The Big Dance, Listed Race

3rd November 2026
(At Royal Randwick Racecourse)

1. Race Conditions

Distance	1600m
Age	Three years and up
Weight Scale	Quality Hcp, maximum weight 62kg
Field Limit	20 Starters plus 4 emergencies

2. Prizemoney

Of $3,000,000 and Trophies. First Horse $1,560,000 and Trophies; Second Horse $600,000; Third Horse $300,000 Fourth Horse $150,000 Fifth Horse $75,000 Sixth Horse $60,000 Seventh Horse $45,000; Eighth Horse $45,000; Ninth Horse $45,000; Tenth Horse $45,000; $45,000 Equine Welfare Fund Contribution, $30,000 Jockey Welfare Fund Contribution.

3. Eligibility

The official winners and second placed horses of qualifying races.

Horses may contest multiple qualifying races and are not restricted from contesting these races by virtue of winning an earlier qualifying race.

At its absolute discretion, Racing NSW may eliminate, add or substitute qualifying races or conditions.

4. Big Dance Wild Card

The Big Dance Wild Card race will be run over 1600m at Royal Randwick on Saturday 17 October 2026 as an Open Handicap.

The Big Dance Wild Card race will be open to any horse that has contested one of the qualifying races, without winning a qualifying race.

The first and second placed horses from the race will qualify for the Big Dance.

5. Order of Entry and Ballot Conditions

The first and second placed horses from the Big Dance Wild Card will be exempt from ballot.

Should it become necessary to reduce the number of acceptors to determine the final field and emergencies, the excess horses shall be eliminated:

- commencing with the second placed horses from the qualifying races that have not otherwise won another of the qualifying races; then
- the lowest NSW Benchmark Handicap Rating at final acceptances shall be the first eliminated, this procedure will continue until the field limit is reached;
- if benchmarks are equal, the place in the field will selected by the Racing NSW Handicapping Panel.

6. Nomination and Acceptance

Nominations

Horses will automatically be nominated based the results of qualifying races.

Acceptances

Acceptances – Close by 9am on Friday, 31 October 2026.

7. Weight Allowances

Apprentice Jockey Allowances

Apprentice jockeys cannot claim.

8. Racing NSW the Sole Judge of Eligibility

Racing NSW will be the sole judge to determine eligibility to compete in The Big Dance. Further, Racing NSW may change any condition, term, or other factor relating to the Big Dance at any stage, in its absolute discretion.

Racing NSW reserves the right to cancel the race, in its absolute discretion.

For further information, contact Scott Kennedy at Racing NSW on 9551 7579 (skennedy@racingnsw.com.au), Ben Dunn on 9551 7664 (bdunn@racingnsw.com.au) or Sam Reed on 9551 7661 (sreed@racingnsw.com.au).

Big Dance Qualifying Country Races

VENUE	DATE	CLUB	RACE	DIST
Gundagai	14-Nov-25	Gundagai-Adelong Race Club	Snake Gully Cup	1400
Kembla Grange	22-Nov-25	Illawarra Turf Club	The Gong	1600
Mudgee	5-Dec-25	Mudgee Race Club	Mudgee Cup	1400
Nowra	14-Dec-25	Shoalhaven City Turf Club	Nowra Cup	1600
Moruya	5-Jan-26	Moruya Jockey Club Inc	Moruya Cup	1425
Ballina	16-Jan-26	Ballina Jockey Club	Ballina Cup	1590
Sapphire Coast	1-Feb-26	Sapphire Coast Turf Club	Bega Cup	1600
Armidale	13-Mar-26	Armidale Jockey Club	Armidale Cup	1400
Albury	20-Mar-26	Albury Racing Club	Albury Gold Cup	2000
Muswellbrook	27-Mar-26	Muswellbrook Race Club	Muswellbrook Gold Cup	1500
Wellington	12-Apr-26	Wellington Race Club	Wellington Cup	1700
Orange	17-Apr-26	Racing Orange Ltd	Orange Gold Cup	2100
Tamworth	24-Apr-26	Tamworth Jockey Club	Tamworth Cup	1400
Wagga	1-May-26	Murrumbidgee Turf Club	Wagga Wagga Gold Cup	2000
Hawkesbury	2-May-26	Hawkesbury Race Club	Hawkesbury Cup	1600
Gosford	9-May-26	Gosford Race Club	Gosford Cup	2100
Scone	15-May-26	Scone Race Club	Scone Cup	1600
Gunnedah	24-May-26	Gunnedah Jockey Club	Gunnedah Cup	1600
Narrandera	12-Jul-26	Narrandera Race Club	Narrandera Cup	1600
Grafton	12-Jul-26	Clarence River Jockey Club	South Grafton Cup	1600
Forbes	2-Aug-26	Forbes Jockey Club	Forbes Cup	1600
Coffs Harbour	7-Aug-26	Coffs Harbour Racing Club	Coffs Harbour Cup	1600
Murwillumbah	21-Aug-26	Tweed River Jockey Club	Murwillumbah Cup	1550
Goulburn	23-Aug-26	Goulburn & District Racing Club	Goulburn Cup	1400
Wyong	4-Sep-26	Wyong Race Club	Wyong Cup	2100
Tuncurry	11-Sep-26	Tuncurry-Forster Jockey Club	Tuncurry-Forster Cup	1600
Bathurst	13-Sep-26	Bathurst Turf Club	Bathurst Cup	1800
Newcastle	18-Sep-26	Newcastle Jockey Club	Cameron Hcp	1500
Lismore	25-Sep-26	Lismore Turf Club	Lismore Cup	1590
Dubbo	27-Sep-26	City of Dubbo Turf Club	Dubbo Gold Cup	1600
Port Macquarie	9-Oct-26	Port Macquarie Race Club	Port Macquarie Cup	2000
Coonamble	11-Oct-26	Coonamble Jockey Club	Coonamble Cup	1600
Taree	16-Oct-26	Manning Valley Race Club	Taree Cup	2000
Randwick	17-Oct-26	Australian Turf Club	Big Dance Wild Card	1600

Dates potentially subject to change.

To be eligible for the Big Dance, horses must be the official winners (or second placed horse) in any of the races listed above.