

CONSULTATION NOTICE - RULES OF RACING

Code of Racing	Thoroughbred
Rule	AR 167(2)
Description	Maximum and minimum weights for handicap races
Authorised for Consultation	March 5, 2025
Consultation Closes	March 6, 2025
Submissions to	policies@racingqueensland.com.au

Racing Queensland (**RQ**) has received notice from Racing Australia (RA) that it has adopted an amendment to Rule 167(2) of the Australian Rules of Racing.

Details of the rule amendment are provided in the following documentation issued by RA.

RA has advised that the national effective date for this rule change was March 1, 2025. However, due to legislative requirements, this change is not proposed to take effect in Queensland until March 8, 2025.

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the proposed rule change as per the details at the top of this document.



AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

Amendment - AR 167 (2)

Following a query from the handicappers it was identified that there appeared to be a limitation in AR 167 (2) which restricts the ability to go higher than a 58kg acceptance topweight. The current rule drafting means topweight acceptances (to be able to have a 59 or 60kg topweight at acceptances) are unable to be increased to match the original handicap spread where required.

AR 103 was updated in October 2015 to resolve this issue and AR103(2) included:

*“...then allocated weights for the race must be increased until the highest-weighted acceptor is weighted **at not less than** 58 kilograms (57 kilograms for Group 1 handicap races).”*

However following the rules rewrite March 2019 AR103 changed to AR167 and AR167(2) reverted to its original wording

*“...then allocated weights for the race must be increased until the highest-weighted acceptor is weighted **at** 58kg (57kg for Group 1 handicap races).”*

Following investigations it was established that it was a simple error made during the rules rewrite. The RA Board approved the amendment to reinstate the correct wording in AR 167 (2) as follows.

Add the following to AR 167 (2):

*AR167(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 **not less than** 58kg (57kg for Group 1 handicap races).*

Date of effect: 1 March 2025