

RQ STAKEHOLDER NOTICE

Code of Racing	Thoroughbred
Detail	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. New Local Rule 72 – Provisions for Nomination, Rider Declarations and Scratchings for Official Trials and new <i>Protocol – Official Trials</i> – effective May 1, 2025; and2. Amend Local Rule 33(2) – Official trial for unraced horses before start in a TAB race – effective August 1, 2025.
Contact	policies@racingqueensland.com.au
Date of Issue	April 3, 2025

Racing Queensland (**RQ**) advises that it has approved changes to the Local Rules (Thoroughbred Racing), and a new *Protocol – Official Trials*, as detailed below.

New Local Rule 72 and new *Protocol – Official Trials* – effective May 1, 2025

New Local Rule 72, which takes effect from May 1, 2025, has been introduced to formalise the process of nominations, declaration of riders and scratchings for official trials.

Under the new rule, the trainer of a horse intended to run in an official trial must lodge a nomination, declare a rider, and, if applicable, scratch the horse by the deadlines published in the RACE Magazine.

These deadlines will generally be as follows:

- Nominations: 9.00am on the business day prior to the day of the official trials;
- Riders: 4.00pm on the business day prior to the day of the official trials; and
- Scratchings (on the day of the official trials):
 - for stand-alone official trial meetings – 6.30am; and
 - for official trials conducted at race meetings – 8.00am.

Full details of the new rule are provided in the Annexure which appears at the end of this document.

An updated rule book will be published on RQ's website prior to the effective date of this rule change (May 1, 2025).

Additionally, RQ advises that a new *Protocol – Official Trials*, which outlines key principles and processes related to the conduct of official trials for the information of participants, has been approved for effect from the same date.

This Protocol is available on RQ's website and can be viewed here: [Protocol – Official Trials](#).

Change to Local Rule 33(2) – effective August 1, 2025

Further, under the change to Local Rule 33(2), an unraced horse will be required to complete an official trial to the satisfaction of the Stewards before being permitted to start in a race at a TAB Race Meeting.

This rule change takes effect from August 1, 2025, and expands the scope of the existing requirement for unraced horses to complete an official trial to the satisfaction of the Stewards before being permitted to start in a Metropolitan race.

To assist participants and to ensure that there are sufficient trial opportunities for unraced horses to compete at official trials to satisfy the requirements of the amended Local Rule 33(2), RQ will revise the trial schedule to facilitate additional trials for participants (in conjunction with relevant race clubs).

This process, which has already commenced, will include official trials conducted after select race meetings in regional areas.

To enable participants to familiarise themselves with the revised schedule, it has been decided that this rule change will not take effect until the commencement of the new racing season (August 1, 2025).

Full details of the rule change are provided in the Annexure which appears at the end of this document.

A further updated rule book will be published on RQ's website closer to the effective date of this rule change (August 1, 2025).



ANNEXURE

Delete:

BOOKMAKERS, BOOKMAKER'S CLERKS, BETTING

~~LR.72 – LR.114 Deleted effective 1 May 2022.~~

~~Refer to Local Rules of Racing All Codes – Rules of Betting~~

New:

OFFICIAL TRIALS

LR.72. Official Trials – Nominations, Riders, Scratchings

- (1) The trainer of any horse intended to run in an official trial shall:
 - (a) lodge a nomination for the horse; and
 - (b) declare a rider for the horse.

with the Racing Australia Service Centre by not later than the respective times advertised in the Racing Calendar.
- (2) If a trainer intends to scratch a horse from an official trial, the trainer shall give notice of the scratching to the Racing Australia Service Centre by not later than the time advertised in the Racing Calendar.
- (3) The Stewards may, in their absolute discretion, extend the time or times provided for by this rule.

Effective: May 1, 2025

Amend:

LR.33. Barrier Certificate of tractability to be obtained

- (1) Prior to a horse being permitted to start in Queensland a barrier certificate of tractability or an interstate clearance from the authority in whose region the horse last raced or was barrier tested must be obtained prior to the declaration of acceptances.
- (2) Prior to an unraced horse being permitted to start in a ~~Metropolitan~~ race at a TAB Race Meeting, the horse must complete an official trial to the satisfaction of Stewards prior to the declaration of acceptances.

Effective: August 1, 2025