

2026 COUNTRY CUPS CHALLENGE & COUNTRY STAMPEDE

The Country Cups Challenge 1600m (\$200,000) and Country Stampede 1110m (\$105,000) will be conducted by the Brisbane RC at Doomben on Saturday, December 5.

The Country Cups Challenge and the Country Stampede will both consist of 16 Qualifier races throughout Queensland. Listed below are the details of both Series:



DATE	CLUB	REGION	COUNTRY CUPS CHALLENGE	COUNTRY STAMPEDE
19/9/26	Atherton TC	FN	Open Hcp 1400m	
25/09/26	Ewan ATC	LE		Quality Open Hcp 1000m
26/09/26	Longreach JC	CW	Longreach Cup Open Hcp 1600m	
26/09/26	Mount Isa RC	NW	Spring Cup Quality Open Hcp 1450m	Open Hcp 1000m
26/09/26	Dawson JC (Taroom)	ED	Taroom Cup Quality Open Hcp 1400m	
3/10/26	Gordonvale TC	FN		Quality Open Hcp 1100m
3/10/26	Eidsvold RC	SE	Eidsvold Cup Open Hcp 1350m	
9/10/26	Cloncurry & DRC	NW	Cloncurry Cup Open Hcp 1600m	Quality Open Hcp 1000m
10/10/26	Emerald JC	CA	Emerald "100" Open Hcp 1850m	
17/10/26	South Burnett RC (Wondai)	SE		Quality Open Hcp 1000m
17/10/26	Stanthorpe JC	ED		Open Hcp 1000m
17/10/26	Barcoo ARC (Blackall)	CW	Blackall Cup Quality Open Hcp 1400m	Open Hcp 1050m
17/10/26	Innisfail TC	FN		Johnstone River Open Hcp 1200m
24/10/26	Clifton JC	ED	Clifton Cup Open Hcp 1580m	
24/10/26	Gladstone TC	CA		Quality Open Hcp 1000m
31/10/26	Barcaldine RC	CW		Quality Open Hcp 1100m
31/10/26	Yeppoon TC	CA	Yeppoon Cup Quality Open Hcp 1400m	
31/10/26	Burdekin RC (Home Hill)	LE	Home Hill Cup Quality Open Hcp 1460m	
3/11/26	Central Warrego RC (Charleville)	DO	Charleville Cup Open Hcp 1625m	Quality Open Hcp 1200m
7/11/26	Esk JC	SE		Open Hcp 1200m
7/11/26	Chinchilla RC	ED		Quality Open Hcp 1070m
7/11/26	Moranbah RC	LE		Open Hcp 1170m
7/11/26	Cooktown ATC	FN	Cooktown Cup Quality Open Hcp 1760m	
14/11/26	Mt Perry RC	SE	Mt Perry Cup Quality Open Hcp 1400m	
14/11/26	Herbert River JC (Ingham)	LE	Hinchinbrook Cup Open Hcp 1400m	
14/11/26	Clermont RC	CA		Open Hcp 1000m
21/11/26	Roma TC	DO	Roma Cup Quality Open Hcp 1640m	Open Hcp 1000m
5/12/26	FINAL - Brisbane RC @ Doomben		Rest 0MWL2Y Quality Hcp 1600m	Rest 0MWL2Y Quality Hcp 1110m

Please refer to RQ race magazine for individual prize money for qualifiers listed above. For the purposes of qualification for the Final of these Series exclusively, the prescribed races above are deemed to have Country status.

COUNTRY CUPS CHALLENGE FINAL – RACE DETAIL

December 5, 2026 – George Moore
Stakes Race Day at Brisbane RC –
Doomben.

Rest OMWL2Y Hcp 1600m

Of \$200,000 – 1st \$116,000, 2nd
\$37,000, 3rd \$18,000, 4th \$9,750, 5th
\$5,500, 6th to 10th \$2,750

QTIS Bonus – A \$30,000 QTIS bonus
will be paid to the winner if it is a QTIS
registered horse, irrespective of the
horse's age. In the case of a dead heat
for first, the bonus will be divided.

Quality Hcp - Maximum Handicap

Weight 63kg, Minimum Handicap

Weight 55kg

True weights apply – refer Local Rule 64B

Apprentices Cannot Claim

Starting limit to be confirmed.

COUNTRY STAMPEDE FINAL – RACE DETAIL

December 5, 2026 – George Moore
Stakes Race Day at Brisbane RC –
Doomben.

Rest OMWL2Y Hcp 1110m

Of \$105,000 – 1st \$61,000, 2nd \$20,500,
3rd \$10,500, 4th \$5,000, 5th \$3,000,
6th to 10th \$1,000

QTIS Bonus – A \$30,000 QTIS bonus
will be paid to the winner if it is a QTIS
registered horse, irrespective of the
horse's age. In the case of a dead heat
for first, the bonus will be divided.

Quality Hcp - Maximum Handicap

Weight 63kg, Minimum Handicap

Weight 55kg

True weights apply – refer Local Rule 64B

Apprentices Cannot Claim

Starting limit to be confirmed.

Float subsidies will be paid to the
Trainers of horses that have travelled
to Brisbane and remain in the field for
either the Country Cups Challenge or
Country Stampedo 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

COUNTRY CUPS CHALLENGE FINAL /COUNTRY STAMPEDE FINAL – PROGRAM/ CONDITIONS

- Restricted No Metropolitan Wins
in Last Two Years Quality Hcp
1600m/1110m
- Restricted to horses, if eligible,
that have started in any of the 16
qualifiers.

- Restricted to horses that have
started in a minimum of five (5) races
at country* race meetings (TAB/
Non-Tab) in Queensland between
23/11/2025 and 24/11/2026.
- Restricted to horses that have not
won a Metropolitan race (as per RQ
metropolitan win definition) in the
period 23/11/24 to 24/11/26. For
the purposes of this clause, a win in
the Country Cups Challenge Final,
Country Stampedo Final or Battle
of the Bush 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. ie Horses placed in
any of the qualifiers WILL NOT BE
AUTOMATICALLY NOMINATED for
the Final.
- Nominations for the Final close 11am
Monday, November 23, 2026.
- Acceptances due 10am Wednesday,
November 25, 2026. (NB Scratchings
will only be permitted after the
acceptance deadline if approved by
QRIC Stewards)
- Jockey declaration due midday
Wednesday, December 2, 2026.
- Early scratchings due 9am
Wednesday, December 2, 2026.
- Final scratchings due 7.30am
Saturday, December 5, 2026.
- No nomination, acceptance, or
feature race fees will be applicable in
the Final.

COUNTRY CUPS CHALLENGE FINAL AND COUNTRY STAMPEDE FINAL – BALLOTING CONDITIONS

Final field and emergencies to be
determined at acceptance time using
the below criteria:

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.

Qualifiers for the final from each of
the 8 regions will be determined in the
following order if eligible:

1. Winners of Individual qualifiers. If a
horse wins 2 or more qualifiers, it will
be deemed to have qualified in the
first of those wins.
2. 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.
3. The 2nd placegetter in individual
qualifiers
4. The 3rd placegetter in individual
qualifiers

5. Should a ballot be required to
determine horses within the same
category (i.e. 1st placegetters, 2nd
placegetters, then 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.

6. The above criteria will also be applied
for the composition of emergencies,
once the field is complete.

7. 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.

8. Should there be any dead-heats
in the qualifiers, preference will be
determined on the following basis:

- The horse with the highest official
RQ rating at the time of final
acceptance of qualifier.
- If two or more horses have the
same official RQ rating they will
be balloted by lot.

9. Should a qualifier be abandoned or
be officially deemed a no-race and
is unable to be rescheduled, the
aforementioned criteria shall apply.

QUALIFIERS - CONDITIONS

- Qualifiers are open to all horses.
- Qualifiers will not be divided.
- No allowance for Apprentices is
permitted in the qualifiers.
- If a qualifier is not conducted (for
any reason), RQ may reschedule such
qualifier.

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

*Country race meetings includes all
non-Tab race meetings conducted in
Queensland and 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*