



GENERAL RACE RULES / CONDITIONS

- Jockeys must be 18 years of age or older to compete.
- All competitors/jockeys must complete a Liability Disclaimer before competing.
- Jockeys must wear an approved helmet and protective vest at all times while mounted.
- All horses, whether Quarter Horse or Thoroughbred, must be nominated under their registered name.
- Jockeys deemed to be riding dangerously or endangering other competitors or horses may be disqualified.
- Any jockey deemed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be permitted to compete.
- Horses must be raced using a jockey or trackwork pad, breastplate and approved racing reins.
- Marshalling of all competitors and horses will take place at 11:30am in the mounting yards.
- All races will start from barriers, except the Local Station Sprint, which will be conducted as a Flag Start.
- Races will consist of up to eight (8) horses, except the Local Station Sprint, which will be limited to six (6) horses.
- Winning horses may be required to provide a blood sample for drug testing.
- Jockeys must not cross, interfere with or cut off another competitor during a race.

- Horse classifications will be in accordance with the Queensland Sprint Horse Racing Classification Guidelines.
- Jockeys must maintain two hands on the reins at all times. Whips may only be used on the horse's shoulder.
- Standard Racing tack that should always be allowed:
 - Exercise or racing pads, race reins, blinkers, whips and any other racing tack
- Whipping rule – two hands on the reins at all times and whipping to the shoulder only.
- People such as owners, trainers, strappers to be allowed at the barriers to assist in loading/holding horses.
- Owners are allowed to race horses in their own colours.
- First start jockeys need to prove their experience/prior learning to the steward's satisfaction before riding.
- Horse condition – horses should be presented in race condition and meet a standard approved by the steward.
- Nominations may be taken on the day if positions become available.
- If nominations in individual races exceed barrier numbers, a ballot will determine the final runners.
- Nominations will close 10th September 2026
- The Richmond Bush Sprints committee reserves the right to change/delete or add any rules or changes to the program as they see fit.

STEWARDS

The Stipendiary Stewards have full discretion and final authority over all racing matters, including but not limited to:

- Dangerous riding or misconduct on the track.
- Horses deemed dangerous or unfit to race.
- Race protests and objections.
- Fines, warnings, suspensions and disqualifications.
- The Stewards' decision is final.

PROTESTS

- Race protests must be lodged by the jockey only, within five (5) minutes of the completion of the race.
- A \$20 protest fee applies.
- Owners are not permitted to lodge protests or be involved in the protest process.

RACE CLASSIFICATIONS

MAIDEN SPRINT

- Eligibility is restricted to Maiden Horses. A Maiden Horse is defined as a horse that has not won a race.
- Race distance 320m

NOVICE SPRINT

- Eligibility is restricted to Novice Horses. A Novice Horse is defined as a horse that has won no more than five races.
- Race distance 360m

PROGRESSIVE SPRINT

- Eligibility is restricted to Progressive Horses. A Progressive Horse is defined as a horse that has won no more than three races.
- Race distance 360m

OFF THE TRACK THOROUGHBRED SPRINT

Eligibility is restricted to horses that meet the following criteria:

- An Open Horse is a horse that has won six or more races.
- All Off the Track Thoroughbreds are eligible to compete in this race and will be classified as Open Horses, regardless of the number of races they have won.
- Race distance 360m

LOCAL STATION SPRINT

Eligibility is restricted to horses and jockeys that meet the following criteria:

- Both the horse and the jockey must reside within a 200 km radius of Richmond
- Horses must be genuine station mustering horse
- All riders must compete using a stock saddle
- The race will be conducted as a Flag Start.
- Race distance 200m

MERRIE ELLIOTT CUP

Eligibility is restricted to horses and jockeys that meet the following criteria:

- Horses must be three years of age or older.
- Horses must be AQHA, AMQHA, APHA or AAA registered.
- A minimum riding weight of 65 kg applies to all horses.
- It is the owner's/trainer's responsibility to ensure the minimum riding weight is met.
- Jockey racing colours must be worn.
- Race distance 360m