

1. Background

This policy is made under s.102(1)(a) of the [Racing Act 2002](#) (Qld) (“**the Act**”) and s.6(d) 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 the standard required of licensed Venues, including criteria for different categories of Venues.

2. Policy Name

This policy is named *The Standard Required of Licensed Venues Policy* (“**Policy**”).

3. Date Made & Date Of Effect

This Policy is made on **1 March 2024** and takes effect on the same day.

4. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to specify the standard required of Licensed Venues.

5. Who Is Affected By The Policy?

This Policy is a policy for all codes of racing.

This Policy applies to all Clubs and Venues licensed by, or proposed to be licensed by, RQ. This Policy affects all Licensed Venues, and all Clubs licensed by RQ in relation to the management and standard of their Licensed Venue/s.

6. Policy Application

6.1. How Decisions Are to be Made

RQ will make decisions in relation to the standard required of Licensed Venues consistently with this Policy, associated RQ documentation and the Act.

6.2. Licensed Venue Standards

RQ has developed Licensed Venue Standards for each code of racing which sets out the standard required of a Licensed Venue to hold a Race Meeting and conduct other racing activities under a Club’s Licence.

RQ categorises Licensed Venues according to the Club tier and the standard of racing conducted at that Venue.

The Licensed Venue Standards:

- (a) apply to new and existing assets at a Licensed Venue, and outline the requirements that must be adhered to when constructing, acquiring, refurbishing and improving such assets; and
- (b) outline the process that must be followed by a Club to remedy a non-compliance with any such requirements and to otherwise ensure the Licensed Venue is suitable to hold Race Meetings and conduct other racing activities under a Club’s Licence.

The Licensed Venue Standards are published by RQ on its website and may be updated from time to time.

6.3. Roles and Responsibilities

In accordance with the RQ Club and Venue Licence General Conditions, a Club must:

- (a) ensure that the Licensed Venue meets the requirements of the Licensed Venue Standards;
- (b) adopt and implement all policies and procedures (including incident reporting procedures) as are reasonably necessary, to ensure that it complies with all applicable Laws relating to workplace health and safety or public safety and adopt and maintain all safety standards that a reasonably prudent person operating a Club, a Race Meeting or a Licensed Venue would adopt; and
- (c) perform its obligations under the Licence in a manner that complies with all applicable Laws.

Further:

- (d) if the Licence granted is a Club and Venue Licence, then the Club must comply with the Licensed Venue Standards, and any other provisions in respect of a Licensed Venue set out in the Licence; and
- (e) if the Licence granted is a Club Licence only, then the Club must procure that any third party owner or operator of any Venue at which a Race Meeting is being conducted by the Club (Operator) complies with the Licensed Venue Standards, and any other provisions in respect of a Licensed Venue set out in the Licence.

RQ may carry out inspections of a Licensed Venue from time to time to assess compliance with the Licensed Venue Standards and the ongoing suitability of the Venue to be licensed.

7. Other Matters About Race Meetings

7.1. Approval Required to Undertake Certain Works Affecting Racing

Clubs must obtain RQ's written approval prior to undertaking any works that may affect:

- (a) a Licensed Venue's race track, such as reconstructions, refurbishments, renovations, irrigation, drainage or turfing works;
- (b) the location of a winning post, camera tower or stewards tower; or
- (c) the broadcast of a Race Meeting, such as the erection of a temporary structure (e.g. a marquee or screen) on the infield of a race track impacting vision.

7.2. Master Planning

Clubs undertaking Master Planning that may affect a Licensed Venue must notify RQ of their intent to undertake such planning to enable RQ to assess any proposed works against the Licensed Venue Standards and requirements of the Act.

7.3. Suitability of Licensed Venue for Racing

- (a) If, at any time prior to a Race Meeting, any issues or concerns arise that may render the Licensed Venue unsuitable for racing, whether related to weather, prevailing track conditions, a failure to comply with the Licensed Venue Standards or otherwise, the Club must notify RQ of such issues or concerns immediately. In particular (and without limitation), Clubs must immediately notify RQ of any issues or concerns affecting the race track or other critical racing assets such as running rails, lure/lure rail, barrier stalls or starting boxes.
- (b) Further, Clubs must ensure that an inspection of the race track is carried out by the Club's racecourse manager or other appropriate person 24 hours prior to the first race of each Race Meeting at the Venue (or such earlier time as reasonably requested by RQ) and again prior to official scratching time on the day of the meeting.
- (c) Following any such notification, RQ may inspect the Licensed Venue and/or make necessary inquiries to determine whether the Race Meeting shall proceed at the Licensed Venue or shall otherwise be cancelled, abandoned, postponed or transferred to another Venue in accordance with the Rules of Racing or any of RQ's Policies.

7.4. Suitability of Club to Hold a Race Meeting

Pursuant to s84(3)(a) of the Act, RQ may amend the Racing Calendar if it believes a Club is unsuitable to hold a Race Meeting. Without limiting the factors that may lead RQ to believe a Club is unsuitable to hold a Race Meeting for this section of the Act, RQ may form this view where the Club has failed to ensure compliance with the Licensed Venue Standards, and the circumstances of such failure have the potential to adversely affect:

- (a) the safety of persons, or the welfare of animals, at a Race Meeting; or
- (b) the public interest in the code of racing.

8. Rules Of Racing

Rules of Racing will not be made for this Policy.

9. Related Documents

[All Racing Queensland Policies](#)

[Licence General Conditions](#)

[Licensed Venue Standards](#)

[Racing Act 2002](#)

[Racing Integrity Act 2016](#)

[Racing Regulation 2023](#)

[Rules of Racing \(Thoroughbred\)](#)

[Rules of Racing \(Harness\)](#)

[Rules of Racing \(Greyhound\)](#)

10. References

In this Policy:

- (a) the **Act** means the [Racing Act 2002](#) (Qld);
- (b) **Club** means a Club licensed by RQ under the Licensing Scheme Policy;
- (c) **Critical racing assets** means any assets the failure of which would render a Licensed Venue unsuitable for racing, including (but not limited to) race tracks, running rails, lure/lure rail, barrier stalls and starting boxes;
- (d) **Laws** means:
 - (i) principles of law or equity established by decisions of courts;
 - (ii) statutes, regulations or by-laws of the Commonwealth of Australia, or any State or Territory of the Commonwealth of Australia or a government agency; and
 - (iii) requirements and approvals (including conditions) of the Commonwealth of Australia or any State or Territory of the Commonwealth of Australia or a government agency that have the force of law;
- (e) **Licensed Venue Standards** means the current standards for Licensed Venues published by RQ on its website for a relevant code of racing;
- (f) **Policies** means any policies made by RQ from time to time under Chapter 3, Part 2, Division 1 of the Act;
- (g) any capitalised terms defined in the Act have the same meaning as set out therein, except as otherwise stated in this Policy.

11. Version History

Current Version:	2024.03	Approved:	28 February 2024
Document Owner:	EGM Club Partnerships & Assets	Due for Review:	1 March 2026
Enquiries to:	Asset & Industry Performance Manager clubcompliance@racingqueensland.com.au		

VERSION	EFFECTIVE	DEPARTMENT	CHANGES MADE
2024.03	1 March 2024	EGM Club Partnerships & Assets	Policy reviewed & updated.
2021.11	3 November 2021	EGM Club Partnerships & Assets	Policy reviewed & updated.
2	26 April 2017	GM Infrastructure	Policy reviewed & updated.
1.01	May 2013	-	Policy made.