

Part 1 - Horse Naming Guidelines

The Registrar of Racehorses (**Registrar**) – an employee of Racing Australia (**RA**) – is responsible for considering and determining horse naming applications.

These guidelines are provided to assist persons (**Applicant**) who are making an application to the Registrar for the naming of a horse. The Registrar is not limited by these guidelines in deciding whether to refuse to register a name, or cancel the registered name, of a horse.

The Registrar takes the naming of horses seriously and considers what is publicly acceptable as well as ensuring that the racing industry is not brought into disrepute nor that personal offence is caused through the naming of a horse.

The Registrar has a broad discretion under the Australian Rules of Racing to refuse to register a name, or cancel the registered name, of a horse (see below). However, where possible, the Registrar will aim to meet an Applicant's first choice of name.

AR 41 Refusal to register certain horse names

- (1) Racing Australia may refuse to register any horse name it deems undesirable, for any reason.
- (2) Racing Australia may cancel any horse's registered name for any reason it thinks fit.

Naming your Horse

Please allow approximately 10 business days from receipt of your application for the Registrar to process it. Names presented on the application form will be checked in order of preference for availability and compliance with these guidelines. Please provide at least three name choices on the application form and only include names that you really want.

To see if the names you are thinking of may be available, you can do a preliminary check using the horse name search tool located within the Registrar of Racehorses section

of the RA website (<http://www.racingaustralia.horse/RoR/RegisterHorse.aspx>). It is recommended that you use all the search options available as a name considered too similar in pronunciation or spelling to an existing name may not be allowed. Please note this is an enquiry system only and no guarantee is made as to the availability of a name.

The Registrar will give consideration to the following points, and any other matters it considers relevant, when deciding whether to refuse to register a name, or cancel the registered name, of a horse.

Point 1 : General

- (a) The maximum length of a name is 18 characters, including spaces and apostrophes.
- (b) Punctuation marks other than apostrophes are not accepted.
- (c) Names may be rejected if they are difficult to pronounce or read.
- (d) Names where the meaning or origin cannot be satisfactorily substantiated will not be accepted.
- (e) Any name, the use of which would be contrary to law, will not be accepted.
- (f) The Registrar reserves the right to reduce, extend or add a naming restriction at any time.
- (g) Names cannot be reserved.

Point 2 : Time Restrictions

- (a) A name cannot be repeated for 17 years after the birth of a horse with the exact same name or for 20 years after the year of birth of the youngest named produce of a horse with the same name (as per AR 42(1) and (2)).
- (b) Where a horse is named and never races due to it dying or retiring and that horse does not go to Stud the name lapses and may be repeated 3 calendar years after the death or retirement of the horse where such a notification is lodged in accordance with AR 51 or AR 52.
- (c) Where an Australian bred horse is named overseas, the name is automatically restricted in Australia in accordance with 2(a) above.
- (d) Where the Australian bred horse named overseas has not raced or will not race in Australia and/or has not gone or will not go to stud in Australia or overseas, at the discretion of the Registrar the name may be repeated 3 calendar years after the last officially recorded race start of the horse where such information can be verified with the racing authority through which the horse was originally named, or any country of subsequent export.
- (e) The name of a horse becomes available for consideration on 1st August of the year of any naming restriction expiring.

Point 3 : International Restrictions

- (a) All New Zealand bred foals named in New Zealand but not registered in Australia are reserved for 5 years from their year of birth and appear on the name search with Restriction Type as "Current" but without a list number or owners' names. Australian bred foals exported un-named and then named overseas have their overseas name reserved and appear as pending on the name search until they return to Australia and are registered, at which time the 17 year restriction from year of birth will apply. If a horse is bred in New Zealand and later registered in Australia a longer restriction will apply.
- (b) Names for overseas bred horses must be available in the horse's country of birth as well as being available in Australia.

- (c) Names with a Restriction Type of "IP (Internationally Protected)" or "Permanent" cannot be used.

Named International Horses – International Restrictions

- (d) Where the registered name of a horse visiting from overseas is already a registered name in Australia and the Australian horse has raced or the Australian name is similar sounding, the visiting horse may be required to change its name for racing purposes in Australia in accordance with these guidelines and AR 41. For example, placing "My" in front of the international horse's name.
- (e) At the Registrar's discretion, a horse imported from overseas may be registered under its existing name with the addition of a numeral or letters indicating the name of the country in which it was bred, and such numeral or letters will form part of its name for the purposes of racing in Australia (as per AR 42(2)).

Point 4 : Similar Names

- (a) The registration of a horse name may automatically prevent other similar names from being registered, or re-registered in the case of an existing name whose restriction has expired or which may be due to expire in the future. The Registrar reserves the right to register or not register a name which is the same or similar to another name based on factors including but not limited to the age and sex of both horses, the likelihood that the horses' race careers could overlap, past race performance, breeding status, the number of years since the horse had its last race start and the degree of similarity between the names.
- (b) The singular or plural version of an existing name will only be considered if there is a 10 year age gap between the existing name and new name. The Registrar may reduce this time frame after giving consideration to variables which may include the fate of the horse, if unraced or an Australian bred horse named overseas but not registered in Australia. The same applies to words when "THE" or "A" is added or the new word ends with "D" or "S".
- (c) In the case of Internationally Protected names, singular or plural versions will not be allowed.

Point 5 : Unacceptable Names

The Registrar may refuse to register a name, or cancel the registered name, of a horse where the name, either on its own or in the context of the sire and/or dam's name:

- (a) is suggestive, scandalous or has a vulgar or obscene meaning;
- (b) is considered to be in poor taste;
- (c) may be offensive to, or appear to harass, humiliate or disparage, a specific individual or a religious, political, ethnic or other group;
- (d) is prejudicial to the image or interests of racing;
- (e) has the potential to create controversy under current social standards;
- (f) rhymes with, or the pronunciation is similar to, other names or words which are unacceptable;
- (g) is a synonym for other names or words which are unacceptable.

These considerations apply to words written in English or any other language.

Point 6 : Use of Numbers

A name made up entirely of numbers or places e.g. ONE, TWO, THREE, FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, SEVENTY EIGHT, will not be accepted.

Point 7 : References to Persons

- (a) Except at the discretion of the Registrar, names that are or could be the name of a person whether that person is living or not, will not be accepted. This includes but is not limited to combinations of first names and surnames e.g. JOHN SMITH and HAROLD HOLT, stage, screen and pen names e.g. MARILYN MONROE, nicknames e.g. CHOPPER REID and FATTY ARBUCKLE. Two first names may
- (b) be considered provided that they are not construed as an obvious given name and surname e.g. BETTY SUE. Consideration will also be given to the use of names of ancient historical figures e.g. TUTANKHAMUN.
- (c) Running a first name and surname together without a space or changing the spelling slightly will not be accepted.
- (d) Initials accompanying a surname will not be accepted.
- (e) The Registrar reserves the right to refuse names which may identify a person (public figure or otherwise).

Point 8 : Letters and Grammar

- (a) The Registrar encourages the correct use of grammar.
- (b) Single letters and abbreviations such as FBI, UFO, X RAY, COMPANY B etc. Will not be accepted. Single letters such as "A" and "I" are acceptable as they are deemed to be words.
- (c) The Registrar may refuse to register, or cancel the registration of, a name containing multiple words run together if it is difficult to decipher. For ease of pronunciation and to avoid confusion the Registrar encourages the use of spaces between words.

Point 9 : Brands and Company Names

The Registrar may refuse to register, or cancel the registration of, a name that:

- (a) has a commercial, artistic or creative significance including but not limited to the names of well-known organisations, companies and brands;
- (b) is a registered company or business name; or
- (c) is, or contains, a registered or common law trade mark, or is the subject of a pending application to register a trade mark.

Charities

- (d) The Registrar will consider accepting the name of a charity as a horse name only if the charity has provided its written consent and that the proposed name does not include a commercial entity's name or commercial branding references.
- (e) The proposed name must not have the potential to cause any actual or perceived conflicts with any known race name in Australia or overseas, nor any racing sponsorship or other interests.

Point 10 : Racing References

Names that may cause conflict with wagering or racing terms and/or that have the potential to cause confusion for racing administration and racegoers will not be accepted. Examples include:

- (a) features of a racecourse, such as MOUNTING YARD or FINISHING POST;
- (b) wagering terms, such as TRIFECTA; and
- (c) names of races, such as GOLDEN SLIPPER.

Part 2 - Review of Decisions by the Registrar

A person may contact the Registrar to:

1. query why his or her requested horse name was rejected by the Registrar, or to object to the rejection (SCENARIO A); or
2. lodge a complaint about a horse name that the Registrar has accepted (SCENARIO B).

In each scenario, RA will follow the procedures set out below, which may include escalation to the Naming Review Committee (**Committee**). The Committee generally comprises the following 5 members of the Australian thoroughbred horseracing industry: Operations Chief Executive Officer of RA, Chief Financial Officer of RA, Team Leader Owners & Breeders Services of RA, a nominated member of the RA Leadership Team and a nominated member of the RA Teams. However, RA reserves the right to vary the composition of the Committee for any reason. The composition of the Committee is intended to enable the Committee to assess requested horse names and discuss the application of these guidelines from multiple points of view.

These procedures are designed to ensure that: (a) objections, queries and complaints are handled in a fair, consistent and professional manner; (b) any person with an objection or complaint is provided with an opportunity to present his or her case; and (c) objections, queries and complaints are escalated at appropriate times and in an appropriate manner.

Applicants must keep all correspondence and discussions between the Applicant and RA strictly confidential. Applicants must not disclose the details of any such correspondence or discussions to any third party. By engaging in either of the processes outlined below, Applicants will be deemed to have acknowledged, accepted and agreed to be bound by this paragraph.

Application Process for SCENARIO A

1. The person making the application (**Applicant**) may telephone the Registrar on (02) 8072 1900, or send an email with the subject heading 'APPLICATION TO QUERY HORSE NAME DECISION' to registration@racingaustralia.horse, and provide the following information:
 - (a) the name, email address and telephone number of the Applicant;
 - (b) the horse name for which the Applicant applied and any other necessary details about the choice of horse name, such as background to why the choice of name was submitted; and
 - (c) any information the Applicant thinks that the Registrar should have considered when deciding to reject the horse name.
2. The Registrar will respond by why it rejected the name. The Registrar may however decide to accept the name based on the additional information provided by the Applicant.
3. If the Applicant is not satisfied with the explanation provided and the Registrar does not change its original decision, the Applicant may apply for that decision to be reviewed by the Committee.
4. The Applicant will be given the opportunity to provide any additional information or arguments (in writing) that the Applicant thinks the Committee should take into account when deciding whether to affirm or overrule the original decision of the Registrar.
5. The Committee will then review the original decision of the Registrar. Applicants should allow approximately 5 business days for the Committee to come to a decision, although this process may be expedited in urgent circumstances.
6. RA will communicate the Committee's decision to the Applicant and may provide brief reasons for the decision. The decision of the Committee will be final, and RA will not enter into any further correspondence with the Applicant in relation to the matter.
7. At any point in the review process, RA may request additional information from the Applicant before a decision can be made. RA may, in its discretion, obtain the opinions or advice of other parties, including (without limitation) legal counsel, the Principal Racing Authorities, industry associations and language experts.

Application Process for SCENARIO B

1. The person making the application (Complainant) may telephone the Registrar on (02) 8072 1900, or send an email with the subject heading 'APPLICATION TO QUERY HORSE NAME DECISION' to registration@racingaustralia.horse, and provide the following information:
 - (a) the name, email address and telephone number of the Complainant;
 - (b) the horse name accepted by the Registrar; and
 - (c) the reasons why the Complainant does not think the Registrar should have accepted the horse name.
2. The Registrar will respond by explaining why it accepted the name. The Registrar may however decide to cancel the registration of the name based on the additional information provided by the Complainant.
3. If the Complainant is not satisfied with the explanation provided and the Registrar does not change its original decision, the Complainant may apply for that decision to be reviewed by the Committee.
4. The Complainant will be given the opportunity to provide any additional information or arguments (in writing) that the Complainant thinks the Committee should take into account when deciding whether to affirm or overrule the original decision of the Registrar.
5. The Committee will then review the original decision of the Registrar. Complainants should allow approximately 5 business days for the Committee to come to a decision, although this process may be expedited in urgent circumstances.
6. RA will communicate the Committee's decision to the Complainant and may provide brief reasons for the decision. The decision of the Committee will be final, and RA will not enter into any further correspondence with the Complainant in relation to the matter.
7. At any point in the review process, RA may request additional information from the Complainant before a decision can be made. RA may, in its discretion, obtain the opinions or advice of other parties, including (without limitation) legal counsel, the Principal Racing Authorities, industry associations and language experts.

Note: RA reserves the right to amend this policy document at any time without notice.

Part 3 - Name Protection Protocol

Racing Australia Name Protection Protocol (Within Australia)	
Permanent – Protection / Unavailable	Won the Melbourne Cup Inducted into the Australian Racing Hall of Fame Achieved the status of an outstanding champion by racing or breeding prowess
99 Years – Protection / Unavailable	Australia Derby (ATC) Caulfield Cup (MRC) Cox Plate (MVRC) Golden Slipper (ATC) Victoria Derby (VRC)
75 Years – Protection / Unavailable	Derby (WATC) (Australian Derby before 1994) Doncaster Handicap (ATC) Epsom Handicap (ATC) Metropolitan Handicap (ATC) Newmarket Handicap (ATC) Queensland Derby (BRC) South Australian Derby (SAJC) Sydney Cup (ATC) WA Derby (WATC) (Last run 1993)
50 Years – Protection / Unavailable	France – Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe Great Britain – Derby Stakes King George VI Stakes Queen Elizabeth Stakes Japan – Japan Cup New Zealand – New Zealand Derby (ARC) Auckland Cup (ARC) Wellington Cup (WRC) NZ Derby Stakes (Last run 1972) United States – Kentucky Derby
17 Years – Protection / Unavailable	A name cannot be repeated for 17 years after the birth of a horse with the exact same name or for 20 years after the year of birth of the youngest named produce of a horse with the same name. The name of a horse becomes available for consideration on 1st August of the year of any naming restriction expiring.
Registrar's discretion	Restrictions on a name may be extended beyond the published expiry year at the Registrar's discretion. The availability of a name is not guaranteed after a restriction has been lifted and remains at the discretion of the Registrar.
New Zealand Horses	Names registered in New Zealand are restricted from use in Australia for a period of 5 years after its birth. If a horse is bred in New Zealand and later registered in Australia, a longer restriction will apply.