TRACK TO HACK SERIES

Important Information for Competitors

STEPPING OUT OF THE GIG AND INTO THE SHOW RING...

The QLD Standardbred Track to Hack Series is designed to help promote the Standardbred as a successful and athletic horse that can excel in a variety of performance and show disciplines and create opportunities for an alternative lifestyle outside of racing.

This series focuses on the transition made from Harness Racing into Show Horse for Standardbreds – to highlight the versatility and temperament of this wonderful breed.

WHO CAN ENTER?

- This series is open to any Standardbred registered with Harness Racing Australia or New Zealand and was originally bred for the purpose of Harness Racing.
- All horses shown in this series must use its' registered racing name. If the horse was un-named, then they will need to be shown as such. To verify final entrants' eligibility, all entries must include a printout from Harness Racing Australia website and will be checked and verified by the SAQ Committee.
- To be eligible to compete in the Qld Standardbred Track to Hack Series, all horses are required to be 3 years and over.

NSW COMPETITOR OPPORTUNITY

For the first time, the SAQ would like to invite Interstate Competitors to contest the QLD Track to Hack Series.

IF you are a _FINALIST_ in the 2024 NSW Off The Track Final, you have automatically qualified for the 2024 QLD Open Track to Hack Final. You will need to nominate as per the information under the Open Track to Hack section in this document.

Please note that the combination (Horse and Rider) that competes in the NSW Off The Track Final, is the combination considered as qualified for the QLD Open Track to Hack Final. Rider substitution rule applies to all combinations.

Interstate competitors may contest the 2024 Qld Walk Trot Track to Hack Series but will be required to qualify at one of the qualifying shows held in QLD during the 2024 Show Season (shows and dates listed in this document). Please refer to all rules and requirements under the Walk Trot Track to Hack section in this document.

THE QLD STANDARDBRED TRACK TO HACK GRAND FINALS

The Grand Finals will be held at the SAQ State Hacking & Harness Championships in September of the same year.

All Combinations that have qualified **must** nominate to contest the Finale via Nominate.com by midnight on **10 August 2024**.

OPEN TRACK TO HACK

The Open Track to Hack Series is to promote Standardbreds at the highest level in the show ring.

Horses at this level should be able to demonstrate walk, trot and canter with cadence and obvious education.

An 'Open Track to Hack' horse is generally one that has won more than 3 first place awards **OR** a Championship under saddle. However, if your horse meets the requirements to qualify, you may contest regardless of performance history.

Please note that once you qualify for the Open Track to Hack, you are **NOT** eligible to qualify for the Walk/Trot Track to Hack. If you qualify for the Walk/Trot Track to Hack, and then decide to contest an Open Track to Hack qualifying class - and qualify - you will be considered an Open Track to Hack combination and your Walk/Trot Track to Hack Qualification will be void.

Horses in the Open Track to Hack can be shown in a double bridle, pelham or snaffle bit.

QUALIFYING CLASSES FOR THE FINAL

Separate Qld Standardbred Track to Hack Qualifying Classes for Queensland entrants will be run at nominated Agricultural Shows throughout the Qld show season.

Judging will be done by combining both led and ridden workout points to gain an overall score out of 100. The workouts have been prepared by the SAQ and provided to the Judge. Workouts at every qualifying show will be the same and the ridden workout will include walk, trot and canter on both reins. The judge will then add the scores from the led and ridden components to determine each competitors overall score out of 100.

Combinations that score 75 points or more will qualify for the final at the end of the series and will be awarded a 'Qualified' sash.

Once qualified, nominations to contest the final can be done online. **Once you have qualified for the final, combinations cannot compete in any further QLD Standardbred Track to Hack qualifying classes.**

Entry fees for the QLD Standardbred Track to Hack Qualifying classes at nominated shows are to be paid on the day of the show and will be determined by the nominated Agricultural Show Society (usually the same entry fee cost for regular Standardbred Classes held at that show).

THE FINAL WORKOUT

A workout of no more than 2 minutes will be performed at the final to music.

It will be a riders choice workout which must contain all requirements - no more and no less.

The SAQ will provide each nominated combination with the same set of strict workout requirements at the close of nominations for the final.

Riders must provide their music to the SAQ 1 week prior to the final. More correspondence about this will be sent out with the workout requirements.

WALK/TROT TRACK TO HACK

The Walk/Trot element of this competition is designed to highlight a true beginner level horse and demonstrate that with adequate education, Off-the-track Standardbreds have enormous potential in the show ring.

Please note: this element of the competition will be judged on a ridden component only.

Walk/Trot Track to Hack Combinations must **NOT** have won more than 3 first place awards **OR** a Championship under saddle at the time of qualifying.

Horses must be shown in a snaffle bit only. No chains, pelhams or double bridles will be accepted.

QUALIFYING CLASSES FOR THE FINAL

Separate Qld Standardbred Track to Hack Qualifying Classes for Queensland entrants will be run at nominated Agricultural Shows throughout the Qld show season.

Judging will be done by scoring a ridden workout out of 100. The workout has been prepared by the SAQ and provided to the Judge. Workouts at every qualifying show will be the same and the will include walk and trot on both reins. The judge will score each workout component to determine the combinations overall score out of 100.

Combinations that score 75 points or more will qualify for the final at the end of the series and will be awarded a 'Qualified' sash.

Once qualified, nominations to contest the final can be done online. Once you have qualified for the final, combinations cannot compete in any further QLD Standardbred Track to Hack qualifying classes.

Entry fees for the QLD Standardbred Track to Hack Qualifying classes at nominated shows are to be paid on the day of the show and will be determined by the nominated Agricultural Show Society (usually the same entry fee cost for regular Standardbred Classes held at that show).

CAN I COMPETE IN AG SHOWS AFTER I HAVE QUALIFIED?

Horses are not restricted to the amount of shows they can compete in **after** they have qualified for the Track to Hack – Walk/Trot final.

CAN I CONTEST WALK/TROT TRACK TO HACK AGAIN IF I WIN OVERALL AT THIS LEVEL AT THE FINAL?

No. Once you are awarded **Overall Winner of the Qld Standardbred WALK/ TROT Track to Hack Series,** the winning horse is then *NOT* eligible to contest the Walk/Trot Track to Hack Series again.

THE FINAL WORKOUT

A set workout will be provided by the SAQ to all nominated combinations 2 weeks prior to the final.

This workout will not be to music.

QLD STANDARDBRED OPEN TRACK TO HACK SERIES FINAL AWARDS / PRIZES

AWARD	PRIZE
Best Presented Combination	Sash
Overall Winner of the 2024 Qld Standardbred Track to Hack Series	$TBA Sash, Embroidered Rug, Garland and Trophy
Runner Up	$TBA, Sash and Trophy
Second Runner Up	$TBA and Sash
4th Place	$TBA and Sash
5th Place	$TBA and Sash
All finalists that participate on the day	Participation Sash

QLD STANDARDBRED TRACK TO HACK WALK/TROT FINAL AWARDS / PRIZES

AWARD	PRIZE
Best Presented Combination	Sash
Overall Winner of the 2024 Qld Standardbred WALK/TROT Track to Hack Series	$TBA, Sash, Embroidered Rug, Garland and Trophy
Runner Up	$TBA, Sash and Trophy
Second Runner Up	$TBA and Sash
4th Place	$TBA and Sash
5th Place	$TBA and Sash
All finalists that participate on the day	Participation Sash

2024 QUALIFYING SHOWS

- Allora Show - 10 February
- Warwick Show - 24 March
- Kilcoy Show - 11 May
- Marburg Show - 11 May
- Ipswich Show - 19 May
- Toogoolawah Show **(TBC)** - 8 June
- Caboolture Show - 9 June
- Lowood Show - 15 June
- Kalbar Show - 22 June
- Redcliffe Show - 30 June
- Laidley Show - 7 July
- Samford Show **(TBC)** - 14 July

If there is a Show Society that you know is open to adding SAQ Track to Hack classes, please contact your Events Co-Ordinator.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on the Qld Standardbred Track to Hack Series, please contact:

Emily Turner (Events Co-Ordinator)
Phone: 0409 473 405
Mail: PO Box 348, Rosewood QLD 4340
Email: events-show@saq.com.au

PLEASE NOTE

- Horses must **NOT** have any sensory hairs removed from the eyes or muzzle unless they have been removed by a Veterinarian for medical purposes in which a certificate is required. This rule applies to ALL qualifying shows, the Track to Hack Finals and any SAQ run events.
- In the led component of the Open Track To Hack Final, handlers are required to present in led class attire - not ridden attire. You will be given enough time to get changed before the ridden component of the final is run.
- Any scratching's from the Finals must be submitted in writing (can be email, Facebook message or text message) to the SAQ Event Co-Ordinator via events-show@saq.com.au or on 0409 473 405. Any scratching's made after the close of nominations will require a vet certificate in order to receive a refund (20% Administration Fee will be deducted)
- Combinations qualify - not just the horse. Rider substitutions for the final are **NOT** allowed unless:
  - The horse has been sold and the new owner wishes to contest the TTH. In this instance, a written application can be made to the SAQ (along with proof of sale) to have the horse requalified with the new owner at one of the qualifying shows. The previous qualification will then be void providing the application for requalification is approved by the Management Committee.
  - The horse has been formally leased out and the Lessee wishes to contest the TTH. Proof of lease will need to be provided to the SAQ in a written application. If approved, the Lessee will be required to requalify the horse at one of the remaining qualifying shows. The previous qualification will then be void providing the application for requalification is approved by the Management Committee. Please note: applications here will only be considered if the horse is in full care with the Lessee.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Standardbred Association of Queensland is dedicated to championing horse welfare, advocacy and retirement for Standardbreds in a compassionate community.