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INDUSTRY NOTICE – RACING POLICY UPDATES

Code of Racing	All codes
Policy	1. Allocation of Race Days Policy 2. Handicapping and Grading Policy 3. The Way Races Are to be Held Policy
Date of Issue	November 4, 2026
Queries to	policies@racingqueensland.com.au

Following industry consultation, Racing Queensland (**RQ**) has approved updated versions of the *Allocation of Race Days Policy*, *Handicapping and Grading Policy* and *The Way Races Are to be Held Policy*. The updated policies took effect on **November 1, 2026**.

RQ is grateful to the various stakeholders who gave feedback during the consultation period. This feedback was considered in finalising the policies, with a number of further amendments being made to the *Allocation of Race Days Policy* in particular. These amendments:

(a) provide clearer guidance on the factors RQ considers when aiming to provide appropriate racing opportunities for participants and racing animals;

(b) recognise that clubs may submit requests and comment on their proposed allocation before the race dates calendar is finalised; and

(c) require RQ to consult with clubs materially affected by a proposed variation to the race dates calendar.

Overall, the changes to the *Allocation of Race Days Policy* are intended to clarify the matters RQ will consider when allocating race days, with the ultimate aim of delivering the greatest overall benefit to the Queensland racing industry. The policy recognises the different considerations that apply when allocating TAB and non-TAB race meetings, including that primary weight will be given to commercial outcomes in the allocation of TAB meetings.

It is noted that no changes have been made to the draft *Handicapping and Grading Policy* and *The Way Races Are to be Held Policy* that were issued for consultation on September 11. The updates to these policies are intended to clarify existing requirements and operational processes, including handicapping and grading arrangements and the publication and conduct of race programs.

The updated policies are **attached** to this notice and have been published on the RQ website (racingqueensland.com.au/about/rules-and-policies/policies).

ALLOCATION OF RACE DAYS POLICY
EFFECTIVE FROM 1 NOVEMBER 2026

1. BACKGROUND

This policy is made under s.102(1)(a) and 102(3) of the *Racing Act 2002* (Qld) ("**the Act**") and s.6(b) 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 allocation of race days to licensed clubs.

2. POLICY NAME

This policy is named the *Allocation of Race Days Policy* ("**Policy**").

3. DATE MADE & DATE OF EFFECT

This Policy is made on 1 November 2026 and takes effect on the same day.

4. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to outline how RQ makes decisions in relation to the allocation of race days to licensed clubs, including the principles and processes RQ uses to determine those allocations.

5. WHO IS AFFECTED BY THE POLICY?

This policy is a policy for all codes of racing.

This policy applies to RQ, its employees and processes, in determining the allocation of race days to licensed clubs. This Policy affects all clubs licensed by RQ to hold race meetings, as well as participants who take part in those meetings and other industry stakeholders, including the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.

6. HOW DECISIONS ARE TO BE MADE

6.1. Allocation of Race Days

Each year, RQ will allocate race days in a manner that aims to deliver the greatest overall benefit to the Queensland racing industry, having regard to commercial outcomes, industry sustainability, participant opportunities, club viability and community benefit.

Through this Policy, RQ recognises that the above considerations may be weighted differently for TAB and non-TAB race meetings, reflecting the different roles those meetings play within the industry.

6.2. TAB Race Meetings

Consistent with section 6.1, when allocating TAB race meetings to licensed clubs, RQ will give primary weight to commercial outcomes that support the long-term sustainability of the Queensland racing industry, including wagering turnover and wagering revenue, while also aiming to:

(a) support the sustainability of licensed clubs and venues, including by recognising strategic investment in those venues;
(b) provide appropriate racing opportunities for participants and racing animals, with consideration to participant and animal populations, field sizes, the timing and distribution of race meetings within a region and other relevant factors (including but not limited to environmental factors); and
(c) consider the broader economic and community benefits generated through racing activities.

6.3. Non-TAB Race Meetings

Consistent with section 6.1, when allocating non-TAB race meetings to licensed clubs, RQ will aim to:

(a) support the sustainability of licensed clubs and venues, particularly in regional and country areas;
(b) provide appropriate racing opportunities for participants and racing animals, with consideration to participant and animal populations, field sizes, the timing and distribution of race meetings within a region and other relevant factors (including but not limited to environmental factors);
(c) deliver benefits to local communities through racing and associated activities; and
(d) support the growth of commercial or wagering opportunities where appropriate.

6.4. Race Dates Calendar

By the end of April each year, RQ will release the race dates calendar for the next year starting on 1 July by publishing the calendar on the RQ website or other publications for one or more codes of racing.

In developing the race dates calendar, RQ will invite licensed clubs to submit requests concerning proposed race dates, feature meetings, carnivals, additional race days and the status of race meetings, and provide licensed clubs with a reasonable opportunity to comment on their proposed allocation prior to the race dates calendar being finalised. RQ may also consult with participants, industry bodies, commercial partners, government agencies and other relevant stakeholders.

Without limiting any of its powers under the Act, other RQ policies or the Rules of Racing, RQ may vary the race dates calendar throughout each year consistent with this Policy. RQ will consult with any licensed club materially affected by a proposed variation to the race dates calendar before making that variation.

Later versions of the race dates calendar, wherever published, will take precedence over earlier versions.

6.5. Roles & Responsibilities

RQ will administer the allocation of race days in accordance with this Policy.

Licensed clubs must comply with the Rules of Racing that govern the allocation of race days.

7. RULES OF RACING

Rules of Racing have been made to support this Policy:

Rules of Racing (*Thoroughbred*)

Rules of Racing (*Harness*)

Rules of Racing (*Greyhound*)

8. RELATED DOCUMENTS

All Racing Queensland Policies

Racing Act 2002

Racing Integrity Act 2016

Racing Regulation 2023

9. REFERENCES

In this Policy:

(a) **Act** means the *Racing Act 2002* (Qld);

(b) 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.

10. VERSION HISTORY

Current Version:	4	**Approved:**	28 October 2026
Document Owner:	EGM Racing	**Due for Review:**	1 November 2029
Enquiries to:	*policies@racingqueensland.com.au*		

VERSION	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	CHANGES MADE
4	1 November 2026	EGM Racing	Policy reviewed and updated.
2021.11	3 November 2021	EGM Operations	Policy reviewed and updated.
2	27 April 2017	GM Racing	Policy updated, separated from Funding Policy.
1.01	May 2013	GM Racing	New policy made.

THE WAY RACES ARE TO BE HELD POLICY
EFFECTIVE FROM 1 NOVEMBER 2026

1. BACKGROUND

This policy is made under s.102(1)(a) and 102(3) of the *Racing Act 2002* (Qld) ("**the Act**") and s.6(e) 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 way in which races are to be held including, for example, classes of races, nominations and prize money.

2. POLICY NAME

This policy is named *The Way Races Are to be Held Policy* ("**Policy**").

3. DATE MADE & DATE OF EFFECT

This Policy is made on **1 November 2026** and takes effect on the same day.

4. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure Queensland races are conducted in accordance with the Rules of Racing and RQ policies.

5. WHO IS AFFECTED BY THE POLICY?

This policy is a policy for all codes of racing.

This policy applies to licensed clubs, venues, participants and other industry stakeholders, including the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.

6. APPLICATION

6.1. How Decisions Are to be Made

The allocation of race days is governed by RQ's Allocation of Race Days Policy. For each of the race days allocated in accordance with that policy, race programs will be published in the racing calendar setting out race details (including classes of races, nomination and acceptance deadlines and prize money).

Licensed clubs must only conduct race meetings and betting meetings on days allocated by RQ, as published in the racing calendar for each code (Thoroughbred, Greyhound, & Harness).

The classes of races that licensed clubs conduct will be in accordance with the conditions prescribed in the racing calendar and any conditions advised by RQ.

Races are to be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Racing for the relevant code (Thoroughbred, Greyhound, & Harness).

6.2. Roles & Responsibilities

RQ will allocate race days and approve and publish conditions for races.

Licensed clubs must comply with the RQ policies and Rules of Racing that govern the way races are to be held.

7. RULES OF RACING

Rules of Racing are made to support this policy.

Rules of Racing (*Thoroughbred*)

Rules of Racing (*Harness*)

Rules of Racing (*Greyhound*)

8. RELATED DOCUMENTS

All Racing Queensland Policies

Racing Act 2002

Racing Integrity Act 2016

Racing Regulation 2023

9. REFERENCES

In this Policy:

(a) **Act** means the *Racing Act 2002* (Qld);

(b) 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.

10. VERSION HISTORY

Current Version:	4	**Approved:**	28 October 2026
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VERSION	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	CHANGES MADE
4	1 November 2026	EGM Racing	Policy reviewed and updated.
2021.11	3 November 2021	EGM Operations	Policy reviewed & template updated.
2	26 April 2017	GM Racing	Policy reviewed & template updated.
1.01	May 2013	-	Policy made.

HANDICAPPING AND GRADING POLICY
EFFECTIVE FROM 1 NOVEMBER 2026

1. BACKGROUND

This policy is made under s.102(1)(a) and 102(3) of the *Racing Act 2002* (Qld) ("**the Act**") and s.6(f) 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 handicapping.

2. POLICY NAME

This policy is named the *Handicapping and Grading Policy* ("**Policy**").

3. DATE MADE & DATE OF EFFECT

This Policy is made on **1 November 2026**, and takes effect on the same day.

4. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the appropriate qualifications for handicappers and graders, and to provide for procedures for the handicapping and grading of races and racing animals inQueensland, to result in races that are competitive.

5. WHO IS AFFECTED BY THE POLICY?

This Policy is a policy for all codes of racing.

This Policy provides for handicapping and grading procedures that are applied to all registered race meetings, and to all thoroughbred race horses, harness race horses and greyhounds racing in Queensland, and extends to all participants involved in those activities.

6. APPLICATION

6.1. Handicapping & Grading Systems

RQ will devise and implement a system of handicapping (in the case of thoroughbred and harness racing) and grading (in the case of greyhounds) that makes handicapped and graded races in Queensland competitive, and adheres to national handicapping rules where applicable.

The handicapping and grading systems will be logical and consistent, and the handicapping decision-making process and the grading decision-making process will be transparent.

The systems of handicapping and grading in Queensland are managed by RQ through the Thoroughbred Handicapping Procedure, the Harness Handicapping Procedure and the Greyhound Grading Procedure. These procedures are available on the RQ website.

6.2. Handicappers & Graders Qualifications

RQ's senior handicappers and graders will closely supervise new members of the handicapping and grading panels to ensure the handicapping and grading services are of a high standard. New handicapping panel members and grading panel members will work with, and under, the supervision of senior handicappers and senior graders to learn the skills they need. They will then graduate to handicapping / grading lower class races with the senior RQ handicappers and graders checking their work. Once these handicappers / graders have satisfactorily completed the skill and competency assessment process, including the Skill and Competency Assessment Checklist, with approval from the Senior Racing Manager of the respective code, they may handicap and grade races without direct supervision.

6.3. Roles & Responsibilities

The Executive General Manager Racing ("**EGM Racing**") and the Harness, Thoroughbred and Greyhound Senior Racing Managers must:

(a) ensure that the handicapping and grading systems are implemented and maintained, and provide adequate resources to achieve this;

(b) ensure that the handicapping and grading systems adhere to National Handicapping Rules where applicable; and

(c) make the handicapping and grading procedures available on the RQ website.

7. RULES OF RACING

Rules of Racing will not be made for and do not apply to this Policy.

8. RELATED DOCUMENTS

All Racing Queensland Policies

Australian Handicapping Rules (Harness)

Rules of Racing (*Thoroughbred*)

Rules of Racing (*Harness*)

Rules of Racing (*Greyhound*)

RQ Handicapping Procedures

9. REFERENCES

In this Policy:

(a) **Act** means the *Racing Act 2002* (Qld);

(b) **Skill and Competency Assessment Checklist** means the checklist of that name used by RQ to assess a handicapper's / grader's ability to perform all aspects of the handicapping / grading role independently and to the required standard; and

(c) 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.

10. VERSION HISTORY

Current Version:	5	**Approved:**	28 October 2026
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Enquiries to:	*policies@racingqueensland.com.au*		

VERSION	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	CHANGES MADE
5	1 November 2026	EGM Racing	Policy reviewed and updated.
2025.05	1 May 2025	GM Racing	Policy reviewed and updated.
2021.11	3 November 2021	EGM Operations	Policy reviewed and updated.
2	27 April 2017	GM Racing	Policy reviewed and updated.
1.01	May 2013	GM Racing	Policy created.