Facilities at racing venues must be of a sufficient standard to minimise risks to licensees, participants and the public generally. This includes stabling facilities for horses, kenneling facilities for greyhounds, running rails, other fencing and the racing surface. Licensee facilities, such as jockeys'/drivers' rooms and medical examination rooms/sick bays, must be of a satisfactory and secure standard, including separate showers, toilets and dressing rooms for male and female riders/drivers. Facilities for the public, such as car parking, grandstands and other amenities, and general access must provide for the safety and comfort of workers and patrons. There must be signs giving warning of potential hazards and signs clearly indicating areas restricted to licensees and officials and where the general public is not permitted.

Operators of racing venues must ensure there are appropriate evacuation plans and appropriately trained staff to deal with emergencies.

Appropriate image

Owners of licensed venues should ensure their venues project a positive image of the Queensland racing industry. Attractive, well-maintained venues with good facilities and entertainment will attract patrons and industry participants, encourage interest in racing and betting on races, and benefit the industry. Conversely, venues that are poorly presented or are hazardous to safety discourage attendance at race meetings, participation in the racing industry and wagering on races. Therefore, the standard of licensed venues is a serious issue for the Queensland racing industry as a whole.

Animal welfare

The facilities at licensed venues must take animal welfare into account. In accordance with the rules of racing, only licensed persons and officials performing their duties may have contact with racing animals on the racecourse. Stabling, kenneling and swabbing facilities must be secure, clean and well ventilated. Clean, fresh and cool hosing down and drinking water must be available for horses and greyhounds. The loading and unloading area must be safe for horses, greyhounds and attendants. Barriers/boxes must be safe for horses, greyhounds, jockeys, drivers and attendants. The racing surface must be properly maintained and well fenced.

Control body powers

Under the Act, Racing Queensland is responsible for managing thoroughbred, harness and greyhound racing, including the involvement of clubs and venues in the code.

Section 109 provides that a club may only hold a race or betting meeting at a licensed venue.

Section 34 gives Racing Queensland the powers necessary to license venues, assess venues against any of its policies and make decisions about and allocate funding for venue development.

Racing Queensland may give a direction to a club in relation to a licensed venue and may take disciplinary action against a club that contravenes a direction.

Under section 39, Racing Queensland must have a program to audit the suitability of every licensed club and venue to continue to be licensed. By 31 December each year, Racing Queensland must have an audit program in place for the following year.

Racing Queensland will develop and maintain a set of standards to assist owners of venues to ensure their venues meet the standards required to be licensed. These standards will be published and maintained by Racing Queensland.

Racing Queensland requires clubs to ensure their venues meet these standards. Where facilities are substandard, clubs must develop a plan to rectify problems.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the standard of licensed venues in Queensland is appropriate for the type of racing being conducted at the venue and sufficiently high to guarantee the integrity of racing, the safety of licensees, other participants and the public generally, and the welfare of racing animals.

POLICY STATEMENT

Racing Queensland will categorise venues according to the standard of racing at that venue. Race Clubs must ensure their venues meet the standards required for their category of racing.

Racing Queensland will ensure that racing venues meet the required standards for their category of venue before they are licensed.

Racing Queensland may require a race club to provide tangible evidence that its racecourse meets required health and safety standards, for example, producing a workplace health and safety certificate from an independent consultant.

Where an audit finds that a licensed venue is substandard, Racing Queensland will require the venue owner to bring the venue up to standard. This may include requiring the venue owner to prepare a plan for bringing the venue up to standard or directing the owner to undertake rectification work. Should a venue owner not cooperate with a Racing Queensland direction regarding a licensed venue, Racing Queensland may initiate disciplinary action against the venue owner.

Racing Queensland may develop sub policies to cover different aspects of licensed venues.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to all venues licensed by or proposed to be licensed by Racing Queensland.

DEFINITIONS

'Direction (from Racing Queensland)' refers to a written direction given by Racing Queensland to a race club relating to the club's operations or licensed racing venue. Racing Queensland may require a club to do something or refrain from doing something.

'Disciplinary action (by Racing Queensland against a club)' may include cancelling, suspending or varying the club's licence or imposing a monetary penalty.

'Licensed club' refers to a club licensed by Racing Queensland to hold thoroughbred, harness or greyhound race meetings.

'Licensed venue' refers to a place licensed by Racing Queensland where a licensed club may hold a thoroughbred, harness or greyhound race meeting, or a privately owned venue where training activities and stabling/kenneling are undertaken of racing animals in the preparation for racing.

'Privately owned venue' refers to a venue where training activities and stabling/kenneling are undertaken of racing animals in the preparation for racing.

'Racing animals' means thoroughbred and harness racing horses and greyhound dogs.

PROCEDURES

Venue Licensing and Categories of a Licensed Venue

Venues will be licensed and audited against Racing Queensland's minimum standards.

Venues will be licensed by Racing Queensland as per the following venue types:

Category 1: venues where registered TAB race meetings are conducted and/or training activities are undertaken of racing animals in the preparation for racing, which are managed by a licensed club or Racing Queensland.

Category 2: venues where registered Non-TAB race meetings are conducted and/or training activities are undertaken of racing animals in the preparation for racing, which are managed by a licensed club or Racing Queensland.

Category 3: privately owned venues where training activities and stabling/kennelling are undertaken of racing animals in the preparation for racing.

Category 4: venues managed by a licensed club or Racing Queensland, where racing animals are kept in the preparation for racing.

Racing Queensland has established at Attachment 1 a '*Minimum Standards for Licensed Venues*'.

If a licensed venue fails to, or cannot meet a minimum standard it must immediately notify Racing Queensland. Within this notification, the licensed venue should provide full details of the area on non-compliance and what, if any, steps have been taken to remedy this issue.

Racing Queensland will categorise each breach, and in the formal notice will advise the licensed venue which of the following outcomes will apply:

- (a) Remedial action and timelines set by Racing Queensland
- (b) Suspension of affected services at the licensed venue
- (c) Transfer of race meetings to another licensed club or licensed venue; or
- (d) Cancellation or suspension of club/venue license.

Licensed venues which have areas of non-compliance that are scheduled to conduct a race meeting prior to the remediation date of the relevant items, must conduct a satisfactory risk assessment of these areas of non-compliance prior to the conduct of any race meeting. This risk assessment must be signed by an accredited WH&S officer and are to be provided to Racing Queensland a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the race meeting.

Roles and responsibilities

Racing Queensland

Racing Queensland will ensure venues meet required standards before licensing them and develop a program to audit venues to ensure their continued suitability to be licensed.

Race clubs

Race clubs will only conduct race meetings at venues that are licensed by Racing Queensland.

Rules of Racing

Race clubs must comply with the Rules of Racing that govern licensed venues.

Review

This policy was reviewed in September 2010.

Next review date will be September 2012.

ATTACHMENT - MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR LICENSED VENUES

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Description
1.01	July 2010	Board adopted under exceptional circumstances
1.02	September 2010	Board confirmed this policy continued to have effect

ATTACHMENT - MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR LICENSED VENUES

Racing facilities

Racing facilities must meet with approval of Racing Queensland and will include, but are not limited to:

- Running rail and pegs
- Racing surface in suitable condition to allow safe racing
- Race day equipment, including, but not limited to, emergency horse float, screen and photo finish mirror
- Starting mechanism, such as barrier stalls, starting boxes, vehicles and lures
- Stewards and integrity facilities and equipment, including, but not limited to, steward's viewing areas and judges facilities
- Horse tie-up, hose down facilities, saddling enclosure and kennelling
- Swabbing, shoeing and veterinary treatment facilities, and
- Provision of medical facilities.

Licensee facilities

- Jockeys'/drivers' room, both male and female facilities
- Medical facilities (examination room/sick bay)
- Bookmakers' facilities

Staffing

Staff must be appropriately qualified and competent to undertake official and supportive roles and, where necessary, be formally accredited by Racing Queensland.

Patron facilities

Patron facilities must be lawful and comply with, for example, liquor licensing laws, Health Department regulations, workplace health and safety requirements and local laws.

Public safety

Facilities must comply with Emergency Services' requirements and all restricted access areas must be clearly signed.

Statutory Requirements

It is important to note that these minimum standards do not address compliance with other additional statutory requirements regarding the facilities at each venue, and that it is a requirement, of each licensed club to ensure that all safety measures are in place and operating as intended in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements.

Areas of compliance include, but are not limited to the following:

- (a) Building Code of Australia, relevant State and Local Building requirements
(e.g. *Building Act 1975*, Queensland Development Code)
- (b) *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995*
- (c) Liquor Licensing
- (d) Food Safety
- (e) *Racing Act 2002*, and
- (f) *Animal Care and Protections Act 2001*.