

1. Background

This policy is made under s.102(1)(a) of the *Racing Act 2002* (Qld) and s.2B(f) of the *Racing Regulation 2013* (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 known as the “Handicapping and Grading Policy”.

3. Date Made and Date of Effect

This policy is made on 31 March 2021 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 in Queensland, 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/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 industry participants involved in those activities.

6. How Decisions Are to be Made

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 demonstrated their competence, undertaken an

accreditation process and received approval from the EGM Operations, they may handicap / grade races without direct supervision.

7. Rules of Racing

Rules of racing will not be made for this policy. The following additional reference documents are provided on RQ's website:

Document	Document
Thoroughbred Handicapping System & Procedures	Greyhound Grading Procedures
Harness Handicapping Procedures	Racing Act 2002 (Qld)

8. Roles & Responsibilities

The EGM Operations and the Harness, Thoroughbred and Greyhound Senior Racing Managers must:

- ensure that the handicapping and grading systems are implemented and maintained, and provide adequate resources to achieve this;
- ensure that the handicapping and grading systems adhere to National Handicapping Rules where applicable; and
- make the handicapping and grading procedures available on the RQ website.

9. References & Related Documents

In this policy:

- industry participants** includes anyone holding a licence, approval or authority of any kind under the Act or the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* (Qld).
- any terms defined in the Act have the same meaning as set out in the Act, except as stated otherwise in this policy.

10. Version History

Current Version:	3	Date Made:		Effective Date:	01 / 05 / 2021
Document Owner:	EGM Operations			CEO Approved:	
Enquiries to:	Racing Manager for Relevant Code			Due for Review:	01 / 05 / 2024

Version	Effective	Document Owner	Changes Made
1.01	May 2013	GM Racing	-
2	27 / 04 / 2017	GM Racing	Policy reviewed and updated
3	01 / 05 / 2021	EGM Operations	Review and update to Policy