



Racing NSW *Country "D"*

Minimum Standards

- Racing and Training Surfaces
- Water Reticulation
- Rails and Fences
- Crossing and Gaps
- Grounds
- Raceday Equipment and Other Equipment
- Maintenance and Staff Facilities
- Safety Standards for Buildings including Public Facilities & Food Premises
- OH&S
- Staff Safety and Policies and Procedures
- Reporting



Minimum Standards

Country (Category “D”) Clubs

1.1 Objectives

In accordance with the provisions of the Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996 (“the Act”), Racing NSW has determined Minimum Standards to be met by all NSW racecourse Venue Operators (Clubs) (“Minimum Standards”).

These Minimum Standards are designed to ensure consistent performance of racing and training so as to benefit welfare; prolong racing careers; establish ideal conditions for competitive racing and make racing more accessible, enjoyable and rewarding for all.

1.2 Category Levels

Racing NSW recognises the diversity of venues across NSW and acknowledges regional & local variances in community and participant standards & expectations.

Accordingly, each Club shall be required to meet the standards set out for its relevant category. The Clubs are categorised as follows:

- i. Metropolitan;
- ii. Provincial & Country (Regional – Category “A”);
- iii. Country (Major – Category “B” and “C”);
- iv. Country (Minor – Category “D”).

1.3 Minimum Standards Report (“MSR”) – All Clubs

The CEO (or equivalent) of every Club must prepare an annual report detailing activities in progress that are intended to ensure compliance with Minimum Standards.

The annual MSR must be tabled at the Board Meeting of the Club.

All MSR’s must be made available to Racing NSW upon written request.

1.4 Failure to meet a Minimum Standard

If a Club fails to, or cannot meet, a Minimum Standard it must:

- i. Immediately notify Racing NSW of that failure;
- ii. Investigate the cause and take all reasonable steps to rectify that failure;
- iii. Provide Racing NSW with a report identifying the cause of the failure and the steps taken to:
 - a. remedy that failure, and;
 - b. prevent future failure;
- iv. Notify Racing NSW of any other impact of that failure on the provision of Club Services.

1.5 Racing NSW Venue Audit & Review

Racing NSW may conduct an annual audit of each Club Venue to assess compliance with Minimum Standards (“Venue Audit”), and each Venue Audit will be included in a Venue Audit Report.

An audit may be conducted at any venue by Racing NSW with or without prior notice to the Club.

Racing NSW will provide Clubs with the necessary advice and technical plus other resources to assist the Club in complying with the Audit requirements.

Racing NSW will review the Venue Audit Report in consultation with the relevant Club as soon as possible after each Venue Audit.

1.6 Non-conformance

Arising from powers bestowed to Racing NSW under Section 29C of the Act, a determination by Racing NSW that a Club has failed to meet Minimum Standards will initially result in one or more of the following outcomes:

- i. A review conducted by Racing NSW to identify causes of the failure in consultation with the Club
- ii. A formal Notice of Breach issued by Racing NSW to the Club
- iii. Remedial actions and timeline set by Racing NSW

Consistent with Section 29C of the Act, deficiencies in Minimum Standards determined by Racing NSW that remain unresolved by a Club after the above steps (i to iii) or that represent an immediate unacceptable safety risk may result in one or more of the following outcomes for that Club:

- i. Suspension of affected Services at the Venue
- ii. Reduction in Club funding from the Distribution
- iii. Transfer of race meetings to other Clubs or Venues
- iv. Cancellation or suspension of Club licence



Minimum Standards

Country (Category “D”) Clubs

MINIMUM STANDARDS: COUNTRY (CATEGORY “D”) CLUBS

1. Racing and Training Surfaces

1.1. Turf Tracks (if applicable)

Item	Minimum Standard
1.1.1 Presentation	Tracks present a uniform surface capable of withstanding the Club’s horse racing (and training) schedule, subject to normal climatic conditions. Tracks provide a safe and consistent surface for all users at all times under normal climatic conditions.
1.1.2 Drainage	Tracks are capable of use after light rain. Tracks remain useable during light rain.
1.1.3 Condition	Tracks are to provide a safe, consistent galloping surface at all times under normal climatic conditions.
1.1.4 Grass Standard	Turf surfaces (if applicable) are smooth and broadleaf weed free.
1.1.5 Filling-in Timing	All filling-in work is completed after conclusion of racing/training.
1.1.6 Filling-in Procedure	Weather permitting, divots are replaced manually prior to filling with soil. Remaining depressions are manually filled with an approved soil. The approved soil conforms to the existing (in-situ) profile with good drainage characteristics. After compression & levelling with foot pressure, added soil is level with the surrounding track surface.
1.1.7 Mowing Frequency	The mowing program accords with prevailing growing conditions and usage requirements.
1.1.8 Mowing Height	Determined by seasonal conditions and adjusted to suit the racing program. Turf (if applicable) is presented at a height of 75mm – 125mm for racing.
1.1.9 Water Management	Sufficient water is applied via irrigation to meet plant health needs. Water is applied beforehand on an as-required basis to achieve a track rating no firmer than ‘Good 3’ by race time.
1.1.10 Programmed Course Renovation	A track survey report prepared by a Qualified Surveyor (detailing turn radius, length of straights, camber, any surface undulations, all race distances and all marker post positions for each turf track) is provided to Racing NSW by Friday 18 December 2009. Particle size of any topdressing material applied is consistent with the existing growing medium. Where feasible, any works are implemented during optimum growing periods with minimum disruption to racing.
1.1.11 Drains	Drains are designed with sufficient capacity to remove flows arising from typical rainfall events. All drains are mowed/slashed and cleared to ensure satisfactory performance.

1.2 Track Preparation for Raceday, Barrier Trials & Trackwork

Item	Minimum Standard
1.2.1 Irrigation	Irrigation system is shut down by 6:00am on raceday.
1.2.2 Training Tracks	Tracks are groomed to a pleasing visual standard for patrons on raceday.
1.2.3 Finish Line Presentation	The raceday finish line is set up to provide an appropriate gap for photography.
1.2.4 Knock-in	Knock-in is performed during and after races.
1.2.5 Trackwork Schedules	Trackwork operating hours are defined and published. Tracks are cleared of horses prior to commencement of maintenance activities.

1.3 Dirt, Sand or Cinders Tracks (as applicable)

Item	Minimum Standard
1.3.1 Track Structure	<p>Basecourse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> uniform compaction; no loose/unbound gravel or stone; no visible marking, soft spots or pavement failure. <p>Surface course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> depths are suitable for appropriate use and recommended as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *100 mm – 120mm (Fast Sand/Dirt); *125 mm – 150mm (Slow Sand); *100mm (Cinders). profile is correctly graded with no particles > 5 mm in size. free of debris (and clinkers – cinders tracks).
1.3.2 Surface Preparation	<p>Tracks are harrowed, rolled and trimmed prior to use as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> footprints and hollows are levelled by harrowing the top 30 mm; solid tyne drag harrows, pasture or diamond harrows attached to any standard tractor are acceptable; the track is dragged in both directions to completely reinstate the surface when necessary; ridges from harrowing are smoothed using a tyre roller; the surface is further firmed/consolidated where necessary using a medium to heavy roller. Care is taken to ensure the roller is not “bridging” (ie. part of the roller surface is suspended on high ground, creating false footing).
1.3.3 Water Management	<p>Prior to use, sufficient water is applied to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relieve jarring; provide secure footing; ensure a dust-free training environment; bind track particles; and consolidate the surface without causing ponding. <p>In areas or periods of high evaporation, water is applied outside daylight hours.</p>

1.3.4 Drainage	Drains are shaped or cast to fall, allowing water to flow and not pond. Drains are kept in a clean and free flowing state. All drains are cleaned as required with any accumulated material returned to the track, graded and re-levelled. Drainage sumps/pits and pipes are cleaned as required with inlet and outlet pipes clear. All drains are clearly railed-off from tracks and inaccessible to horses. Grates/covers are clear of debris, secure & structurally sound.
1.3.5 Grading	Track surface levels and drainage operation is maintained by grading when required.

2. Water Reticulation

2.1 Irrigation Management

The following specification outlines the maintenance requirements for irrigation. This specification is not a recommendation or general guidelines but states the minimum maintenance procedures required. Other items may need to be addressed on a regular or “one off” basis.

All aspects of the irrigation system are kept in full working order at all times.

2.2 Irrigation Operation

The following are minimum requirements that must be included but not limited to:

Item	Minimum Standard
2.2.1 General Operation	Any irrigation system performs consistently in respect of both flowrates and uniformity of application.
2.2.2 Faults/Repairs	The system is inspected for leaks, functionality of sprinkler heads and uniformity of water application as required. A suitable log is kept to record system checks and maintenance.
2.2.3 Mowing	Sprinklers and valve boxes are trimmed-around as required.
2.2.4 Leaks	All leaks are identified and repaired immediately.
2.2.5 Filters	All filters are cleaned, backwashed or replaced in accordance with manufacturer’s specifications/ recommended service intervals.

2.3 Water Carts and Trucks

Item	Minimum Standard
2.3.1 Sand, Cinders & Dirt Tracks	Water is delivered as required for dust prevention, track stabilisation and surface management.
2.3.2 Horse Stalls	Water is delivered as required for daily cleaning.
2.3.3 All Unpaved Vehicle Access Roads	Water is delivered as required for dust suppression on racedays and as otherwise necessary.
2.3.4 All Other Dusty Public Areas on Racedays	Water is delivered as required for dust suppression on racedays and otherwise.

3. Rails and Fences

Item	Minimum Standard
3.1 Specifications	Rails and fences are placed and secured in accordance with manufacturer’s specifications. Only manufacturer-approved materials and components are used to repair and maintain rails & fences.
3.2 Upkeep	All components (posts, rails, mesh panels and fittings) are kept in sound condition to ensure structural integrity and are replaced as required under the Club’s programmed maintenance plan. Any damage repair to training track running rails is carried out without delay prior to the next training session. No temporary repair measures are utilised for the long term.
3.3 Height	Heights from ground level to top of rail are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1080mm (Steriline Racing rail) • 1150mm (Simtrack rail) • To BCA code (fences) • or a safe working level.
3.4 Inspections	Rails are inspected the day before any race meeting or barrier trial session and re-checked the morning of the fixture. Training track rails are inspected daily before and after trackwork sessions. Procedure: the entire circuit is inspected by an authorised Club official who verifies - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no disruption to inside and outside rails; • no exposed pins or ends (end caps required); • no joint protrusion; • satisfactory foundation; • conforming height; • satisfactory visibility. The results of each inspection and any required repairs are recorded by the Club in a suitable log.
3.5 Safety and Inspections During Meetings	During race meetings, visual checks of rails are completed after each race and reported to the relevant Club official and/or officiating Stewards. Any repairs/rectification works or chute guide-rail movements are completed before horses leave the mounting enclosure for the next race. Repairs are made between races only with the knowledge and approval of the Stewards.
3.6 Presentation	The top lines of rails and fences are level vertically & horizontally and follow the ground lines of the track, free of any depressions and gaps. All rails and fences are free of vegetation and freshly painted at all times. Rails and fences are completely straight where appropriate with smooth sweeping curves on the bends. There is no visible evidence of staining from irrigation water or other sources.

4. Crossings and Gaps

Item	Minimum Standard
4.1 Inspection, Preventive and Remedial Action	Prior to trackwork commencing and on race & trial days, all gaps are inspected by the Club official with designated responsibility to ensure they are safe and that all exposed rail ends are enclosed in shock absorbent padding.
4.2 Check List	A check list is in use to ensure all gap safety procedures are followed daily for trackwork and at all race meetings & trials.
4.3 Traffic Damage	Crossings provide an even, consistent surface from work area to work area, free of ridges & depressions caused by vehicular traffic.
4.4 Limb Injury Prevention	Jarring to horses traversing the crossing at speed is prevented by a covering of suitable materials during racedays and trackwork. Suitable materials for use are turf clippings, lucerne hay, rubber shreds or similar.
4.5 Track Crossings	The track crossing must present identical characteristics to the course proper in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • surface levels; • camber/crossfall; • surface hardness; • profile depth; • visual appearance/colour Any depressions or humps must be eliminated and if necessary, the crossing is to be de-compacted & watered to achieve a surface hardness rating consistent with that for the course proper.
4.6 Drainage	To alleviate ponding, all crossings should be able to shed water from their surface in a suitable manner.

5. Grounds

5.1 All Turf Areas except Turf Tracks, Mounting Enclosure & Club Lawns

All areas are to be prepared to a good, aesthetically pleasing standard immediately prior to a race meeting to ensure a satisfactory standard of presentation.

5.2 Club Lawns

All areas are to be prepared to a good, aesthetically pleasing standard immediately prior to a race meeting to ensure a satisfactory standard of presentation.

5.3 Mounting Enclosure Lawns

All areas are to be prepared to a good, aesthetically pleasing standard immediately prior to a race meeting to ensure a satisfactory standard of presentation.

5.4 Gardens & Trees

All areas are to be prepared to a good, aesthetically pleasing standard immediately prior to a race meeting to ensure a satisfactory standard of presentation.

Item	Minimum Standard
5.4.1 Supervising	The Club’s nominated representative and contracted arborist co-ordinate & supervise all tree works including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • branch trimming • tree & limb removal • major storm damage cleanup; • stump removal

6. Raceday Equipment and Other Equipment

Item	Minimum Standard
6.1 Mobile Starting Barriers	<p>Inspected prior to every day of use as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • superstructure (sound, no corrosion); • padding (present with no rips or tears); • front & rear gates (operational, undamaged, no rust, hardware functional); • barrier dividers (Racing NSW standard); • flashing red & blue lights (operational); • electric start (battery charged, wiring safe, switch OK, operational); • manual start (operational); • hydraulic steering (operational, no leaks); • towing vehicle (operational). <p>The results of each inspection are recorded by the Club in a log suitable for the purpose.</p>
6.2 Semaphore Board	<p>Inspected prior to raceday to ensure satisfactory operation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support bracket (structurally sound); • electrical/cabling (insulation intact, cabling in conduit); • display operational (placegetters, margin, timing, track condition, message area); • sectional timing (operational, infrared beam OK, correctly calibrated).
6.3 Other Equipment	<p>Photo finish operational and calibrated. Mirrorbox clean, undamaged and correctly aligned. Totalisator secure and operational. Public address system wiring/cabling in sound condition and system operational. Distance markers visible, correct location – distances surveyed 610mm off face of inside rail.</p>
6.4 Surveillance Towers	<p>Structural adequacy (sound foundations, structure exhibits no corrosion, stairs or ladders/cages intact, overall compliance with AS 1657 – 1992).</p>
6.5 Injured Horse Welfare	<p>The Club provides a fully serviced horse ambulance and sight reduction screens, strategically placed for immediate action when required.</p>

7. Maintenance and Staff Facilities

7.1 Maintenance of Equipment

Item	Minimum Standard
7.1.1 Full Working Order	All equipment is kept in full working order at all times and complies with all safety requirements.
7.1.2 Redundant Equipment	No redundant equipment or parts are held on site.
7.1.3 OH&S	All operators are trained to operate all equipment in accordance with standard procedures and OH&S requirements. Operators protect themselves and others in the operating area by applying safe work practices and designated personal protective equipment (PPE). All electrical equipment is tested and tagged as per WorkCover NSW requirements.
7.1.4 Risk Assessments	Risk Assessments and Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS) are maintained and used in the operation of all equipment. (Refer to OH&S guidelines issued by Racing NSW).
7.1.5 Mowers	All mower blades are kept sharp and provide a quality cut. Mower guards are functional and intact.
7.1.6 Servicing	All equipment is serviced in accordance with the Club’s programmed maintenance schedule.

7.2 Staff Facilities

Item	Minimum Standard
7.2.1 OH&S	All areas are kept clean and tidy at all times with equipment stored in a safe, orderly manner that satisfies OH&S requirements. Access to workshop, tools and equipment is restricted to employees authorised by the Club’s OH&S policy.
7.2.2 Security	All areas are protected by security.

8. Safety Standards for Buildings including Public Facilities & Food Premises

Race Clubs (as owner/occupier/controller) are responsible for maintaining their premises as a safe environment. Clubs are required to ensure that all safety measures are in place and operating as intended in accordance with statutory mandate.

Item	Minimum Standard
8.1 Building Services Compliance & Audit	<p>Compliance with the guidelines and standards contained in the Racing NSW publication “Racecourse Facilities Inspection Guide & Essential Services Checklist” (as updated from time to time and available on the Racing NSW website at the following link: http://www.racingnsw.com.au/page.asp?parm=ohs.racecourseFacilities).</p> <p>A systems and facilities audit report is prepared annually by a suitably qualified person verifying that the inspection records of the Club for the period comply with the “Racecourse Facilities Inspection Guide & Essential Services Checklist”.</p> <p>The annual systems & facilities audit report contains a current dilapidation report and verifies that all buildings & services comply with BCA requirements.</p> <p>A current Verification Certificate is in place confirming that all essential safety measures have been maintained to the relevant standard and are operating to the required level of performance.</p>

9. OH&S

Item	Minimum Standard
9.1 OH&S	<p>The Club retains staff with current industry certification to train colleagues in OH&S or engages local WorkCover NSW-accredited training resources for the purpose.</p> <p>The Club’s OH&S training program provides the levels of training to staff specified in the OH&S Form Guide published by Racing NSW in 2000.</p>

10. Staff Safety and Policies and Procedures

Item	Minimum Standard
10.1 No Smoking	No smoking is allowed on the race tracks, in vehicles/machinery or in the maintenance facility. Suitable signs are posted supporting Club no-smoking policy.
10.2 Policies and Procedures	Records are kept verifying the training of all staff in Club policies and procedures in relation to human resources matters including workplace behaviour standards, random drug and alcohol testing.

11. Reporting

Item	Minimum Standard
11.1 System	<p>A reporting system is in place at the Club which identifies the level of conformance to all minimum standards.</p> <p>As a priority, Club Management implements remedial actions to remedy non-conformance(s).</p> <p>The Club Board reviews minimum standards non-conformances and sets policy accordingly.</p> <p>The Club Board ensures non-conformances are promptly notified to Racing NSW.</p>