

THE STANDARD REQUIRED OF LICENSED VENUES POLICY EFFECTIVE FROM DD MM YYYY

1. BACKGROUND

This policy is made under s.102(1)(a) of the [Racing Act 2002](#) (Qld) (“the Act”) and s.6(d) of the [Racing Regulation 2023](#) (Qld). Those provisions require Racing Queensland (“RQ”), as the control body for all codes of racing in Queensland, to make a policy for the standard required of licensed venues, including criteria for different categories of venues.

2. POLICY NAME

This policy is named *The Standard Required of Licensed Venues Policy* (“Policy”).

3. DATE MADE & DATE OF EFFECT

This Policy is made on DD MM YYYY and takes effect on the same day.

4. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to specify the standard required of licensed venues to be licensed to hold race meetings and, where applicable, conduct other racing activities under a club’s licence.

5. WHO IS AFFECTED BY THE POLICY?

This Policy is a policy for all codes of racing.

This Policy applies to all clubs licensed by, or applying to be licensed by, RQ as the holder of a licence for a venue. It also applies to any club conducting a race meeting at a licensed venue to the extent that club has management or control of the licensed venue at the time the race meeting is held.

6. POLICY APPLICATION

6.1. How Decisions Are to be Made

RQ will make decisions in relation to the standard required of licensed venues consistently with this Policy, the Licensed Venue Standards, any relevant licence conditions and the Act.

6.2. Licensed Venue Standards

RQ has developed Licensed Venue Standards for each code of racing, which set out the standard required of licensed venues to hold race meeting(s) and, where applicable, conduct other racing activities under a club’s licence.

The Licensed Venue Standards:

- (a) specify the assets, facilities, and equipment required at a licensed venue, and the standards that those assets, facilities, and equipment must satisfy, for the venue to be considered suitable for licensing;
- (b) set out the process a club must follow to rectify any non-compliance with the Licensed Venue Standards and to otherwise ensure the venue remains suitable to hold race meeting(s) and, where applicable, conduct other racing activities under a club’s licence.

The Licensed Venue Standards are published by RQ on its website and may be updated from time to time.

6.3. Venue Categories

The Licensed Venue Standards categorise venues for each code of racing. Venues may be categorised according to factors, including but not limited to:

- (a) the standard of racing conducted at the venue;
- (b) the number and frequency of race meetings; and
- (c) relevant broadcast, wagering, integrity and operational considerations.

6.4. Venue Inspections and Rectification

RQ may, from time to time carry out inspections of a licensed venue to assess compliance with the Licensed Venue Standards and the ongoing suitability of the venue to be licensed. RQ may conduct an inspection with or without providing prior notice to the club.

If RQ identifies any non-compliance with the Licensed Venue Standards, it may notify the club, and the club must take all reasonable steps to address the non-compliance, in accordance with the rectification process prescribed in the Standards.

Nothing in the Licensed Venue Standards limits or otherwise affects any action RQ may take under the Act, any relevant licence conditions, the Rules of Racing or any of RQ's Policies.

6.5. Club Inspection and Reporting Requirements

RQ may require a club to:

- (a) inspect or assess the venue, or any part of the venue, for compliance with the Licensed Venue Standards;
- (b) complete and provide to RQ or the Stewards an inspection report, assessment, checklist or other record; and
- (c) provide venue-related information or updates, in the form and at the time(s) specified by RQ, including but not limited to information related to weather, track conditions, track ratings, rainfall, irrigation, maintenance, remedial works or any other matter RQ considers relevant.

Without limiting the above:

- (i) a club must ensure that the race track and other critical racing assets are inspected by the venue's racecourse manager or other appropriate person twenty-four (24) hours before the first race of each race meeting at the venue (or such earlier time as reasonably requested by RQ), and again before official scratching time on the day of the meeting; and
- (ii) if, at any time prior to a race meeting, a club becomes aware of any issue or concern that may render the licensed venue unsuitable for racing, including but not limited to any issue relating to weather, prevailing track conditions, a failure to comply with the Licensed Venue Standards or otherwise, the club must notify RQ immediately.

6.6. Approval Required to Undertake Certain Works

Clubs must obtain RQ's prior written approval before undertaking:

- (a) any works that may affect:
 - (i) a venue's race track, including but not limited to reconstructions, refurbishments, renovations, irrigation, drainage and/or turfing works;
 - (ii) the location of a winning post, judge's/camera tower or steward's tower; or
 - (iii) the broadcast of a race meeting, such as the erection of a temporary structure (e.g. a marquee or screen) on the infield of a race track that may impact vision; or
- (b) the construction, reconstruction, replacement or major refurbishment of any infrastructure or facility identified in the Licensed Venue Standards, including but not limited to:
 - (i) participant facilities;
 - (ii) stewarding or officials' facilities; or
 - (iii) facilities located within an animal precinct.

In considering whether to approve any proposed works, RQ may have regard to the Licensed Venue Standards, the Act, the Rules of Racing, any relevant licence conditions, operational requirements, stakeholder input and any other matter RQ considers relevant.

6.7. Approval Required to Undertake Master Planning

A club must obtain RQ's written approval before incurring, committing or authorising any expenditure on master planning that may affect a licensed venue.

In deciding whether to grant approval, RQ will consider the proposed expenditure in the context of the club's financial position and RQ's strategic and infrastructure plans. RQ may grant approval with or without conditions, or refuse to grant approval.

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1. Club Responsibilities

Clubs must:

- (a) ensure licensed venues comply with the Licensed Venue Standards including, where a venue is managed, maintained or operated by a third party, ensuring the third party does so consistently with the Licensed Venue Standards;
- (b) address any non-compliance with the Licensed Venue Standards in accordance with the rectification process prescribed in those Standards;

- (c) cooperate with RQ in relation to audits, inspections, assessments and/or other compliance activities undertaken under this Policy or the Licensed Venue Standards;
- (d) provide RQ, and any person authorised by RQ, with access to licensed venues and any information reasonably required by RQ to assess compliance with this Policy or the Licensed Venue Standards;
- (e) obtain RQ approval before undertaking any works or master planning activities for which approval is required under this Policy; and
- (f) comply with any inspection, reporting and notification requirements under this Policy or the Licensed Venue Standards.

7.2. RQ responsibilities

RQ will:

- (a) administer this Policy and the Licensed Venue Standards, including monitoring the ongoing suitability of licensed venues through audits, inspections, assessments and other compliance activities;
- (b) identify and notify clubs of non-compliance with the Licensed Venue Standards and may determine an appropriate action to be taken in response to a non-compliance in accordance with the Licensed Venue Standards and this Policy;
- (c) consider requests for approval of proposed works or master planning activities under this Policy; and
- (d) determine the ongoing suitability of licensed venues to hold race meetings and conduct other racing activities, having regard to this Policy, the Licensed Venue Standards, the Act, any relevant licence conditions and the Rules of Racing.

8. RULES OF RACING

Rules of Racing will not be made for this Policy.

9. RELATED DOCUMENTS

[All Racing Queensland Policies](#)

[Licensing Scheme Policy](#)

[Licensed Venue Standards](#)

[Racing Act 2002](#)

[Racing Regulation 2023](#)

[Rules of Racing \(Thoroughbred\)](#)

[Rules of Racing \(Harness\)](#)

[Rules of Racing \(Greyhound\)](#)

10. REFERENCES

In this Policy:

- (a) **Act** means the [Racing Act 2002](#) (Qld);
- (b) **Critical racing assets** means any assets the failure of which would render a licensed venue unsuitable for racing, including (but not limited to) race tracks, running rails, lure/lure rail, barrier stalls and starting boxes;
- (c) **Licensed Venue Standards** means the current standards for licensed venues published by RQ, as amended from time to time, on RQ's website for a relevant code of racing;
- (d) **Policies** means any policies made by RQ, as amended from time to time, under Chapter 3, Part 2, Division 1 of the Act;
- (e) terms defined in the Act, or an instrument made under the Act, have the same meaning as set out therein, except as otherwise stated in this Policy.

11. VERSION HISTORY

Current Version:	5	Approved:	DD MM YYYY
Document Owner:	Chief Operating Officer	Due for Review:	DD MM YYYY
Enquiries to:	clubcompliance@racingqueensland.com.au		

VERSION	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	CHANGES MADE
5	DD MM YYYY	Clubs Partnerships, Tracks & Assets	Policy reviewed & updated.
2024.03	1 March 2024	EGM Club Partnerships & Assets	Policy reviewed & updated.
2021.11	3 November 2021	EGM Club Partnerships & Assets	Policy reviewed & updated.
2	26 April 2017	GM Infrastructure	Policy reviewed & updated.
1.01	May 2013	-	Policy made.