

CONSULTATION NOTICE - RULES OF RACING

Code of Racing	Thoroughbred
Rule	Local Rules 64A, 64B, and 1
Description	Spread of Weights/Minimum Top Weight at Acceptance Time, True Weights, and Definition of Feature Race
Authorised for Consultation	September 26, 2023
Consultation Closes	October 23, 2023
Submissions to	policies@racingqueensland.com.au

Racing Queensland (**RQ**) advises that it is proposing to amend the Local Rules of Racing (Thoroughbred Racing), LR 64A and LR 64B, which relate to the spread of weights and minimum top weight to be met for races at acceptance time, and the ability for riders to ride a horse below the designated minimum weight at its true weight. RQ also proposes a consequential amendment to the definition of Feature Race in LR 1.

Spread of Weights/Minimum Top Weight at Acceptance Time

The Australian Rule of Racing AR 167 provides for the minimum spread of weights to be achieved at the allocation of weights for different levels of handicap races.

In line with these requirements, RQ publishes its Handicapping Procedure which sets out the minimum weights and the minimum top weights at the allocation of weights for handicap races. Generally, this is currently 54kg/59kg for TAB race meetings and at non-TAB race meetings it varies from 55kg/60kg to 56kg/61kg.

LR 64A sub-rule (1) then currently provides that at acceptance time there must be at least a 4 kilogram spread of weights (i.e., if the highest weighted acceptor is not 4kg above the minimum then the weights for the race are raised). This 4 kilogram spread of weights applies to the majority of handicap races.

Group 2 handicaps are currently subject to a 5 kilogram spread of weights to be achieved at acceptance time (under LR 64A(2)). Group 1 handicap races are subject to the provisions of AR 167, which also provides discretion for the Principal Racing Authority with regard to whether the weights are to be raised at acceptance time.

RQ is proposing to amend LR 64A to introduce a requirement for a 5 kilogram spread of weights at acceptance time (up from 4 kilograms) for the majority of handicap races. In conjunction with this, RQ proposes to increase the minimum top weight at the allocation of



weights to 6 kilograms above the minimum weight (up from 5 kilograms above the minimum).

The table below reflects the current and proposed weight scales for the majority of handicap races:

Category	Min weight	Current		Proposed	
		Min Top at Weights	Min Top at Accepts	Min Top at Weights	Min Top at Accepts
TAB	54kg	59kg	58kg	60kg	59kg
Non-TAB	55kg	60kg	59kg	61kg	60kg
Non-TAB	56kg	61kg	60kg	62kg	61kg

RQ believes that the increased weight spread will provide a truer handicap and help alleviate the current compression of weight scales. It is also envisaged that the greater spread will result in more competitive handicap racing.

True Weights

RQ is also proposing to amend LR 64B, which allows riders to ride a horse below the designated minimum weight at its true weight (or down to 52 kilograms) in handicap races at metropolitan race meetings. This is currently not permitted in Group Races or Listed and Restricted Listed Races.

RQ proposes to expand the provisions of the rule to allow for riders to ride below the designated minimum weight down to 53 kilograms in Listed or Restricted Listed Races in handicap races at metropolitan race meetings.

RQ also proposes to expand the provisions of the rule further to allow for riders to ride below the designated minimum weight down to 52 kilograms in Feature Race handicaps at provincial race meetings or country race meetings (i.e., those with prize money of at least \$75,000).

RQ believes that the expansion of the use of true weights provides a logical extension to the weight scale conditions under which (non-Black Type) metropolitan races will be in future when the increased weight spread (referenced above) is introduced. It too will likely result in more competitive racing.

Details of the proposed rule amendments are contained on the following pages (both clean and marked-up versions).

Definition of Feature Race

In line with the above, RQ proposes to amend the definition of Feature Race in LR 1 to reflect the prize money level of \$75,000 for a Feature Race at a provincial race meeting or country race meeting. This will cover races such as the Cups and Sprints conducted in Central and North Queensland.

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback as per the details at the top of the document.



Proposed rules LR.64 A., LR.64 B. and LR.1 (CLEAN VERSIONS)

WEIGHTS, PENALTIES AND ALLOWANCES

LR.64 A. Minimum Top Weight at Acceptance Time

- (1) For all handicap races (with the exclusion of Group 1 Handicap races), if the highest weighted horse at acceptance time has less than 5 kilograms above the minimum weight designated in the conditions of the race, then:
 - (a) the weights for the race shall be raised until the highest weighted acceptor has a weight that is 5 kilograms above the designated minimum weight; and
 - (b) when raising the weights of any horses weighted on or below the minimum weight, their weight shall be increased by the same number of kilograms using the allocated true weight (handicap weight relative to a horse's rating in the absence of the required minimum), except that no horse shall have a weight that remains below the designated minimum weight.

LR.64 B. True Weights

- (1) If a horse's true weight in a handicap race (other than Group Races) held at a Metropolitan Race Meeting, or a Feature Race handicap held at a Provincial Race Meeting or Country Race Meeting, is below the minimum weight allocated pursuant to AR167(4)(d) and LR64A, then:
 - (a) subject to sub-rule (1)(b), the rider of such horse is permitted to ride at that true weight, provided that a rider must not ride at less than:
 - (i) 53 kilograms in Listed Race and Restricted Listed Race handicaps; or
 - (ii) 52 kilograms in other handicap races at a Metropolitan Race Meeting, and Feature Race handicaps at a Provincial Race Meeting or Country Racing Meeting; and
 - (b) in addition to the provisions of sub-rule (1)(a), an apprentice jockey may also claim any allowance that he or she is entitled to in accordance with the provisions of AR143 and LR56 (such allowance to be claimed against the higher of that true weight and 52 kilograms).
- (2) A declaration that a rider or apprentice jockey intends to ride below the minimum weight pursuant to AR167(4)(d) must be made to the Racing Australia Service Centre by not later than 9am on the day of acceptances. The declaration must include the weight upon which the rider shall ride such horse at.
- (3) Where a rider has been declared to ride below the minimum weight and is found to be overweight, the rider or any other person at fault commits an offence and may be penalised. Stewards may permit another rider to be substituted at the declared weight, or nearer to the declared weight.

DEFINITIONS

LR.1. In the interpretation of these Rules the following words unless the context otherwise requires shall have and include meanings as follows:

"Feature Race" means a race with advertised prize money (excluding bonuses) of at least:

- (a) \$100,000 at a Metropolitan Race Meeting; or
- (b) \$75,000 at a Provincial Race Meeting or Country Race Meeting.



Proposed rules LR.64 A., LR.64 B. and LR.1 (MARKED-UP VERSIONS)

WEIGHTS, PENALTIES AND ALLOWANCES

LR.64 A. Minimum Top Handicap Weights at Acceptance Time

~~(1)~~ For all handicap races (with the exclusion of Group 1 ~~and Group 2~~ Handicap races), if the highest weighted horse at acceptance time has less than 5 kilograms~~4kg~~ above the minimum weight designated in the conditions of the race, then: ~~its~~

(a) the weights for the race shall be raised until the highest weighted acceptor has a weight that is 5 kilograms~~4kg~~ above the designated minimum weight; and

(b) when raising the weights of any horses weighted on or below the minimum weight, shall have their weight shall be increased by the same number of kilograms using the allocated true weight (handicap weight relative to a horses rating in the absence of the required minimum), ~~except that no horse shall will~~ have a weight that remains below the designated minimum weight.

~~(2) For Group 2 handicap races, if the highest weighted horse at acceptance time has less than 5kg above the minimum weight in a Group 2 handicap, its weight shall be raised to the weight that is 5kg above the minimum weight and any horses weighted on or below the minimum shall have their weight increased by the same number of kilograms, using the allocated true weight (handicap weight relative to horses rating in the absence of the required minimum) except that no horse will have a weight below the designated minimum weight.~~

LR.64 B. True Weights – Metropolitan Handicaps

~~(1)~~ If a horse's true weight in a handicap ~~or benchmark~~ race (other than Group Races, ~~Listed Races and Restricted Listed Races~~) held at a Metropolitan Race Meeting, or a Feature Race handicap held at a Provincial Race Meeting or Country Race Meeting, is below the minimum weight allocated pursuant to AR167(4)(d) and LR64A, then:

~~(a)~~ Subject to sub-rule (1)(b)(2), the rider of such horse is permitted to ride at that true weight, provided that a rider must not ride at less than:

(i) 53 kilograms in Listed Race and Restricted Listed Race handicaps; or

(ii) 52 kilograms in other handicap races at a Metropolitan Race Meeting, and Feature Race handicaps at a Provincial Race Meeting or Country Race Meeting; and;

~~(b)~~ Notwithstanding and in addition to the provisions of ~~sub-rule LR64B~~ (1)(a), an apprentice jockey may also claim any allowance that he or she is entitled to in accordance with the provisions of AR143 and LR56 (such allowance to be claimed against the higher of that true weight and 52 kilograms);

~~(3)~~ A declaration that a rider or apprentice jockey intends to ride below the minimum weight pursuant to AR167(4)(d) must be made to the Racing Australia Service Centre to the Stewards in writing by not later than 9am on the day of acceptances. The declaration must include the weight upon which the rider shall ride such horse at; ~~and~~

~~(3)~~ Where a rider has been declared to ride below the minimum weight and is found to be overweight, the rider or any other person at fault commits an offence and may be penalised. Stewards may permit another rider to be substituted at the declared weight, or nearer to the declared weight. ~~(Effective from 01.08.2022)~~



DEFINITIONS

LR.1. In the interpretation of these Rules the following words unless the context otherwise requires shall have and include meanings as follows:

“**Feature Race**” means a race with advertised prize money (excluding bonuses) of at least:

(a) \$100,000 at a Metropolitan Race Meeting; or

(b) \$75,000 at a Provincial Race Meeting or Country Race Meeting.

