



Venue Minimum Standards Harness Licensed Venues

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1. Objectives

The Venue Minimum Standards are the minimum standards required of a Licensed Venue to stage racing and training activities as contemplated by the Licence. The Venue Minimum Standards outline the standards required of assets used for activities at the Licensed Venue. These requirements apply to new and existing assets and must also be considered when constructing or acquiring new facilities and assets or refurbishing existing facilities and assets.

In accordance with the Racing Queensland (RQ) Club and Venue Licence General Conditions the club must:

- ensure that the Licensed Venue complies with the Governance Requirements and Venue Minimum Standards.
- adopt and implement any policies and procedures reasonably necessary to ensure compliance with all Laws relating to health and safety and adopts all safety standards that a reasonably prudent person operating a club, a race meeting or a Licensed Venue would adopt.
- perform its obligations under the Licence in a manner that complies with all applicable laws.

2. Licensed Venue Inspection

RQ may conduct inspections of a Licensed Venue to assess compliance with the Venue Minimum Standards and asset condition. Inspection outcomes and asset information will be accessible to clubs via Race Cube. Key observations made during the inspection including noncompliance and recommendations to address any issues will be facilitated by cases assigned to the club.

In accordance with clause 5.4(e) of the RQ Club and Venue Licence General Conditions, RQ may (acting reasonably) give the club a written direction to take specific actions or refrain from taking specific actions in relation to the operations of the Club or Licensed Venue; and the club must comply with any direction given by RQ under the clause.

3. General Requirements

The Venue Minimum Standard considers other regulatory and statutory requirements; however it does not address these requirements in its entirety and Clubs must consider the relevant codes and associated regulatory and statutory requirements when acquiring or constructing new and existing facilities and assets. Below is a list of codes/legislation Clubs may need to consider. Please note this is not a comprehensive list and there may be other requirements Clubs need to consider.

Australian Building Standards

National Construction Code

Queensland Development code

Building fire safety regulation

4. Definitions

Horse Precinct	Horse area, restricted to licensees and officials only – includes tie-up stalls, washdown bays, swab and veterinary area and float carpark.
Roadworthy	In suitable operating condition or meeting acceptable standards for safe driving and transport of people on public roads. Any vehicle driven on a road (as defined by Queensland Transport) must be registered.
Sound Condition	Able to support reasonable and anticipated loading or weather conditions, with no major defect, deteriorations, structural problems, asset failure or environmental and in good and clean condition with no health and safety issues.

5. Venue Minimum Standards

5.1 Race Track

Item	Minimum Standard
Track surface	<p>Base:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The base course is to be a uniform compacted base without soft spots, loose material or pavement failure. The subbase must be crusher dust or similar material, compacted and consistent. Material is to be approved by RQ. <p>Track Profile:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The surface course (topping/cushion material) must be a depth of 15-20mm and of a material approved by RQ. Surface must be consolidated and consistent with sufficient water content. Tracks must be capable of use during and after rain periods. A safety lane of approximately 2m inside the marker pegs must be available for horses and drivers to use in the event of an incident. NB. Grass and /or sand tracks that are dual purpose – facilitate thoroughbred and harness events, the venue standards for the primary racing code are applicable.
Track material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track material must be a mix of manufactured sand and crusher dust and must be within reasonable tolerance of RQ specifications. Particle size of 0.05mm to 3mm with no particles greater than 5mm. Quarterly testing of the track surface is a mandatory requirement, where at least twelve samples are required to be taken from various points around the track to a depth of 20mm, in order to conduct a particle size analysis. The results of all testing must be provided to RQ. All track material that is selected for use on any track must be tested, analysed and approved by RQ before application. A stockpile of track surface material must be maintained onsite. The stockpile should be located to provide easy access for machinery and ideally located in a concrete bunker and covered.
Pegs and identifiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pegs must be set in the ground in a surveyed position. Pegs must be between 650 -750mm in height and be of a suitable material to ensure they remain upright, prevent any injury to horse and/or driver whilst remaining flexible to fold/move when impact is experienced. e.g., pool noodles. Starting position pegs to be distinct from other pegs (e.g. horizontal striping).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candy pole positioned 50m prior to the start for mobile events (the point all horses must be on the gate). This peg should be taller than the marker pegs and located inside the track for visibility. • Red sprint lane guider post positioned at the top of the straight. • Marker Pegs for various positions need to be distinguished from each other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Blue to signal the start of the sprint lane. ➢ Yellow pegs for remainder of sprint lane. ➢ Red Peg at the ease out position on the entrance to the back straight.
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track must be even and consistent with a slight cushion on the surface, the surface must be springy (cushioned) with slight resistance upon contact to ensure adequate traction is achieved by both the equine athlete and the sulky whilst minimising the impact forces experienced. • Track should not be affected in appearance and consistency where gaps are used for access across the track and to the infield area. • The safety lane must maintain a smooth transition and maintain a consistent camber from the racetrack with the same material properties. • Inside and outside of the track must be free from weeds/debris at all times. • Each starting position is to be surveyed and clearly marked. • Under normal climatic conditions, the track must be safe and consistent for all horses at all times, free of depressions or major undulations. • Track drains must be, trimmed and designed to allow ease of water movement during rain events.

5.2 Irrigation Management

Item	Minimum Standard
Water Trucks/Carts/Trailers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water must be delivered by a truck or trailer to the track surface in preparation for racing/trialling and throughout the race meeting. • Water truck/cart/trailer must be mounted with a minimum 5000l moulded plastic tank capable of delivering water via a pressurised system through a spray bar or dust suppression nozzle. • Spray bar to be positioned close to the track surface to deliver water effectively with minimum disruption to track surface material. • Spray bar must be wide enough to extend past the width of the vehicles' wheels (approx. 2.4 m). • Truck or trailer wheels should be wide tread load dispersing or floatation type. • Water truck must be roadworthy.

5.3 Track Fencing

Item	Minimum Standard
Specification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complete outside fence that conforms with the following specifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Solid material e.g. Colourbond* - with the exception of the home straight which must be meshed to provide clear viewing. ➢ Positioned to define the outside of the racetrack to ensure that there are no obstacles/hazards accessible by horse and driver. ➢ 1.2m – 1.8m with the exception of the home straight, which must be 1.0 - 1.2m and constructed to enable clear viewing of the track whilst restricting access to the track by the use of mesh type fencing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fences are to be placed and installed in accordance with manufacturers and/or suppliers' specifications. *Tier 2 – either mesh or panel construction, depending on location and subject to approval by RQ. Separation between the track and public/patron areas including the use of mesh fencing where required to further restrict access to the track. Round or flat top fencing only, no security type fencing (with spike or wire tops) permitted on the track or in the animal precincts.
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All components (posts, rails and fittings) must be kept in sound condition to ensure structural integrity. Fence posts must be upright and in sound condition to ensure the rail/top line of the fence/rail is level. Rails/fence panels must be straight where appropriate with smooth transitions on the bends with no exposed pins or joint protrusions. Colourbond or similar fencing must be clean to maintain appropriate appearance for broadcast. The outside fence may contain sponsorship signage.

5.4 Perimeter/ Other Fencing

Item	Minimum Standard
Specifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A perimeter fence of the complex/racecourse venue is required to contain a loose animal within the facility and/or to prevent entry of unwanted animals including wildlife. If exclusion fencing for feral animals is installed, the posts must be capped (any intermediate posts should be full height) and fixed into the ground, the fence must be constructed with mesh (not plain wire strands). Barbed wire is not permitted on the track or fencing in any horse precinct.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electric fencing is not permitted on race day.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fencing must be in place to provide separation for the public from all restricted areas including tracks, officials and animal precincts. Suitable fencing design such as crowd barrier fencing, diamond or chain wire mesh fencing is acceptable (ring lock; knotted apron hinge joint with large spacing) is not acceptable along the mounting yard). Minimum height of fencing is 1.2m.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fences are to be placed and installed in accordance with manufacturers and/ or suppliers' specifications.

5.5 Lighting

Item	Minimum Standard
Specification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track lighting specifications (if applicable), are subject to each clubs Broadcasting Agreement.
Back-up Power Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backup power supply (e.g. diesel generator) must be operational and be maintained on site for all twilight and night race meetings; The generator's kVA must be sufficient to operate at least 10% lighting capacity (spread around the track) to allow safe navigation off the track and subsequent exit by horses and drivers in the event of a power failure. Emergency lighting must be installed in the buildings (e.g. stewards/drivers rooms), the tie up stalls and float parking area to provide lights in event of power disruption for venues that conduct twilight/night racing/trials and/or in the event of an emergency such as a fire.

5.6 Float Carpark

Item	Minimum Standard
Specification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Float carpark must provide sufficient room for various types of horse transport (e.g. trucks, car and float, truck and gooseneck etc.). If capacity of float carpark is insufficient, then the club must ensure appropriate traffic management is in place to safely manage the movement of vehicles. • Clear and direct signage indicating the area is restricted to licensees and officials. • Ground to be level, free from objects and encroachments that could be hazardous to animals and/or their handlers e.g. no stockpile of building materials or storage of machinery and/or implements. • Fenced with gates to secure the area. • Fencing must be a minimum of 1.2m in height and meshed to restrict access. • Float carpark must provide direct entry to horse stalls. • Clear separation between patron car parking and horse float/let down area/s.

5.7 Horse Precinct

Item	Minimum Standard
Specification	<p>Tie-up Stall construction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stalls must be constructed of material to withstand the elements, horse movement and to meet Australian Building Codes. • Structure must be constructed to provide a safe and secure environment for the horse, minimising the risk of injury: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ materials used must be suitable for horses – e.g. rounded steel pipe of min 32NB, oval rail, Besser block or timber with padding where required. ➢ Post and rail construction or solid wall with minimum height of 1.1m for dividing walls/rails. • Stall design must facilitate good ventilation. • Appropriate roofing materials such as colourbond/corrugated iron must be used to provide protection from the elements, ensuring participants are not subject to direct sunlight. <p>Fencing and Signage to Tie-up Stalls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely fenced (minimum 1.2m in height and meshed or railed). • Clear, direct signage indicating authorised access only at any thoroughfare points. • Fenced walkway to the parade ring from the stalls – direct access to the track is required if parade ring is not applicable. • Public access to the tie-up stalls must be restricted and limited to designated viewing areas only.
Tie-up Stalls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of stalls must be sufficient to cater for the maximum field size for the venue which includes all races and trials. • Adequate dimensions to house a horse, guidelines as follows – 3.2m (l) x 1.9m (w) x 2.6m (h). • Concrete flooring must be non-slip with rubber matting. • Stalls located back-to-back must have appropriate dividers in place to prevent horses from kicking out into the adjoining stall. Minimum height of 1.1m. • Stalls to have at least 2 tie up points or fittings. • The stall area must provide sufficient access for horses and handlers to pass one another safely, minimum 2m.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable walking areas to provide relief from the tie ups and/or movement after the race to assist in recovery. Walking areas must be even and non-slip.
Wash Down Bays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash down bays to be positioned within the tie-up stall precinct. • One bay for every twenty five stalls, with three as a minimum. • Dimensions as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 3m x 3m x 2.6m (covered), 3m x 3m x 1.2m (block or pipe/rail). • Non-slip even flooring, in sound condition to prevent slipping/tripping (no exposed aggregate). • Access to clean water, with adequate/safe taps and hoses. • Appropriate drainage and design to prevent pooling of water. • Walls must be free from scum/slime/mould etc and in sound condition.
Sulky Storage Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The horse precinct must be set-up to allow drivers to safely and securely store their sulky.

5.8 Swabbing/Veterinary facilities/equipment

Item	Minimum Standard
Swabbing Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swabbing facility must be positioned within the horse precinct. • Minimum of one swab stall. • Horse area > 12m², with minimum ceiling height of 2.6m. • No sharp edges or protrusions. • Padding required on egress points (e.g. at the entry to the stall) and other areas as required (e.g. entrance to the preparation room/area). • Walls and ceiling to be of a light colour to provide optimal conditions for both horse and handler/sample collection official/vet. • Walls must be clean and in sound condition. • Must be constructed to limit visibility and distraction to the external environment. • Flush mounted ceiling lights with covers or other fluorescent/LED fitting. • Non-slip flooring with clean fresh bedding of depth to provide a cushion from the floor – 60mm - 100mm. • Air-conditioned – minimum 5kW power, industrial/commercial split system. • Appropriate security including lockable facility with keys to be signed out for each use.
Preparation Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation room/area for officials and licensees - separate corner/side/room from the horse stall that provides a secure work area. • Sufficient room for adequate viewing of the sampling process for the licensee e.g. minimum 1m (w), 1.2m (h) and 75% length of swab stall (minimum). • Bench including a sink with running potable water, hand soap dispenser, paper towel and approved sharps container. • Bench area must be clean and no chemicals are to be stored in this vicinity. • Lined rubbish bin must be provided. • Lockable cupboards to store sampling equipment and veterinary items. • Cold storage for samples – e.g. lockable fridge.
Urinal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be separate to the swabbing stall. • Minimum one stall, floorspace greater than 9m². • Non-slip flooring with clean fresh bedding of depth to provide a cushion from the floor – 60mm - 100mm. • Walls must be clean and in sound condition.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No sharp edges/protrusions.
Veterinary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area adjacent to swab stalls to provide for veterinary treatment and/or examinations and provisions of a trotting up area, with firm, level surface (min. 20m long) Wash down bay/area in close proximity to the swab stall. Chiller bins for treatment of horses – Minimum one per fifty horses. One chiller bin to be kept near the wash down bays for trainers to use as required.
Horse Ambulance and Privacy Screen	<p>Horse ambulance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be either: a purpose made horse trailer with hydraulic suspension mechanism fitted or fully enclosed float with rear loading ramp and removable centre divider. Electric winch must be mounted with two tonne minimum capacity. Cable must be in sound condition. Skid/emergency slide or removable mat/flooring with anchor points for the winch to attach. Must be roadworthy and registered for use on main roads. Suitable vehicle for towing (e.g. meets conditions for towing on main roads). <p>Privacy screens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two privacy screens constructed of suitable opaque material (canvas, vinyl or similar), NB. Blue/grey, plastic type low gsm (polyethylene) tarpaulins are not suitable. The screens must be available on site and dimensions must be 6m (l) x 2.5m (h). One screen to be kept at the winning post. The second screen is to be kept in the animal ambulance.

5.9 Parade Enclosure / Area

Item	Minimum Standard
Specification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic or steel construction, no timber. Enclosed area, completely fenced with mesh, solid panel or post and rail design to restrict access to the area. Constructed to maximise horse and driver safety – robust, smooth edge material, no protrusions. Fencing must be at a minimum height of 1.1m. Clear and direct signage indicating authorised access only. Suitable and level surface for horses and persons to walk, e.g. grass or granite. Fenced walkway from the tie up stalls that restricts pedestrian access (e.g. gates at any egress points) when horses are traversing from the stalls to the enclosure. If the venue cannot accommodate a dedicated parade enclosure, the club must clearly mark a safe area for the horses to parade on the infield of the track.
Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garden areas and associated flora must not provide a risk to horse and/or handler.

5.10 Drivers Room

Item	Minimum Standard
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Specification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate male and female drivers room including toilet and shower facilities. • Minimum of one shower and one toilet for each drivers room, in a separate area that affords privacy and space for changing. • Seating and gear storage available for a minimum of five drivers in each room. • Air conditioned, capable of providing sufficient cooling during hot weather (additional fans and or cooling units may be required in extreme weather cases). • Access to cool fresh water. • A fridge to store food and drink items.
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5.11 Judges/Broadcast facilities and equipment

Item	Minimum Standard
Specification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The judges facility must meet Australian Building Standards and ensure safe access when carrying equipment or provide a winch where applicable (i.e. to lift equipment up to camera level). • The access must not impede on the parade yard or any other horse movement areas. • Multi-level facility or multiple towers/facilities must be able to accommodate all necessary raceday official roles – judging staff (including photo finish operator), broadcast/race caller, lateral camera operator and integrity staff. • Room size must accommodate a minimum of two judging staff. • Room must contain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Two chairs and two monitors. ➢ Surveyed, unobstructed and secured ledge/camera mount for the photo finish camera. ➢ An operating photo finish camera, installed to the suppliers/manufacture’s specs. ➢ An operating computer connected to the photo finish camera with the latest version of QRIC approved photo finish application operating. ➢ Work bench/ table to accommodate photo finish computer. ➢ Two double GPO (power outlets). ➢ Operating air conditioning or adequate ventilation including cooling aids if required (e.g. pedestal fan). • The judges facility must be fitted with a Lightning Protection system that meets the requirements of AS/NZS 1768, which must be inspected and certified every 24 months. • The judges tower must be earthed. • The judges facility must provide clear/unobstructed viewing of the entire track. • The judges facilities must have sufficient protection from the elements (when windows are open for carrying out raceday/trial operations). • Sufficient elevation (at least 6 meters unless RQ approve otherwise). • In line or as close as possible with the finish post (surveyed line) and positioned/constructed to allow all officials to clearly view the race and the finish post • Suitable communication (via phone or two-way radio – both of which must be closed channel) with Chief Steward. • Separate room/booth for the broadcast/announcer – with PA system equipment to facilitate on-course calling of races. • Broadcast area/room must provide clear viewing of the entire track and sufficient space for at least one person – guideline of 2m2.
Winning Post	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveyed winning post. • Winning post and associated structures should be located at least 1m inside the safety lane course.

Semaphore Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic semaphore board and associated accessories to allow for results to be displayed on course from the judges' box for the first four placings, overall race time and margins. • Operational timing sensors for sectionals or markers allowing for manual timing.
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5.12 Stewards Room

Item	Minimum Standard
Size and Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Tables – one small and one large. • Room must be at least 9m². • Seating for six people, with the capacity to provide seating for up to eight people. • Four double GPO (power outlets) for equipment (TV monitors, recording equipment, computer and printer etc.). • Consistent and clear lighting. • Two Digital TV monitors for race reviews and fluctuations. • Multi-angle digital replay system. • Phone or two-way radio (closed channel) – ability to connect to the judges' tower and outside lines. • Level, non-slip, hard floor covering in sound condition. • Lockable cupboards or similar for equipment/gear storage. • Air conditioning or adequate ventilation including additional cooling aids e.g. pedestal/ceiling fan. • Lockable refrigerator to store samples. • Waiting room for licensees where required.

5.13 Stewards and Camera Viewing Areas

Item	Minimum Standard
Specification	<p>Stewards/camera towers to meet the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet Australian Building Standards, including ensuring safe access when carrying equipment or provide a winch where applicable (i.e. camera level). • Provide viewing above track level (minimum floor height of 3m) and camera pedestals for video operators must be positioned in a tower with multiple users. • Minimum of four viewing areas/towers to provide a head on view to the home straight, back straight, home turn and lateral viewing of the entire track. • Roofing to provide protection from the elements. • Fitted with a Lightning protection system that meets the requirements of AS/NZS 1768 - must be inspected and certified every 24 months. • If power is installed, the tower must be earthed. • Towers/viewing areas located at venues that conduct night racing must have lighting that provides clear viewing of the access pathway/s and the access stairs/steps (eg. Garden path lighting). <p>Main stewards tower</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working telephone (closed channel) to communicate with the judge/race caller and stewards room required in main stewards tower.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two TV monitors for live race viewing (Sky) and fluctuations required in main stewards tower. • Sufficient room for at least two persons. • Roofing to provide protection from the elements. • Recall system to be installed (lights and siren) with beacon's located on the back and front straight – activation switch to be located in stewards main tower.
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5.14 Mobile starting gates

Item	Minimum Standard
Specification	<p>Mobile barrier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVA integrity mobile unit or other approved by Racing Queensland. • Mounted on RQ approved vehicle – Hilux or Ford. • Barrier arms must be structurally sound free from cracks, distortions, wear and corrosion and fully operational. • Battery must hold full charge for operation. • The following items must be fitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Warning lights, ➤ False start device, ➤ Barrier arm override, ➤ Intercom to allow communication between assistant starter (mobile driver) and the starter, ➤ P.A for external communication, ➤ Speed display, ➤ Speed throttle, ➤ Barrier tilt adjust, ➤ Air conditioning, ➤ Seatbelts, ➤ Lockable gate/door for cabin, ➤ Countdown time display on primary mobile barrier. <p>Mobile vehicle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be fitted with tyres suitable for wet weather, • Must be an RQ approved vehicle, • Must be serviced in accordance with manufacturers log book requirements, • Must meet roadworthy conditions at all times, • Seatbelts must be in sound condition.

6. Version History

Current Version:	Version 3	Date Made:	28 February 2022	Effective Date:	1 August 2022
Document Owner:	Executive General Manager Club Partnerships and Assets			CEO Approved:	21 July 2022
Enquiries to:	Asset and Industry Performance Manager			Due for Review:	1 July 2024

Version	Effective	Document Owner	Changes Made
2	1/10/2020	EGM Club Partnerships and Assets	Name change of document – previously known as Minimum Venue and Equipment Standards. Some updates/changes on content and format.
3	28/02/2022	EGM Club Partnerships and Assets	Document reviewed and minor updates/changes to content and format made.