

# RACING QUEENSLAND THOROUGHBRED HANDICAPPING PROCEDURE



**RACING  
QUEENSLAND**



# INTRODUCTION

Racing Queensland (RQ) utilises the Ratings Based Handicapping System (RBH). The RBH template accommodates the diversified standard of racing within Queensland.

A template has been designed, which provides handicappers the flexibility necessary to accommodate the various racing clusters within Queensland, at the same time delivering ratings that provide for greater transparency to the handicapping process.

The Queensland RBH system has been created to accommodate all races except maiden and two-year-olds. Maiden horses are not allotted a rating until they have won a race.

The Queensland RBH system is different from other jurisdictions, where every rating point represents 0.5kg difference. If this process was applied horses would be receiving the same weight penalty “across the board” whether it was at a high or a low class of racing, metropolitan, provincial or country for example.

The fairness of the Queensland rating system template is in the inbuilt “sliding scale”. Rating figures with a plus sign allows for horses to be penalised less in high class races (metropolitan and midweek metropolitan) for winning lower class races (provincial 2 and country).

The movement of a horse’s rating openly shows owners and trainers (and all interested parties) the handicapper’s impression of the merit of a horse’s performance from one race start to another.

Following each performance, the handicapper shall carefully consider to what extent (if any) a horse shall have a rating change. Rating changes will reflect the standard of the performance as determined by the handicapper and the template shall display to the user what that rating amendment means in terms of actual weight change in any race the horse may be nominated. The major benefit of RBH is that it

provides a reference guide to owners and trainers prior to nominating.

The actual weight a horse may be allotted in a race is subject to rules that govern the minimum top weight in a race. This may well change the “template” weight of a horse, but it will clearly show the relativity that will be determined between every horse nominated.

Ballot applications are simple and fair. All horses on the template are treated as mature age male horses. This allows all horses to be treated equally in the ballot if performances are of equal value, disregarding age or sex.

In all mixed sex races mares shall receive a weight reduction of 2kg from their rating weight. In races where 2yo and 3yo horses race against older (4yo+) horses they will receive a weight allowance from their rating figures depending on what time of year the race is run. (See attachment 6).

All assessments leading to rating amendments are carried out with the standard of performances being fresh in mind and considering all the relative deliberations and considerations of handicappers. Unsuitable distances, track conditions, interference, last start winners, being slow away, a wide passage in transit, saddle slips, bleeding attacks and horses pulling up lame are all factors that might contribute to a horse’s rating not being lowered. Owners and trainers can access their horse’s new rating within two working days of the result of a race.

Whilst RBH offers many advantages to stakeholders there will be times when rating adjustments out of a race might not have every runner finishing behind another, meeting such runners on better terms out of the race.

Horses that are suited over a middle or staying trip cannot necessarily expect to have ratings lowered following an average performance in a sprint. Also, horses that have a history of performing well in the provincial and country areas and are not competitive at metropolitan level cannot expect to necessarily have their rating reduced following a poor performance at a metropolitan meeting.

The template has been designed to be fair to all. In most instances a penalty for a performance at a high level will result in a higher penalty in the lower level. Conversely, a higher penalty in a lower standard race will be less at the higher standard.

In order to overcome unforeseen circumstances such as clarification of form and to maintain flexibility when necessary, it is imperative that the rating or allocated weight of a horse may be amended or varied based on weight scales for competitive reasons i.e., at nomination stage all ratings are deemed to be ‘interim’ until the race is weighted. This is especially relevant when results are affected by stewards’ inquiries or other extenuating circumstances

To ensure the handicapping procedures are aligned with the objectives of RQ and are also sensitive to our black type racing schedule, group and listed races are not included within the RBH template.

It is in the best interests of racing that handicapper have the discretion to take into account all the considerations and deliberations that are necessary to frame weights in our group and listed races. With the increased volume of interstate participation in these races the objective will always be to attract the best possible fields without compromising the principles of handicapping. Ratings will still provide the foundation for these races however and offer a guide to nominators.



# HANDICAPPING PRINCIPLES AND PENALTIES

A handicapper's role is to ensure the racing product is delivered at a competitive level through the allocation of weights to be carried by each horse with the purpose of equalising their chances.

A winning performance attracts a penalty. That is, a horse which wins a race may have its rating increased. The severity of the increase is at the handicappers' discretion and will depend on several factors including strength of opposition, authority and merit of win and margins etc.

The average winning penalty within the same level of racing is between 1½ and 2 ½ kilograms. Wins by greater than average margins, in listed or group races, or when a horse's true weight is under the limit weight, could attract a larger penalty.



Horses which are placed commonly attract a penalty depending on the merit of their performance and their proximity to the horse immediately ahead of it in the finish.

Horses that race out of their grade and prove competitive can also have their rating increased relative to that performance.

Unplaced horses will generally have their rating decreased according to their finishing position within the race and proximity from the placegetters. This adjustment can vary but the average adjustment is between ½ to 1 kilogram or 1 or 2 rating points.

Furthermore, unplaced horses do not automatically have their rating reduced if deemed to be competitive in a non-suitable race, stayer resuming in a non-suitable race, racing out of grade or other circumstances that occur in a race.

The methodology in assessing penalties in handicap events will not always be consistent when assessing performances in weight-for-age and set-weight races. A percentage of horses will be well placed under these conditions and may attract a smaller penalty for winning, whereas a horse that is badly placed under the conditions will generally attract a bigger penalty. Horses that are badly placed may not be dropped at all for unplaced performances.

The winner of any race run after the declaration of weights may carry additional weight (if any) as determined by the Handicapper.



## VARIATIONS TO ALLOCATED WEIGHTS

Apprentice jockeys may claim an allowance in accordance with the Australian Rules of Racing (AR 143). The allowance reduces the actual weight the horse must carry in the race.

It compensates for the apprentice jockey's relative inexperience compared to the apprentice's more senior counterparts. The handicapper does not factor in an apprentice's claim when setting weights.

A horse may carry more than its allocated weight, due, for example, to the jockey's excess weight. The handicapper considers any extra weight carried when assessing the horse's previous performance.



# DEFINITIONS

**Allowance** - a specified reduction in the weight a horse must carry in a race (as opposed to the notional weight the handicapper allocates) to compensate for a disadvantage (such as an apprentice jockey's inexperience).

**Balloting** - a method used to eliminate horses from a race field when the number of horses that have accepted for the race exceeds the starting limit of the race.

**Class Race** - races that are classified as Class 1- Class 6.

**Group and Listed Races** - means races which are published in the schedule of races described as "Group and Listed Races" by the Australian Racing Board.

**Maiden race** - a race restricted to horses that have never won on the flat at a registered race meeting or any advertised race in any country.

**Overweight** - weight a horse carries in excess of the weight allocated by the handicapper.

**Benchmark Race** - a handicap race based on ratings with no restrictions on eligibility (see attachment 9).

**Ratings Based Handicapping** - a system designed for all horses to be given a rating figure by a handicapper and for reference material to establish the weight a horse would be allocated in any particular race relevant to that rating.

**Restricted Race** - a race conducted under restricted conditions as defined under the Australian Rules of Racing.

**Special Condition Race** - a race other than a restricted race, as defined under the Australian Rules of Racing, which was restricted by prize money and/or races won.

**Spread in the Weights** - refers to the difference between the heaviest and lightest weights allotted to horses in a race.

**RBH Template** - The template shows in line format, the rating figure and the corresponding weight the horse will carry in the various classes of Queensland racing.

**Weight Carried** - the weight actually carried by a horse in a race, rather than a notional weight allocation from the handicapper.

**Metropolitan Win (Amended October 1, 2023)** - For the purpose of determining metropolitan wins, a win in a flat race at a metropolitan race meeting, the total prize money for which exceeds \$50,000, shall be deemed to be a win in a metropolitan race. When determining the value of prize money, no account shall be taken of bonuses or added stakes payment not available to all horses eligible to be entered for the race. A win on the flat in any other country shall be deemed to be a metropolitan win except that, for the purpose of this condition, no account shall be taken of wins in maiden races in Australia and New Zealand.



## BALLOTING CONDITIONS

When the number of horses accepted for a race exceeds the field limit horses are eliminated by ballot. The uniform balloting conditions for set-weight races and for general handicap flat races are attached (see attachment 7, page 13).



# AMENDING WEIGHTS

AR 177 Stewards may permit handicapper to amend weights

- (1) The Stewards may, within a reasonable time of the handicapper's declaration of weights, permit the handicapper to amend the allotted weight of a horse in a handicap race if satisfied that the allotted weight was incorrect because of:
  - (a) a clerical error at the time of release of the weights; or
  - (b) incomplete or inaccurate information in relation to the performance, age, sex or identity of any entry; or
  - (c) an error by the handicapper in the assessment of the age or sex of any entry or of the conditions for a race.
- (2) With the Stewards' permission and before the declaration of acceptances, the handicapper may issue a substitute set of weights for a handicap race only if:
  - (a) a correctly nominated horse was not included in the original weights; or
  - (b) the original weights are not in accordance with the conditions for the race.
- (3) Notwithstanding subrules (1) and (2), an error in the allotted weight of any horse in a weight-for-age, set-weight, ratings-based, benchmark or set-weight-and-penalties race may be corrected at any time.
- (4) The handicapper may amend the allotted weight of a horse in a handicap race to carry additional weight if, after weights are declared for that handicap race, that horse wins a race.

LR37 states: LR.37. Re-nomination if race abandoned or cancelled

- (1) Subject to the approval of Stewards and notwithstanding the provisions of AR 177, in the following instances a horse may be renominated for a Race Meeting for which the weights have been released but which the acceptance deadline has not expired:
  - (a) a horse nominated for a race that was abandoned at closure of nominations; or
  - (b) a horse declared an emergency or balloted from a race at the closure of acceptances.or
  - (c) a horse accepted for a race that was abandoned at closure of acceptances; or
  - (d) a horse declared an emergency which was eliminated at the final scratching deadline.
- (2) For the purposes of this rule, the following conditions apply:
  - (a) the handicapper shall weight each nominated horse in accordance with the same weight scale issued at the time of initial declaration of weights; and
  - (b) in the event that a ballot is required in the race for which the horse has been subsequently nominated the horse shall be treated in the same manner as a later nomination.
- (e) a horse accepted for a race that was later abandoned or declared a no race; or
- (f) the conditions of a race are amended.

# ATTACHMENTS

## Attachment 1:

Minimum weights and minimum top weights

## Attachment 2:

Minimum weights at acceptance time and true weights

## Attachment 3:

Multiple acceptors

## Attachment 4:

Maiden scales

## Attachment 5:

Set weight class racing scales

## Attachment 6:

Weight allowances

## Attachment 7:

Uniform balloting conditions

## Attachment 8:

Classification of Queensland Race Clubs

## Attachment 9:

Benchmark races

## Attachment 10:

WFA Scale



# MINIMUM WEIGHTS AND MINIMUM TOP WEIGHTS FOR RACING QUEENSLAND HANDICAP RACES

## TAB Race Clubs

The conditions for feature/quality handicaps may vary subject to the approval of RQ. Any variations to these conditions will be advertised in the official publication of RQ.

Minimum Weights	Minimum top weights at release of weights	Minimum top weights at acceptance time	Applies to:
54kg	60kg	59kg	Metropolitan meetings
54kg	60kg	59kg	Provincial meetings

If at the release of weights, the handicapper is unable to attract a top weight of 60kg, he/she shall scale the weights up relatively in order to release weights with a top weight of 60kg in accordance with AR. 167 (1)

## Non-TAB Race Clubs

The conditions for feature/quality handicaps may vary subject to the approval of RQ. Any variations to these conditions will be advertised in the official publication of RQ.

South East Queensland			
Minimum Weights	Minimum top weights at release of weights	Minimum top weights at acceptance time	Applies to:
55kg	61kg	60kg	Country meetings
Eastern Downs			
Minimum Weights	Minimum top weights at release of weights	Minimum top weights at acceptance time	Applies to:
55kg	61kg	60kg	Country meetings

Downs			
Minimum Weights	Minimum top weights at release of weights	Minimum top weights at acceptance time	Applies to:
56kg	62kg	61kg	Country meetings
Capricornia			
Minimum Weights	Minimum top weights at release of weights	Minimum top weights at acceptance time	Applies to:
55kg	61kg	60kg	Country meetings
Central West Queensland			
Minimum Weights	Minimum top weights at release of weights	Minimum top weights at acceptance time	Applies to:
56kg	62kg	61kg	Country meetings
Leichhardt			
Minimum Weights	Minimum top weights at release of weights	Minimum top weights at acceptance time	Applies to:
55kg	61kg	60kg	Bowen, Ewan ATC, Home Hill, Charters Towers ARC, Ingham and Moranbah
56kg	62kg	61kg	Pentland, Prairie, Twin Hills
68kg	72 / 70kg	70 / 68kg	Oakley ATC, Tower Hill



## MINIMUM WEIGHTS AND MINIMUM TOP WEIGHTS FOR RACING QUEENSLAND HANDICAP RACES CONTINUED

North West Queensland			
Minimum Weights	Minimum top weights at release of weights	Minimum top weights at acceptance time	Applies to:
56kg	62kg	61kg	All Clubs with the exception of Western Picnic RC.
70kg	73kg	73kg	Western Picnic RC
Far North Queensland			
Minimum Weights	Minimum top weights at release of weights	Minimum top weights at acceptance time	Applies to:
55kg	61kg	60kg	Atherton, Cairns, Gordonvale, Innisfail, Mareeba, Mt Garnet ATC
56kg	62kg	61kg	Cooktown, Einasleigh, Georgetown, Laura, Oak Park

**Please note:** For Country TAB meetings the minimum weight may vary. Any variations will be advertised in the official publication of RQ.



# MINIMUM TOP WEIGHTS FOR TAB HANDICAPS AT ACCEPTANCE TIME

Division 2 – Weights, penalties, and allowances  
AR 167 Maximum and minimum weights for handicap races

- (1) The top weight allocated for handicap flat races must not be less than 59kg, except that for Group 1 handicap races and races in which only 2-year-olds can run, the allocated top weight must not be less than 58kg.
- (2) Notwithstanding subrule (1), if at the declaration of acceptances for a handicap flat race the weight allocated to the highest weighted acceptor (including any extra weight by way of re-handicap or penalty) is less than 58kg (57kg for Group 1 handicap races), or less than a higher weight determined by a PRA, then allocated weights for the race must be increased until the highest-weighted acceptor is weighted at 58kg (57kg for Group 1 handicap races).
- (3) A PRA may, in its sole and absolute discretion, provide an exemption from subrule (2) for Group 1 handicap races.
- (4) The minimum weight allocated for handicap flat races must not be less than:
  - (a) 50kg for the Melbourne Cup and Caulfield Cup;
  - (b) 52kg for Group 1 handicap races other than the Melbourne Cup and Caulfield Cup;
  - (c) 53kg for Group 2 handicap flat races; and
  - (d) 54kg for all other handicap flat races (provided that a PRA may in its discretion approve a minimum of 53kg for the purposes of this subrule).
- (5) Notwithstanding subrule (4), a PRA may approve applications made by Clubs for a minimum weight of 50kg for Group 1 handicap races other than the Melbourne Cup and Caulfield Cup and for 2-year-old and/or 3-year-old horses in open-age handicap races to be allocated lower minimum weights than those prescribed by subrule (4).

To ensure that there is a minimum spread of 5kg in all handicaps except Group 1 handicaps RQ introduced: LR.64(A):

## 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.

At declaration of weights a true weight will be placed in brackets for horses that are weighted on the limit weight. Therefore, when weights need to be raised, they will be raised from the true weight, not the limit weight.

By placing the true weight in brackets for those horses on the limit weight stakeholders are also provided with another valuable piece of information. This will also be a good guide for trainers to understand what penalty they may receive for winning a particular race when badly placed on the limit weight i.e., the true weight is significantly less than their carry weight of 54kg.





# MULTIPLE ACCEPTORS – TAB RACES

Racing Queensland confirms that with effect 1 July 2016, connections of horses will be provided with the capacity to nominate and accept horses in more than one race at the same TAB meeting - as well as Non-TAB meetings, at which this is currently permissible. This will also bring Queensland into line with the major southern racing jurisdictions.

To that end, the Rule of Racing, L.R.36(6), has been amended and will read as follows:

“Where a horse is accepted for more than one race at the same Race Meeting, and provided that horse makes the field in more than one race, it must be scratched out of all but one of those races, irrespective of rating, weight, performance or qualification status as follows: (a) if the Race Meeting is a TAB Meeting, prior to 5pm on the day of acceptances; (b) otherwise, prior to the advertised scratching time.”

The wording of the rule previously precluded horses from being accepted in more than one race at the same race meeting and the change to it will:

- Provide connections with flexibility in relation to the placement of their horse; and
- Increase the potential to choose the best option for their horse based on such factors as the handicap, barrier draw and relative field strengths.



# MAIDEN SCALES

## Maiden Handicap Scale between Venues

The scale between venues for maiden races is utilised for all races conducted under handicap conditions. This scale should be used as a guide only, ultimately the strength of the nominations will dictate the scale utilised for individual races.

SCALING	SEQ	ED	CAPRICORNIA	LEICHARDT	FNG
0	METRO				
+0.5	GCTC	TTC			
	ITC SCTC				
+1	NON-TAB	NON-TAB	RJC	TTC MTC	CJC

## Maiden Races Starting Points

The following scales apply to open maiden handicaps and set weight plates.

OPEN MAIDEN SET WEIGHTS				
	AUG - OCT	NOV - JAN	FEB - APR	MAY - JUL
4YO & up E & G	+4.5kg	+4.5kg	+4.5kg	+4.5kg
4YO & up Mare	+2.5kg	+2.5kg	+2.5kg	+2.5kg
3YO C & G	+2kg	+3kg	+3.5kg	+4kg
3YO Filly	+0kg	+1kg	+1.5kg	+2kg
2YO C & G		+1.5kg	+2kg	+2.5kg
2YO Filly		-0.5kg	+0kg	+0.5kg

## COLTS, GELDINGS & ENTIRES SET WEIGHTS

	AUG - OCT	NOV - JAN	FEB - APR	MAY - JUL
4YO & up	+4kg	+4kg	+4kg	+4kg
3YO	+1.5kg	+2.5kg	+3kg	+3.5kg
2YO		+1kg	+1.5kg	+2kg

## FILLIES & MARES SET WEIGHTS

	AUG - OCT	NOV - JAN	FEB - APR	MAY - JUL
4YO & up	+4kg	+4kg	+4kg	+4kg
3YO	+1.5kg	+2.5kg	+3kg	+3.5kg
2YO		+1kg	+1.5kg	+2kg

## OTHER MAIDEN SET WEIGHTS

	C, G&E	F & M
2YO or 3YO	+4kg	+2kg
2YO or 3YO C & G	+4kg	
2YO or 3YO F		+4kg
4 YO & Upwards	+4kg	+2kg



# CLASS SET WEIGHT RACES (Effective November 11, 2023)

MAIDEN HORSES ARE INELIGIBLE TO COMPETE IN CLASS 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 SET WEIGHT RACES

CLASS 6 PLATE (3YO & UP)	
CLASS OF HORSE	WEIGHT ABOVE MINIMUM
CLASS 6	+6kg
CLASS 5	+4.5kg
CLASS 4	+3kg
CLASS 3 TO 1	+1.5kg

CLASS 5 PLATE (3YO & UP)	
CLASS OF HORSE	WEIGHT ABOVE MINIMUM
CLASS 5	+6kg
CLASS 4	+4.5kg
CLASS 3	+3kg
CLASS 2 & 1	+1.5kg

CLASS 4 PLATE (3YO & UP)	
CLASS OF HORSE	WEIGHT ABOVE MINIMUM
CLASS 4	+6kg
CLASS 3	+4.5kg
CLASS 2	+3kg
CLASS 1	+1.5kg

CLASS 3 PLATE (3YO & UP)	
CLASS OF HORSE	WEIGHT ABOVE MINIMUM
CLASS 3	+6kg
CLASS 2	+4.5kg
CLASS 1	+3kg

CLASS 2 PLATE (3YO & UP)	
CLASS OF HORSE	WEIGHT ABOVE MINIMUM
CLASS 2	+6kg
CLASS 1	+4.5kg

THREE-YEAR-OLD CLASS 1 PLATE	
CLASS OF HORSE	WEIGHT ABOVE MINIMUM
CLASS 1 C & G	+6kg
CLASS 1 FILLY	+4kg
MDN C & G	+3kg
MDN FILLY	+1kg

CLASS 1 PLATE (3YO & UP)				
CLASS OF HORSE	WEIGHT ABOVE MINIMUM AUG - OCT	WEIGHT ABOVE MINIMUM NOV - JAN	WEIGHT ABOVE MINIMUM FEB - APR	WEIGHT ABOVE MINIMUM MAY - JUL
CLASS 1 4YO & UP	+6kg	+6kg	+6kg	+6kg
CLASS 1 3YO	+3.5kg	+4.5kg	+5kg	+5.5kg
MDN 4YO & UP	+3kg	+3kg	+3kg	+3kg
MDN 3YO	+0.5kg	+1.5kg	+2kg	+2.5kg

TWO-YEAR-OLD CLASS 1 PLATE	
CLASS OF HORSE	WEIGHT ABOVE MINIMUM
CLASS 1 C & G	+5kg
CLASS 1 FILLY	+3kg
MDN C & G	+2kg
MDN FILLY	+0kg

CLASS 1 PLATE	3YO COLTS & GELDINGS	3YO FILLIES	2YO COLTS & GELDINGS	2YO FILLIES
CLASS OF HORSE	WEIGHT ABOVE MINIMUM	WEIGHT ABOVE MINIMUM	WEIGHT ABOVE MINIMUM	WEIGHT ABOVE MINIMUM
CLASS 1	+6kg	+6kg	+5kg	+5kg
MDN	+3kg	+3kg	+2kg	+2kg

NON-TAB OPEN PLATE	
CLASS OF HORSE	WEIGHT ABOVE MINIMUM
OPEN	+6.5kg
CLASS 6	+2.5kg
CLASS 5 & UNDER	+1kg



# WEIGHT ALLOWANCES

A reducing weight allowance is applied in all Handicap and Set Weight races for the entire season as specified below.

	AUG - OCT	NOV - JAN	FEB - APR	MAY - JUL
4YO & up E & G	0kg	0kg	0kg	0kg
4YO & up Mare	- 2kg	- 2kg	- 2kg	- 2kg
3YO C & G	- 2.5kg	- 1.5kg	- 1kg	- 0.5kg
3YO Filly	- 4.5kg	- 3.5kg	- 3kg	- 2.5kg
2YO C & G		- 3kg	- 2.5kg	- 2kg
2YO Filly		- 5kg	- 4.5kg	-4kg



# UNIFORM BALLOTING CONDITIONS

For the purpose of balloting and in determining weights and or penalties in set weight and SW&P events, no account shall be taken of bonuses or added stakes payment.

## Set-Weight Maiden Races (unless otherwise stipulated)

In maiden races run at set weights, horses shall be eliminated in the following order:

1. Raced horses that have not received prize money within their last four starts. The horse with the greatest number of consecutive runs since earning prize money shall be eliminated first. Where horses have the same number of consecutive runs without prize money, they shall be eliminated according to age, with the oldest eliminated first. In the case of horses of the same age, elimination shall be by lot.
2. Horses that have received the lowest average prize money within their last four starts. Horses that have received equal average prize money shall be eliminated by lot.
3. Unraced horses remaining after applying the criteria above shall be eliminated by lot.

For the purpose of this rule, prize money shall not include:

- (a) Prize money earned in Picnic races.
- (b) For other races worth less than \$35,000, prize money received for finishing 5th to 10th.
- (c) For races worth \$35,000 to \$59,999, prize money received for finishing 6th to 10th.

## Class 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Plates

Maiden horses are ineligible to compete in Class 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 plates. Horses will be eliminated in accordance with average prize money per start.

At the release of weights, all set-weight races will be displayed in ballot order, enabling industry participants to know where their horse is placed within the ballot.



## Weight for Age Races

In the event of a ballot being required, horses with the lowest Rating will be eliminated first.

## General Handicap Flat Races

1. The ballot shall be affected in order from the horse/s with the lowest rating (the rating shall include any penalty imposed by the handicapper).

2. The horse with the lowest rating will be balloted first, then the horse with the next lowest rating, and so on, until the field starting limit is reached. When the handicapper has allocated equal ratings to two or more horses, they shall be bracketed together and balloted by lot.
3. The handicapper may promote a horse on the minimum weight that has won a race since the declaration of weights, according to the new rating of the horse if such rating does not qualify for a weight penalty.
4. In all maiden handicap events, the ballot shall be produced in order from the horse/s with the lowest weight. For the purpose of the ballot an age/sex balloting penalty is added to a horse's weight. This is used to redress any disadvantage that a Female or young horse may suffer in balloting against its male or older opponents by virtue of it having a lower starting weight.
5. In feature handicap flat events and/or weight-for-age/set-weight races, RQ may stipulate special balloting conditions to be inserted in the advertised conditions of the race.
6. At non-tab meetings if, at acceptance time, a horse is declared an acceptor in two or more races on the same program it is entitled to start in only one race.
7. Extended nominations - if the nomination closing time is extended for any race or races, RQ reserves the right to give preference when balloting to acceptors that were nominated by the original closing time, irrespective of handicap weight. Late nominations shall be balloted in accordance with the above conditions.



# CLASSIFICATION OF QUEENSLAND RACE CLUBS

To enable stakeholders to fully understand the RBH template the following categories of race clubs and race meetings are provided:

**Metropolitan** - Saturdays and public holiday meetings conducted by the Brisbane RC and Tattersall's RC, as well as the Gold Coast TC Magic Millions, Magic Millions Prelude and Prime Minister's Cup meetings, the Ipswich Cup meeting, Toowoomba Weetwood meeting and the Caloundra Cup meeting and other clubs allocated such a race meeting.

**Mid-Week Metropolitan** - Mid-week meetings conducted by the Brisbane RC or other clubs allocated such a race meeting.  
First starter rating 58

**Provincial One (1)** - Provincial meetings conducted by the Gold Coast TC, Sunshine Coast TC, Ipswich TC, Toowoomba TC and Brisbane Race Club.  
First starter rating 56  
Toowoomba first starter rating 55  
SEQ and Downs Country TAB meeting (Apprentice Claim - Country) will be weighted on a Provincial 1 + 1.  
First starter 54

**Provincial Two (2)** - All meetings conducted at the Mackay TC, Rockhampton JC and Townsville TC, as well as the Cairns Cup Meeting and meetings conducted by the Far North Queensland Amateur TC.  
First starter rating 51

**Country** - All other clubs  
First starter rating 48



# BENCHMARK RACES

Benchmark races are handicap races based on ratings that are open to every horse and have no restrictions.

These races are advantageous for open horses no longer competitive in that grade to drop back against restricted class horses. Benchmark races give the stakeholder the option to race on and delay retirement of their horse. After understanding the concept and what rating their horse currently has, stakeholders will have an influence on what weight they will carry in these races.

In South East Queensland Metropolitan, Metropolitan mid-week, Provincial and some Country tab meetings each rating point represents 0.5kg. The weight assigned to nominations relate to the benchmark rating assigned to the race. As the minimum top weight at declaration of weights is 60kg this weight will reflect the benchmark of the race. Therefore, in a Benchmark 90 race a horse rated 92 will receive 1kg over the benchmark of 60kg (61kg). A mare rated 88; 1kg under the benchmark will receive 57kg after the 2kg allowance is applied. It is important to note that Benchmark races in Provincial 2 and Country will differ due to the effect the sliding scales or (+) has.



# WFA SCALE

In horse racing, weight-for-age (WFA) is a definition of the conditions for a race. In essence, it means all horses will carry a set weight in accordance with the WFA Scale. The weight allocated varies depending on the horse's age, its sex, the race distance and the month of the racing season. WFA races are primarily run at Group 1 level, the highest standard. A review of the WFA scale was undertaken in 1997 and again in 2007 and as a result, the weights adopted in the WFA scale have been increased.

Distance	Age	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
<b>Over 1000m -1200m</b>	2						45.0	46.0	47.0	48.0	49.0	50.0	51.0
	3	51.5	52.0	53.0	53.5	54.5	55.0	55.5	56.0	56.5	57.0	57.5	58.0
	4	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5
	5+	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5	58.5
<b>Over 1200m -1400m</b>	2						44.0	45.0	46.0	47.0	48.0	49.0	50.0
	3	50.5	51.0	52.0	53.0	54.0	54.5	55.5	56.0	56.5	57.0	57.5	58.0
	4	58.5	58.5	58.5	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0
	5+	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0
<b>Over 1400m-1600m</b>	2						43.5	44.5	45.5	46.5	47.5	48.5	49.5
	3	50.0	50.5	51.0	52.0	53.0	54.0	55.0	56.0	56.5	57.0	57.5	58.0
	4	58.5	58.5	58.5	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0
	5+	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0
<b>Over 1600m - 2000m</b>	2						42.5	43.5	44.5	45.5	46.5	47.5	48.5
	3	49.0	49.5	50.0	51.0	52.0	53.0	54.0	54.5	55.5	56.5	57.0	57.5
	4	58.0	58.0	58.0	58.5	58.5	58.5	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0
	5+	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0
<b>Over 2000m - 2400m</b>	3	48.5	49.0	49.5	50.5	51.0	52.0	53.0	54.0	54.5	55.5	56.0	57.0
	4	57.5	57.5	57.5	58.0	58.0	58.0	58.5	58.5	58.5	59.0	59.0	59.0
	5+	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0
<b>Over 2400m - 3200m</b>	3	48.0	48.5	49.0	50.0	50.5	51.5	52.5	53.5	54.0	55.0	55.5	56.0
	4	57.5	57.5	57.5	58.0	58.0	58.0	58.5	58.5	58.5	59.0	59.0	59.0
	5+	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5

Fillies and Mares to be allowed 2.0kg from 1 August to 31 July

