

2026 BATTLE OF THE BUSH SERIES



The Battle of the Bush Series will comprise 16 qualifiers commencing on April 18, culminating in a Final at Tattersall's Tiara Raceday at Eagle Farm on Saturday June 27.

The series in full comprises the following:

DATE	CLUB	REGION	RACE
18/04/26	Goondiwindi & McIntyre PRC	ED	Open Plate 1200m
18/04/26	Thangool RC	CA	Open Plate 1200m
26/04/26	Innisfail TC	FN	Open Handicap 1200m
2/05/26	Jandowae RC	ED	Open Handicap 1200m
9/05/26	Mount Isa RC	NW	Open Plate 1200m
9/05/26	Quilpie DRC	DO	Open Handicap 1200m
10/05/26	Longreach JC	CW	Open Plate 1200m
16/05/26	Burdekin RC	LE	Open Handicap 1180m
16/05/26	Emerald JC	CA	Open Handicap 1200m
23/05/26	Mareeba TC	FN	Open Plate 1210m
23/05/26	Nanango RC	SE	Open Plate 1200m
30/05/26	Cloncurry & DRC	NW	Open Handicap 1200m
30/05/26	Bowen TC	LE	Open Plate 1200m
6/06/26	Gympie TC	SE	Open Handicap 1170m
6/06/26	Barcaldine RC	CW	Open Handicap 1200m
6/06/26	Cunnamulla & DDRC	DO	Open Plate 1200m
27/06/26	Final - Tattersalls RC @ Eagle Farm		Rest OMWL2Y Quality Hcp 1200m

Refer to the RACE Magazine and RQ website for individual prize money for the qualifiers listed above.

Float subsidies will be paid to the Trainers of horses that have travelled to Brisbane and remain in the field after final scratching time on the following basis:

- South East and Eastern Downs Regions - \$500
- Downs and Capricorn Regions - \$1,000
- Central West and Leichhardt Regions - \$2,000
- Far North and North West Regions - \$3,000

FINAL - PROGRAM/CONDITIONS

- Restricted to horses that started in any of the 16 qualifier races.
- Restricted to horses that have not won a metropolitan race (as per RQ metropolitan win definition) in the period 18/6/24 to 17/6/26. For the purposes of this clause, a win in a Battle of the Bush final, Country Cups Challenge final or Country Stampede final during this period is not deemed to be a win in a metropolitan race.
- NB It is a requirement to nominate for the final. I.e Horses placed in any of the qualifiers WILL NOT BE AUTOMATICALLY NOMINATED for the final.
- Nominations for the final close 11am Monday, June 15, 2026
- Acceptances due 10am Wednesday, June 17, 2026. Note: Scratchings will only be permitted after the acceptance deadline if approved by QRIC stewards
- Jockey declaration due 12pm (midday) Wednesday, June 24, 2026
- Early scratchings due 9am Wednesday, June 24, 2026
- Final scratchings due 7.30am Saturday, June 27, 2026
- No Nomination, Acceptance or Feature Race Fees will be applicable to the final

FINAL - BALLOTTING CONDITIONS

- Composition of the field will be determined at acceptance time by the highest placegetter (1st, 2nd, 3rd) in each of the qualifiers in each of the 8 regions. (see condition below regarding dead-heats)
- Qualifiers for the final from each of the eight (8) regions will be determined in the following order:
 - Winners of individual qualifiers. If a horse wins two or more qualifiers, it will be deemed to have qualified in the first of those wins.
 - In the event that the winner from an individual qualifier does not accept or qualifies for the final through a different qualifying race, the 2nd or 3rd placed horse in that qualifier will take its place, in that order.
 - The 2nd placegetter in individual qualifiers
 - The 3rd placegetter in individual qualifiers
- Should a ballot be required to determine horses within the same category (i.e. 1st, 2nd or 3rd placegetters), preference will be determined on the following basis:
 - The horse with the highest official RQ rating
 - If two or more horses have the same official RQ rating, they will be balloted by lot.
- The above criteria will also be applied for the composition of emergencies once the field is complete.
- If all placegetters from the qualifiers are exhausted and the final field (plus emergencies) is still not complete, then unplaced horses from the qualifiers that have nominated for the final, will complete the composition of the field for the final. Preference will be determined on the following basis:
 - The horse with the highest official RQ rating
 - If two or more horses have the same official RQ rating, they will be balloted by lot.

QUALIFIERS - CONDITIONS

- To be eligible to compete in a qualifier, a horse must have started in a minimum of five races at the following race meetings in Queensland in the 12 months immediately preceding the acceptance date for that qualifier specifically.
 - Any non-TAB race meeting in Queensland
 - TAB race meetings conducted by the following race clubs, and others as allocated from time to time by RQ:
 - Barcaldine, Barcoo, Birdsville, Bowen, Bundaberg, Burdekin, Central Warrego, Chinchilla, Cloncurry, Emerald, Ewan, Gympie, Innisfail, Longreach, Mount Isa, Nanango, Roma, Thangool, Yeppoon
- Qualifiers will not be divided
- No Allowances for Apprentices are permitted in the qualifiers.
- If a qualifier is not conducted (for any reason), RQ has the right to reschedule such qualifier to another race club.

RQ reserves the right to add, amend, delete any conditions relating to this Series if deemed necessary.