

Thoroughbred – Minimum Race Fields Procedure



1. Interpretation

Words or phrases used in this procedure, unless otherwise defined, have the meaning given to them in the Local Rules (Thoroughbred Racing).

2. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to outline the conditions set by Racing Queensland (RQ) in relation to the minimum number of nominations and/or acceptances required for a thoroughbred race to proceed.

3. Procedures

3.1. Nominations

a) TAB Meetings

At a TAB Meeting, any race that has received nominations equal to less than 150% of the applicable field limit at the close of nominations may, at the discretion of RQ, have its nomination deadline extended.

Following the extended nomination deadline, RQ may, at its discretion, delete any race that has not attracted sufficient nominations.

b) Non-TAB Meetings

At a Non-TAB Meeting, any race that has received fewer than 15 nominations at the close of nominations may, at the discretion of RQ, have its nomination deadline extended.

Following the extended nomination deadline, RQ may, at its discretion, delete any race that has not attracted sufficient nominations.

3.2. Acceptances

a) TAB Meetings

At a TAB Meeting, any race (other than a Black Type Race) which does not have at least seven (7) acceptors at the closure of acceptances may be deleted by RQ at its discretion.

b) Non-TAB Meetings

At a Non-TAB Meeting, any race (other than a cup race or feature series race) which does not have at least five (5) acceptors at the closure of acceptances may be deleted by RQ at its discretion.

3.3. Race Additions After Races Are Deleted

Where a race is deleted by RQ in accordance with this procedure, RQ may, but is not obliged to, program one or more replacement races at short notice in instances where it considers that there is a lack of suitable alternative races in the immediate future.

3.4. Race Divisions

a) TAB Meetings

At a TAB Meeting, if the number of acceptors for a race (other than a Feature Race or a Black Type Race) allows for two full fields or, failing that, has at least 24 horses, the race may be divided by RQ at its discretion.

b) Non-TAB Meetings

At a Non-TAB Meeting, any race may be divided by RQ at its discretion.

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3.5. Discretionary Component

Notwithstanding any of the aforementioned conditions, RQ may exercise its discretion when considering whether to retain, delete or divide any race in circumstances where it deems it is appropriate to do so.

Factors which may be taken into account by RQ when considering whether to retain, delete or divide any race include the following (without limitation):

- the uniqueness of the race meeting (e.g. once a year meetings with significant community emphasis);
- the geographical location of the racing venue in relation to horse/trainer populations;
- suitable racing opportunities in the near future for horses nominated/accepted that might not secure a start;
- the number of horses which hold dual acceptances;
- potential rider availability issues;
- whether another race(s) on the program has been deleted through insufficient nominations/acceptances having been received;
- recent abandonments within the racing region;
- starting limits;
- whether an additional race can be accommodated from a broadcasting perspective;
- whether one or more races at the meeting has been self (stake) funded by the club;
- whether the race is a Black Type, Cup or Feature Race;
- any other factors deemed relevant to considerations.

RQ may consult with relevant industry stakeholders as part of its decision-making process where it considers it appropriate to do so.

RQ will, after making the decision to delete or divide a race, advise stakeholders of the decision by various means including SMS messaging, email and/or posting to the RQ website.

4. References & Related Documents

Document	Document
Rules of Racing - Thoroughbred	RQ Thoroughbred Handicapping Procedure

5. Version History

Current Version:	3	Date Made:	30/07/2026	Effective Date:	03/08/2026
Document Owner:	EGM Racing			CEO Approved:	30/07/2026
Enquiries to:	Senior Racing Manager - Thoroughbred			Due for Review:	03/08/2028

Version	Effective	Document Owner	Changes Made
1	01/10/2021	Senior Racing Manager	New Procedure
2	05/12/2022	Senior Racing Manager	Altered provisional numbers required for extension of nominations
3	03/08/2026	EGM Racing	Changes relating to extending nominations and deleting races with insufficient nominations, including undertaking industry stakeholder consultation where appropriate.