

RACE MEETING PROCEDURES - THOROUGHBRED POSTPONEMENT OR ABANDONMENT

AR 155 Abandonment or cancellation of race meetings

- (1) A PRA, or a Club with the approval of a PRA, may cancel, abandon, or postpone any race or race meeting to a day approved by a PRA, and may make that decision either before or after the race meeting has commenced.
- (2) In the event of cancellation or abandonment of a race or race meeting, all entry and acceptance fees not already forfeited must be returned.
- (3) A PRA may appoint or authorise an official or body for the purpose of giving any approval under this rule and if that official gives approval it will be deemed to be the approval of the PRA.

AR 21 Race days, official trials and jump-outs

Without limiting any other Stewards' powers, the Stewards have the following powers in relation to race days, official trials and jump-outs:

- (f) for any reason related to conditions on a race day, including with reference to safety: (i) to postpone any race/s, whether before or after the commencement of the race meeting, either to later that day or another day (subject to the approval of the relevant PRA);

1. The decision to cancel, abandon, amend or postpone any race or race meeting sits with Racing Queensland (RQ) however, it becomes the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission's (QRIC) responsibility after scratching time on race day.
2. RQ and QRIC management propose the following will occur when:
 - A scheduled race meeting is threatened with being cancelled, abandoned, postponed or amended due to track conditions **or**
 - If adverse weather conditions (including visibility or light) or failure of essential racing equipment likely to impact on safety and animal welfare coincide with a scheduled race meeting **or**
 - Where the state of the racing surface becomes an issue prior to the race meeting starting on the day or during the race meeting.

RQ AS THE DECISION MAKER - Prior to Race Day

3. Immediately any track condition or weather concerns become known to any party (RQ, QRIC, Club, AJA/QJA or ATA/Qld Branch) they must advise the other parties.
4. When deciding to cancel, abandon, amend or postpone any race or race meeting, RQ will consult with:
 - a. The Club, including any relevant track staff and

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- b. The QRIC and where animal welfare is a concern, this will include an officer from Veterinary Services.
5. When deciding to cancel, abandon, amend or postpone any race or race meeting, RQ may also consult with:
 - a. Australian Trainers Association (Queensland Branch) **and**
 - b. Queensland Jockeys Association.
6. In making the decision to cancel, abandon, amend or postpone a race meeting, RQ Management will consider the views of the QRIC (if available), the track manager, the Club or their nominee and may also include trainer & rider representatives.
7. Based on all communications and considerations undertaken, RQ will make a final decision as to the meeting's status. This decision should aim to be made within 48 hours of the race commencement.
8. The decision and reasons will be broadcast via RQ communication channels and emailed to all consulted and QRIC, once made.

QRIC AS THE DECISION MAKER (ie after scratching time on Race Day)

9. If the condition of the track has changed when QRIC Stewards take responsibility of the track, QRIC Stewards will immediately notify a representative of QRIC management for resolution. In this situation QRIC Management includes the relevant Chief Steward or Deputy Commissioner or Commissioner.
10. In making the decision to cancel, abandon, amend or postpone a race meeting after scratching time on race day, and before the meeting has commenced, QRIC Management will require an urgent teleconference with the Steward in charge of the meeting, who is also on course, RQ Racing Operations, as well as a nominated Club representative, ATA (Qld Branch) or its nominated trainer representative and nominated jockey representatives.
11. The teleconference will involve each party putting forward their views. QRIC Stewards will then consider those views when making their decision.

DURING RACE DAY - EXTREME WEATHER CONCERNS

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12. Where extreme weather exists or is imminent, the Stewards may seek specialist advice in relation to the size and nature of the weather event, e.g. Bureau of Meteorology.
13. In considering the specialist advice, Stewards may give consideration to delaying proceedings and amending the race program, in doing so consultation may be undertaken with RQ, SKY, the Club, nominated trainer representative and nominated jockey representative.
14. Where extreme weather exists, if, at any stage during a race meeting, a licensee or the On Track Veterinarian (OTV) becomes concerned about any animal's condition pre-race, the OTV will examine the animal for signs of heat stress and if they have any concerns about the health, safety or well-being of the animal, they shall advise the relevant animals' trainer/team and immediately report their concerns to the Stewards.
15. When advising the Stewards of heat stress concerns the OTV will provide the Chair of the Stewards Panel with a recommendation as to whether it is suitable to proceed with the race.
16. If the Stewards form a view the race meeting should be cancelled, abandoned, or postponed, the process outlined in section 10 and 11 (above) is followed.

DURING RACE DAY - TRACK SUITABILITY CONCERNS

17. If, at any stage during a race meeting, the QRIC and/or jockeys express concerns regarding the condition of the track, the Stewards and jockeys will initially discuss those concerns in the Stewards' room.
18. If, following that discussion, it is considered necessary by the Stewards, the Stewards, the track manager and a delegation of jockeys will inspect the track at the areas of concern. Jockeys who are also QJA Directors will be invited to inspect the areas of concern (irrespective of whether those riders are riding in the upcoming races), as will representatives of the Australian Trainers Association (Qld) that are present at the race meeting.
19. Following the track inspection, the Stewards, the delegation of jockeys, and the track manager will discuss carrying out any remedial work which may

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address the concerns surrounding the affected area and on completion, the site will be further inspected.

20. Following the track inspection (or the final inspection following any remedial work), the Stewards, the delegation of jockeys and any jockeys who are engaged in the upcoming races will return to the Stewards' Room to discuss the condition of the track.
21. At the conclusion of this discussion, the Stewards may ask the jockeys to participate in a secret ballot to inform the Stewards whether each jockey considers it is suitable to ride.
22. Apprentices claiming 3kg & 4kg at the meeting, will not be required to participate in the secret ballot. Senior jockeys present at the meeting will engage with the 3kg & 4kg claiming apprentices to ensure an opportunity for education, discussion, and the voicing of any concerns.
23. Where the Stewards ask the jockeys to participate in the ballot, the Stewards will facilitate the secret ballot in which all jockeys in the next race will vote. The process for the vote is as follows:
 - a. Each jockey will one by one file into the Stewards room where they will be asked to indicate on the Ballot slip "Yes" or "No" to the following question: "Do you believe that the surface is suitable to ride in the next race based on the current condition of the track?"
 - b. Once completed, the ballot results will be tabulated and jockeys advised
24. The table below sets out the number of jockeys which are required to indicate that they believe it is not suitable to ride in the next race based on the current condition of the track, for the Stewards to consider whether to abandon the race meeting (based on jockey concern).

No. of Starters	No. of Jockeys required to indicate in the secret ballot that it is not suitable to ride in next race for the race meeting to be abandoned
15 (or more)	7
14	7
13	6

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12	6
11	5
10	5
9	4
8	4
7	3
6 or less	3

25. If the requisite number of votes (as set out above) is not obtained for the race meeting to be abandoned, and the Stewards decide to continue the race meeting, then the next race will go ahead. However, any jockey or jockeys who did not wish to ride in the next race would not be required to do so, and other jockeys prepared to ride would be offered the opportunity to ride the horses of those who did not wish to continue riding. If no jockey is able to be found, the horse (or horses) will be withdrawn from the race without penalty.
26. Apprentice jockeys may participate in a track inspection as required, and may vote if they wish to, but have the option of not voting. If the following race is one for apprentice jockeys only, senior jockeys may be included in the track inspection process.
27. If the requisite number of jockeys vote that they believe that it is not suitable to ride in the next race due to the condition of the track, the Stewards may, in their absolute discretion and pursuant to AR 8(q), make a formal determination as to postponement of the race or races (if this is reasonably practicable) or abandonment of the race meeting, and will advise all jockeys accordingly.
28. Where the Stewards make a decision to abandon a race meeting the following process must be followed:
- Jockeys must remain in the confines of the jockeys' room until all announcements are made.
 - Stewards are to inform the club, also make the appropriate on course announcements via the relevant broadcasters.
 - Stewards are to contact RQ Racing Operations and inform them of the decision.
 - Stewards must contact the TAB and inform it of the decision.

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- e. QRIC Media and Communications team will issue a media release and tweet to inform the public of the decision and the reasons for the decision.

NOTE:

- Any rescheduling of a meeting to an alternative day by RQ and the Club will be done in consultation with QRIC and other relevant service providers, primarily to ensure availability of resources.
- To achieve the intent of this protocol, RQ will endeavor to provide QRIC with Race Track conditions reports to the relevant Chief Steward in advance of race meetings. These reports will identify scheduled or other maintenance planned or in action, potential areas of concern on a track and where available, track rating information.
- Where RQ needs 'eyes on the ground' at a track, RQ will alert QRIC and QRIC will endeavor to schedule stewards to visit the track as part of attending race meetings in the respective area.