

1. Purpose

The [Racing Act 2002 \(Qld\)](#) requires Racing Queensland (RQ) to make a policy for handicapping. 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.

2. Scope

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. This policy and associated procedures affect all races in Queensland.

3. Policy Statement

3.1. 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.

3.2. 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 General Manager Racing, they may handicap / grade races without direct supervision.

4. Roles & Responsibilities

The **General Manager Racing** and the Harness, Thoroughbred and Greyhound 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.

5. References & Related Documents

Rules of racing will not be made for this policy.

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

6. Version History

Current Version:	2	Date Made:	27 / 04 / 2017	Effective Date:	27 / 04 / 2017
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Version	Effective	Document Owner	Changes Made
1.01	May 2013	GM Racing	-
2	27/04/2017	GM Racing	Policy reviewed and updated