HANDICAPPING AND GRADING POLICY
EFFECTIVE FROM 1 NOVEMBER 2026

1. BACKGROUND

This policy is made under s.102(1)(a) and 102(3) of the *Racing Act 2002* (Qld) ("**the Act**") and s.6(f) of the *Racing Regulation 2023 (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 named the *Handicapping and Grading Policy* ("**Policy**").

3. DATE MADE & DATE OF EFFECT

This Policy is made on **1 November 2026**, 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 inQueensland, 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 and 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 participants involved in those activities.

6. APPLICATION

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 satisfactorily completed the skill and competency assessment process, including the Skill and Competency Assessment Checklist, with approval from the Senior Racing Manager of the respective code, they may handicap and grade races without direct supervision.

6.3. Roles & Responsibilities

The Executive General Manager Racing ("**EGM Racing**") and the Harness, Thoroughbred and Greyhound Senior Racing Managers must:

(a) ensure that the handicapping and grading systems are implemented and maintained, and provide adequate resources to achieve this;

(b) ensure that the handicapping and grading systems adhere to National Handicapping Rules where applicable; and

(c) make the handicapping and grading procedures available on the RQ website.

7. RULES OF RACING

Rules of Racing will not be made for and do not apply to this Policy.

8. RELATED DOCUMENTS

All Racing Queensland Policies

Australian Handicapping Rules (Harness)

Rules of Racing (*Thoroughbred*)

Rules of Racing (*Harness*)

Rules of Racing (*Greyhound*)

RQ Handicapping Procedures

9. REFERENCES

In this Policy:

(a) **Act** means the *Racing Act 2002* (Qld);

(b) **Skill and Competency Assessment Checklist** means the checklist of that name used by RQ to assess a handicapper's / grader's ability to perform all aspects of the handicapping / grading role independently and to the required standard; and

(c) terms defined in the Act, or an instrument made under the Act, have the same meaning as set out therein, except as otherwise stated in this Policy.

10. VERSION HISTORY

Current Version:	5	**Approved:**	28 October 2026
Document Owner:	EGM Racing	**Due for Review:**	1 November 2029
Enquiries to:	*policies@racingqueensland.com.au*		

VERSION	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	CHANGES MADE
5	1 November 2026	EGM Racing	Policy reviewed and updated.
2025.05	1 May 2025	GM Racing	Policy reviewed and updated.
2021.11	3 November 2021	EGM Operations	Policy reviewed and updated.
2	27 April 2017	GM Racing	Policy reviewed and updated.
1.01	May 2013	GM Racing	Policy created.