

## Queensland Thoroughbred Race Clubs

Racing Queensland (RQ) has implemented a regionalised racing program in response to the outbreak of COVID-19, to enable the continuation of racing in Queensland in a restricted capacity in accordance with strict bio-security measures to protect both racing industry participants and the broader community.

The racing program has been developed considering all available information and advices from the Federal and State Governments, including Directives issued by Queensland's Chief Health Officer.

Thoroughbred Race Clubs conducting race meetings, effective forthwith and until further notice, are required to meet the requirements of this protocol document and any additional instruction, direction or advice provided by RQ, as well as any requirements of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) that may be imposed at a race meeting.

Thoroughbred Race Clubs may provide additional information specific to their venue to assist essential racing personnel in adhering to these protocols and all relevant requirements.

### 1. Attendance

#### *(a) Permitted*

Access to racecourses at race meetings is restricted to the following essential racing personnel only:

- i. Licensed Jockeys (including Apprentice Jockeys) engaged to compete at the race meeting;
- ii. Licensed Trainers with runners engaged at the race meeting;
- iii. Registered Stable Staff of the Trainers with runners engaged at the race meeting (Trainers to minimise the number of Stable Staff in attendance);
- iv. QRIC Stewards, Veterinarians and Swab Officials (and any other QRIC approved raceday officials);
- v. Barrier Attendants, Starters and essential Track Staff;
- vi. Clerks of the Course;
- vii. Judges (including Assistant Judges where applicable) and Photo Finish Operators;
- viii. Scales / Weighing Room Staff and Jockeys' (Room) Attendants;
- ix. Raceday Event Staff;
- x. Security / gate attendants including horse stalls, mounting yard and float carpark;
- xi. Ambulance Services and / or Club Doctor;
- xii. Farriers and other essential service providers approved by RQ and the Race Club;
- xiii. Broadcast service providers (SKY Racing, PSP, On the Bit [Non-TAB]) including the Race Caller;
- xiv. Restricted Core Racing Media as approved by RQ and the Race Club; and
- xv. Restricted operational Race Club management and RQ management.

#### *Leaving the racecourse*

After arriving on the racecourse and completing the temperature testing process (outlined in section 2 below), a person is not permitted to leave the racecourse unless:

- A. The person has completed their work commitments (and in the case of a Jockey has been released by the QRIC Stewards); or
- B. The person has a reason to the satisfaction and approval of the QRIC Stewards to leave the racecourse and return in order to carry out their work functions (e.g., to take a horse back to home stables and return with another).

In the circumstances provided by point 'B' above, the person will be subject to the temperature test process when they re-enter the racecourse.

*(b) Not Permitted*

The general public and Members of the Race Club are prohibited from attending the racecourse, given the race meetings are to be conducted patron-free.

There will also be no oncourse wagering facilities (including bookmakers) or commercial food and beverage services operating at the race meetings.

## **2. Temperature Testing on Arrival at Racecourse**

All permitted essential racing personnel attending a thoroughbred race meeting in Queensland will be subject to temperature check/s on arrival and prior to entry to the racecourse being allowed.

It is the responsibility of the Race Club to ensure only permitted essential racing personnel enter the racecourse and that all have passed the temperature testing process.

The testing process and requirements will be as outlined:

- i. Each person is tested upon arrival at the racecourse by a Medical Officer;
- ii. A verified test within the normal parameter (under 37.5) is required before the person can enter the racecourse;
- iii. If a person records an elevated temperature, the person will be given the opportunity to have a further temperature test up to 15 minutes following the first test; and
- iv. If the person's temperature remains elevated the person is not permitted to enter the racecourse. The person is required to leave the racecourse and should be advised to seek medical advice through 13HEALTH. For Jockeys, a medical clearance to the satisfaction of the QRIC may be required before riding again.

To facilitate the temperature testing process, access to the racecourse should be via a single entry point. Where this is not possible, there should be no more than two separate entry points:

- i. A separate entry point for people only with 1.5 metres between persons (including between entry and exit paths); and
- ii. A separate entry point for vehicular and equine movement only.

## **3. People Separation and Hygiene**

The Race Club is required to implement satisfactory measures to ensure the principles of the directions issued by the relevant authorities regarding space and distancing are adhered to. This includes social distancing requirements of remaining 1.5 metres apart and avoiding physical contact, having no more than one person per four square metres in an indoor space, as well as regular handwashing, sanitisation and hygiene processes.

If the Race Club provides food to essential racing personnel, it is the Race Club's responsibility to ensure that appropriate food hygiene processes are in place, with individual pre-packaging preferred.

Race Clubs should display in areas used by essential racing personnel relevant information sheets about COVID-19 and ways to reduce the spread of the virus.

*(a) Stewards*

Race Clubs should liaise with the QRIC to understand the QRIC resource levels to be in operation at the race meeting and ensure that a room of sufficient size to meet the spacing requirements is available for use.

QRIC will need to be mindful of the number of persons (i.e., jockeys, trainers etc.) that then enter the Stewards' room at any one time to ensure spacing requirements are adhered to.

*(b) Jockeys*

Race Clubs should ensure that the rooms available for both female and male jockeys are of sufficient size to meet the spacing requirements. Where required, overflow or alternate rooms should be made available.

Race Clubs should ensure that access to the Jockeys' rooms is limited as much as possible in terms of the number of Jockeys' Room Attendants (and Scales / Weighing Room Staff).

Due consideration must be given to the operations of the Scales area for weigh-out and weigh-in processes, including interaction with Clerks of Scales and also Trainers for collection of saddles, to ensure that requirements of social distancing and spacing are adhered to. This also includes satisfactory measures to clean and / or disinfect any pieces of equipment or gear that become soiled (e.g., gear that is used in a race or equipment that may be touched by a person etc).

*(c) Trainers / Stable Staff*

Social distancing measures of 1.5 metres distancing should be adhered to the extent possible in the performance of work functions / duties (i.e., saddling horses etc.).

Where possible, Race Clubs should use alternate raceday stalls to increase space between each Trainers' horses, and therefore space between Trainers, Stable Staff etc.

Where Trainers / Stable Staff are required to pass or interact with others, Race Clubs should ensure separation of 1.5 metres on any pathways or thoroughfares.

Trainers' interactions with Jockeys should always be maintained at the 1.5 metres social distancing requirement.

*(d) Barrier Staff*

In the performance of their work functions / duties, Barrier Staff should adhere to the 1.5 metres social distancing requirements to the extent possible.

Race Clubs should ensure that Barrier Staff are provided with, and encouraged to use, appropriate products for handwashing, sanitisation and hygiene purposes.

*(e) Other Officials*

Race Clubs should ensure that all other Officials are able to perform their work functions / duties whilst adhering to the 1.5 metres social distancing or one person per four square metres space requirements, as applicable.

#### **4. Parade Ring / Mounting Yard**

To limit the number of people in the parade ring / mounting yard for each race, access is restricted to:

- i. The person leading each horse (the registered Stable Staff or Trainer if applicable);
- ii. The Jockey or Apprentice Jockey riding each horse;
- iii. QRIC Stewards and Race Club Official/s; and
- iv. Clerks of the Course.

Trainers are not permitted to enter the parade ring / mounting yard (except if leading the horse) and Jockeys are to be legged-up by Race Club Official/s.

Race Clubs are to ensure that an area is available to enable Trainers and Jockeys to interact pre and post-race, allowing for the 1.5 metre social distancing requirement to be adhered to.

#### **5. Training Centres, Trackwork, Trials, Jump-outs**

Access to all training centres / venues in Queensland for trackwork, trials or jump-outs is restricted to the following persons only, until further notice:

- i. Licensed Trainers and Registered Stable Staff attending to the horse;
- ii. Licensed Jockeys and Apprentice Jockeys, and Registered Trackwork Riders; and
- iii. RQ officials, QRIC officials, Race Club staff and essential personnel (i.e., Vets, Farriers, Medical Officers).