

A summary of Racing NSW Racing Policies and Rules

Effective January 1, 2017

In addition to the Australian and Local Rules of Racing, the following information is provided as a quick find guide to some regularly used Racing NSW policies and rules relating to procedures involving race dates, programs, nominations, eligibilities, weights, acceptances etc. Please note that these policies and rules are subject to change.

1. RACE DATES AND PROGRAM FORMATION

1.1 Allocation of race dates

- The Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996 No 37 section 14, 2 (e) confers on Racing NSW the power to "allocate to registered race clubs the dates on which they may conduct race meetings".

1.2 Race date application process

- Clubs are required to apply to Racing NSW no later than November 1, any race date requests for the following season's allocation of dates.

1.3 Formulation and submission of race programs

- Under the provisions of AR36 and LR19, all race programs and their conditions require the approval of Racing NSW.
- The frequency, distance and mix of races programmed at any race meeting will be coordinated by the Racing NSW Racing Office in consultation with the race clubs.

1.4 Number of races programmed at each race meeting

- For any Metropolitan race meeting, the number of races to be programmed shall be no less than seven (7) and no more than ten (10).
- For any Provincial TAB covered race meeting, the number of races to be programmed shall be no less than seven (7) and no more than eight (8) unless Racing NSW gives approval for a club to program nine (9) races.
- For any country TAB covered meeting that is conducted between Sunday and Thursday a maximum of seven (7) races shall be programmed unless it is a stand-alone meeting or Racing NSW has approved the programming of an additional race. Sky 2 TAB meetings shall have a minimum of six (6) races.
- For any Community/Picnic meeting the maximum number of races programmed shall be five (5) unless express permission is given by Racing NSW to conduct additional races.
- Community/Picnic meetings scheduled during the Spring/Autumn Carnivals, Christmas/New Year Period and on Melbourne Cup day shall program five (5) races unless otherwise approved by Racing NSW.
- Between mid December and mid January the Metropolitan Midweek, Provincial and Inner Country clubs (Shoalhaven, Goulburn, Bathurst, Orange, Cessnock, Muswellbrook, Scone, Taree) are restricted to programming a maximum of seven (7) races, unless otherwise approved by Racing NSW.

1.5 Standardized prizemoney distribution

- No individual prizemoney amount is to be less than \$225 for a 'Professional' race or less than \$200 for a 'Picnic' race.
- The value of any individual trophy shall only be advertised when of an amount of \$100 or greater.
- Clubs will not be permitted to offer more than \$3,500 in total prizemoney and \$2,500 to the winner (including trophies) for any 'Trophy' race.
- All TAB races pay down to 10th place (other than Group and Listed races). All Non-TAB races pay down to 8th place.

1.6 Apprentices Claims

- The provisions of LR69 state: 'An apprentice is entitled to claim a weight allowance in accordance with the 3 tier scale provided for in AR92 unless:

- the conditions of the race specify apprentices may not claim; or

- the race is run under Quality handicap conditions; or
- the race is run under fixed weight conditions where the prizemoney exceeds \$100,000 excluding trophies or bonuses.

1.7 Trainers and Owners Bonuses

- Clubs are required to submit application for approval to Racing NSW, for any bonus or incentive payment on offer for a trainer/owner on any race or series of races and/or race meetings.

2. NOMINATIONS, ELIGIBILITIES AND WEIGHTS

2.1 Nominations and entries

- When making or receiving entries for a race, particular attention is drawn to the provisions of AR48(b), AR50, AR54 and AR56. It is essential that a current stable return has been lodged prior to nominations.

2.2 Extension of nominations

- METROPOLITAN SATURDAY or ANY FEATURE TAB COVERED RACE MEETING** – to be administered on a needs basis in consultation with the Racing NSW Racing Office.
- ALL OTHER TAB COVERED RACE MEETINGS** – Where 14 or fewer nominations have been received for a race it shall be extended.
- MEETINGS NOT COVERED BY TAB** – Where 9 or fewer nominations have been received for a race it shall be extended.
- Any further application for nominations to be extended shall require the express approval of Racing NSW Racing Office
- Unless otherwise authorized, the approved extension period shall be no greater than one (1) business day from the original close of entries.
- Extended nominations received for a race will be placed in ballot order below the original nominations received for that race.
- Additional nominations which include but are not limited to horses from abandoned or transferred race/s or horses that have failed to gain a start will be treated as an original nomination and therefore will be placed in their normal ballot order.

2.3 Alteration to entries

- Any dispute relating to the status of an entry for a race shall be determined by the Stewards.
- The provisions of LR27 state that: 'Any alteration to the list of nominations after the closing time for entries for a meeting must be approved by the Stewards'.

2.4 Determination of 'Prizemoney' in relation to eligibility, weights and/or balloting conditions

- The provisions of LR26 state that: 'In determining eligibility, weights and/or balloting conditions for any race no account shall be taken of:
 - Appearance monies, incentive payments, breeders bonuses, starter rebates or starter bonuses
 - Any payment that was not available to all horses that were eligible to be nominated for such races
- Provided however, that the conditions of a race may also be determined that for balloting purposes no account shall be taken of prizemoney won in sales restricted races'

2.5 Weights – minimum to be imposed, raising of at acceptance time

- MINIMUM** - The provisions of LR25 describes that: 'Subject to the provisions of AR103, the minimum weight to be imposed by the

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handicapper for any race must be not less than 54kg...., excepting those black type and other races as approved by the Board'.

Minimum is 53kg for Metropolitan. (Effective 1/1/17)

- **MAXIMUM** - The provisions of AR103(1) state that: 'The top weight allocated for handicap flat races must not be less than 59kg, except for Group 1 handicap races and races in which 2YOs only can run, for which the allocated top weight must not be less than 58kg.'
- **RAISING AT ACCEPTANCE TIME** - The provisions of AR103(2) state that: Notwithstanding the provisions of 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 58 kilograms (57 kilograms for Group 1 handicap races), or less than a higher weight determined by a Principal Racing Authority, 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).

When the weight of the highest weighted acceptor needs to be raised to 58kg, the true handicap weight for horses originally weighted at or below the minimum will be raised accordingly to establish a spread of weights. (Black Type, Class 1, Maiden and 2YO races excluded).

- **QUALITY HANDICAPS** - The minimum prizemoney for a Quality Handicap shall be \$50,000 unless otherwise approved.

3. ACCEPTANCES, BALLOTING AND RACE FIELDS

3.1 Barrier draw

- The provisions of LR 34 describes the manner in which the barrier draw will be conducted. It also indicates how any omission or clerical error in the conduct of such a draw shall be dealt with.

3.2 Race divisions

- In addition to the provisions of LR32 and only with the approval of the Racing NSW, where applicable, a race club may divide a race subject to the following conditions;
 - i) A minimum of 24 acceptances are received unless otherwise approved.
 - ii) The original advertised prizemoney must be offered for each division.
 - iii) Any such division shall not have a substantial detrimental effect upon a TAB covered race to be conducted in the following (5) days.

3.3 Combining of races after nomination time

- The provisions of LR 31 state that;

"The Board may, after consultation with the Club concerned, combine or abandon any race or races after the time of nomination and may give such authorities and directions as are considered to be necessary to give effect to this rule including the authority to re-handicap any horse or horses."

3.4 Field size limitations

- Barrier safety limits for all racecourses shall be determined by the Stewards in accordance with the provisions of LR18, with a maximum of 4 emergencies to be declared unless otherwise approved by Racing NSW.

3.5 Balloting conditions and exemptions

- Unless otherwise stated in the conditions of the race program, all general balloting conditions are as published at the front of the relevant program section in Racing NSW publication, 'Racing NSW'. Please note that these conditions are subject to change from time to time.

3.6 Balloted out (or made an emergency) horses able to re-nominate

- Subject to Racing NSW approval, a horse which is balloted out (or made an emergency) may re-nominate prior to 1pm the same day for any meeting for which the weights have not been issued (under the provisions of LR 33).

3.7 Rider Declaration and Scratching deadlines

- All standardized times are indicated at the front of the relevant program section in Racing NSW publication, 'Racing NSW'. Please note that these conditions are subject to change from time to time.

3.8 Rider and Scratching fees

- Unless otherwise stated in the conditions of the race program, all standardized fees are shown at the front of the relevant program section in Racing NSW publication, 'Racing NSW'.
- For horses which scratch after receiving a run as an emergency the following policy shall apply.

"Where an emergency runner gains a start in a race, no scratching fee shall be charged to that horse for scratching from any race on the same day or on a following meeting for which final acceptances have been declared."

In order to facilitate the operation of this policy, connections are advised to inform the relevant Club at time of scratching of the fee exemption. If this does not occur, connections may contact Racing NSW Stakes Payment Office for a re-imbusement of any scratching fee charged.

4. RACE OR MEETING NOT CONDUCTED

4.1 Abandoned race/s - affected horse/s able to re-nominate

- The provisions of LR 28 state that;

"Following the abandonment of a race or race meeting, the Stewards and/or Racing NSW Chief Executive may at their discretion, approve the re-nomination of any accepted horse from such race into any TAB covered race, regardless of whether weights have been declared provided that:

 - (a) this rule shall only be operable until 4pm on the day prior to final acceptance for the race to be entered into and,
 - (b) if the list of nominations is altered after the declaration of weights, the Handicapper may amend the allotted handicap weight of any or all horses at their discretion."

4.2 Abandoned, cancelled, exchanged, transferred or postponed race or race meeting

In addition to the powers of Racing NSW contained within AR 38, LR 29, LR 30 and LR 31, with respect to the abandonment, cancellation or postponement of a race or race meeting, the following authorization must be given:

- **Abandoned meeting** - is a race and/or race meeting abandoned after nominations have been taken, due to inclement weather, the state of the track, or other circumstances described and defined herein as force majeure which are the subject of Stewards approval. Notification is to be made immediately to the Racing NSW, Racing Office where applicable.
- **Cancelled meeting** - is a race meeting cancelled prior to nominations being received subject to Racing NSW approval, with specific regard to contractual obligations.
- **Exchanged race dates** - is a race meeting exchanged with another club subject to Racing NSW approval, with specific regard to any contractual obligations.
- **Transferred or postponed meeting** - is the postponement and/or subsequent transfer (note AR 36A and AR 36B) of all or part of a race meeting due to inclement weather, the state of the track, or other circumstances described and defined herein as force majeure. In all cases the approval of the Racing NSW is required prior to any transfer or postponement being advertised.

Should Racing NSW be approached to transfer or postpone a race or meeting the following issues will be taken into consideration:

 - i) The financial benefits to the Thoroughbred Sector.
 - ii) The effect on programmed meetings in close proximity or on the same day, including though not limited to Pay TV and TAB coverage, media coverage and TABturnover
 - iii) The opportunities to re-nominate if the meeting is not held.
 - iv) Whether the same club, venue, race conditions and distances will be available and used.
 - v) Consultation with the race clubs involved in the transfer.



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