

**VICTORIA RACING CLUB (VRC)**

presents the

**2023 LEXUS MELBOURNE CUP**

(sponsored by Lexus)

**(Group 1)**

**(163<sup>rd</sup> of Series)**

**3200 Metres**

*THE RACE THAT STOPS A NATION™*

**TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2023**

**At FLEMINGTON RACECOURSE, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

Handicap of **\$7,750,000 & \$660,000** trophies. First \$4,400,000 and trophies valued at \$660,000; \$600,000, \$25,000, \$15,000, \$10,000 & \$10,000 to owner, rider (including the Harry White Whip), trainer, strapper (Tommy Woodcock Trophy) and breeder respectively; Second \$1,100,000; Third \$550,000; Fourth \$350,000; Fifth \$230,000; Sixth \$160,000; Seventh \$160,000; Eighth \$160,000; Ninth \$160,000; Tenth \$160,000; Eleventh \$160,000 & Twelfth \$160,000.

**ENTRIES**

**Entries close at 12 NOON (Melbourne Time) on TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2023 at Racing AustraliaTrainers Service Centre, 400 Epsom Road, Flemington 3031 – Fee: \$1,500**

Overseas Entries may be lodged at the offices of IRB, Newmarket, England; France Galop, France; STC, Singapore; HKJC, Hong Kong; JAIR, Tokyo, Japan; & TRNZ, Wellington, New Zealand; or alternatively via Paul Bloodworth, Racing Victoria General Manager International and Racing Operations, phone: +61 403 346 467 or email P.Bloodworth@racingvictoria.net.au

All entries into the 2023 Lexus Melbourne Cup, including a late entry below, will be subject to and governed by these terms and conditions.

**LATE ENTRY**

Any horse not previously entered may be nominated before 12 NOON (Melbourne Time) on 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023. Fee - \$5,500.

**HANDICAPS**

**Handicaps will be declared not later than TUESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2023.**

**BENCHMARK WEIGHTS:**

3YO C&G	50.0kg;	3YO Filly	48.5kg
NH 3YO C&G	56.5kg;	NH 3YO Filly	55.0kg
4YO E&G	58.0kg;	4YO Mare	56.5kg
5YO+ E&G	59.5kg	5YO+ Mare	58.0kg

**MINIMUM HANDICAP WEIGHT:**

3YO	49.0kg
4YO&Up	50.0kg

For the purpose of any ballot on this race:

Each horse handicapped above the advertised minimum weight (for its age group) shall be appended with a weight figure that is below, equal to, or above the benchmark weight for that horse, as the case may be.

Each horse handicapped on the minimum weight (for its age group) shall be appended with a weight figure that is not more than 9.5kg below the benchmark weight for that horse, and is not less than or equal to the appended weight figure for a horse of the same age and gender handicapped above the advertised minimum weight (for its age group).

Such appended weight figure below, equal to, or above a horse's benchmark weight shall not affect the weight to be carried in the race by any horse.

#### **MAXIMUM WEIGHT**

There is no maximum weight for this race.

#### **MINIMUM TOP WEIGHT**

AR 167 (1) provides that the top weight in any Group 1 handicap in Australia must not be less than 58kg when weights are released.

Pursuant to the exemption in AR 167(3), there is no minimum top weight required at the declaration of acceptances.

#### **WEIGHT ALLOWANCES**

No allowances for Apprentices.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE**

For Australian Declarations, First, Second and Third Declarations must be forwarded by the nominator or agent to Racing Australia Trainers Service Centre, details of which can be found here - <http://racingaustralia.horse/AboutUs/ServiceCentre.aspx> .

For International Declarations, First, Second and Third Declarations must be forwarded by the nominator or agent via email to Racing Victoria at the following email address [p.bloodworth@racingvictoria.net.au](mailto:p.bloodworth@racingvictoria.net.au) who will then forward them to Racing Australia.

Final Declarations lodged on Penfolds Victoria Derby Day may be effected in person by the nominator or agent at Flemington Racecourse, or through Racing Australia Trainers Service Centre. For International Declarations, Final Declarations can be forwarded by the nominator or agent via email to Racing Victoria who will then forward them to Racing Australia.

Overseas Clubs and Agents authorised to receive entries are also authorised to receive First, Second or Third Declarations

*Any horse for which any declaration has not been received at closing time will be automatically withdrawn.*

#### **FIRST DECLARATION**

By 12 NOON (Melbourne Time) TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER – Fee: **\$2,000**

#### **SECOND DECLARATION**

By 12 NOON (Melbourne Time) TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER – Fee: **\$3,000**

### THIRD DECLARATION

By 10.00 AM (Melbourne Time) MONDAY 30 OCTOBER – Fee: **\$4,000**

### FINAL DECLARATION

By 4.30 PM (Melbourne Time) SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER – Fee: **\$49,500**

### CONDITIONS OF FINAL ACCEPTANCE

(1) In addition to the requirements set out at clauses (3) and (4) of this section, if Racing Victoria (RV) Stewards receive and accept an RV veterinary surgeon's report that a particular horse would have been unfit to compete in the Lexus Melbourne Cup race if it was held on the actual day that Declaration of Final Acceptance closes, then such horse shall not be a final acceptor for this race.

Provided that, in the instance of a horse that competes in a race at Flemington on 2023 Penfolds Victoria Derby Day, exclusion from Declaration of Final Acceptance for this race will apply only if RV Stewards accept an RV veterinary surgeon's report that such horse cannot reasonably be expected to be fit to compete in the Lexus Melbourne Cup three days hence.

(2) A final acceptor included in the established field of (up to) 24 horses may not be subsequently withdrawn from this race by its nominator or agent.

(3) All horses seeking final acceptance will be required to undergo and comply with the requirements of RV as set out at [racingvictoria.com.au/the-sport/international/international-resources](http://racingvictoria.com.au/the-sport/international/international-resources) in order to be eligible.

(4) The application of AR 21(j) (*power of Stewards to withdraw a horse if in their opinion it is unfit to run*) will apply if the circumstances warrant it at any time prior to the race.

### RIDER NOTIFICATION

By 4.30 PM (Melbourne Time) SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2023

<b>PENALTIES</b>
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The winner, after declaration of weights, of an internationally recognised Listed, Group or Graded flat race:

- If a handicap race, only if it was run over a distance of 1600 metres or further; OR
- If a non-handicap race, only if it was run over a distance of 2300 metres or further,

is to carry such additional weight (if any) for each win as the Handicapper shall determine.

Any determination by the Handicapper in respect to additional weight (if any) to be carried, shall not be made prior to the running of the race in which the winner became liable for a penalty.

Provided that, *in lieu* of re-handicapping, should such winner be a horse on the minimum handicap weight (for its age group) the Handicapper may, at his discretion, instead amend the originally appended weight figure against the benchmark weight downwards, to a figure that is not less than or equal to the appended weight figure for a horse of the same age and gender handicapped above the advertised minimum weight (for its age group).

Any such amendments referred to above shall not affect the weight to be carried in the race. In these circumstances, any extra weight to be imposed on any horse, or *in lieu* of re-handicapping, any amendment to the appended weight figure against the benchmark weight for a horse, shall be declared by the Handicapper not later than five (5) working days after such win.

**BALLOTING CONDITIONS**

(1) The Directors of VRC, may in their absolute discretion exclude any horse or horses from the race, whether the safety limit of 24 horses at final acceptance time shall be reached or not, and if such exclusion occurs, and more than 24 final acceptors remain, balloting of surplus horses will continue in the manner set out in clauses (2) and (3) below to its conclusion. For the avoidance of doubt, if the Directors exercise their discretion to exclude a horse from the race, each horse below the excluded horse will move up one position in the ballot order. The Directors do not have the discretion to elect a replacement for the excluded horse, as the replacement will be the next horse in the ballot order.

The winner of the following, if any should be a nomination and a first, second, third and final acceptor for the 2023 Lexus Melbourne Cup, shall be exempt from any ballot on this race:

- 2023 VRC Lexus Roy Higgins
- 2023 VRC Lexus Andrew Ramsden
- 2023 VRC Lexus Bart Cummings
- 2023 VRC Lexus Archer Stakes
- 2023 MVRC Cox Plate
- 2023 MRC Caulfield Cup
- 2023 York Ebor Handicap.

(2) Remaining final acceptors in excess of the safety limit of 24 horses shall be eliminated in the following order, until the safety limit is reached:

Horses OTHER THAN those that have registered a “Relevant Race Performance”, as set out below:

**Relevant Race Performances**

- A) since 1 February 2022 inclusive, won or was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in an internationally recognised Group or Graded flat race run over 2300 metres or further; OR
- B) since 1 February 2022 inclusive, was placed 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> in an internationally recognised Group 1 or Grade 1 flat race run over 2300 metres or further in which horses older than 3 years old could run, OR
- C) since 1 February 2022 inclusive, won an internationally recognised Listed flat race run over 2300 metres or further, OR
- D) since 1 February 2023 inclusive, won the Northumberland Plate (UK), OR
- E) was placed 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> in the 2023 MRC Caulfield Cup, OR
- F) since 1 February 2022 inclusive, won or was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in an internationally recognised Group 1 or Graded 1 flat race run over 2000 metres or further; OR
- G) was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in one of the seven 2023 Ballot exempt races listed above, OR
- H) won or was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 2021 Lexus Melbourne Cup, OR
- I) won the 2021 MRC Caulfield Cup.

Should the number of such horses exceed the number of horses required to be eliminated from the race, then such elimination shall be effected by order of the lowest appended weight figure against the benchmark weight for individual horses, as the case may be.

Horses in this clause (2) with the same lowest appended weight figure against the benchmark weight for individual horses, as the case may be, shall be eliminated at the discretion of the Directors.

(3) If, after balloting pursuant to Clause (2) has been exhausted, excess horses remain, elimination of such horses shall be effected by order of the lowest appended weight figure against the benchmark weight for individual horses, as the case may be.

Horses in this clause (3) with the same lowest appended weight figure against the benchmark weight for individual horses, as the case may be, shall be eliminated in order of lowest aggregate prizemoney received in "Relevant Race Performances" since 1 February 2022 inclusive. Horses equal in both of these respects shall be eliminated at the discretion of the Directors.

## BONUSES

### Japan Cup

The Japan Racing Association (JRA) will officially invite the 2023 Lexus Melbourne Cup winner to the 2023 Japan Cup, with JRA covering expenses for the invited horse, including round-trip air transportation and other ancillary expenses. A \$USD 3m bonus will be paid by the JRA should the 2023 Lexus Melbourne Cup winner also win the 2023 Japan Cup. The JRA will also officially invite the 2023 Lexus Melbourne Cup winner to compete in the 2023 Tenno Sho (Spring).

### Queen Elizabeth Stakes

A horse that is a final acceptor for the 2023 Lexus Melbourne Cup, and is subsequently balloted from it, is eligible to earn a \$200,000 bonus should it win the 2023 VRC Queen Elizabeth Stakes over 2600m at Flemington on Saturday 11 November. (Please refer to Queen Elizabeth Stakes race conditions).

## GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. Entries for the 2023 Lexus Melbourne Cup will only be received upon the express basis that all of the terms and conditions applying to the race as set out either in this document or imposed by RV (including these General Conditions) shall be legally binding in all respects and shall govern all entries for the race.
2. In the event of a horse being eliminated under the balloting conditions, only the Final Acceptance fee (\$49,500) shall be refunded.
3. The VRC Board reserves the right to make from time to time any alteration or modification to the conditions governing this race, and also to alter the date and time for receiving entries, payments and declarations.
4. The VRC Board reserves the right to reject at any time any entry submitted to it.
5. All currency amounts stated are Australian dollars; (\$AUD).
6. Reference to a race being "internationally recognised" means a race published by the IRPAC in Part 1 of the International Cataloguing Standards as receiving black-type (Group, Graded or Listed status) for the year such race was run.
7. Breeders' bonuses and/or other bonuses will not be taken into account when calculating prizemoney won for determining of penalties and/or balloting order.
8. Performances by horses in match races or private sweepstakes are not recognised under the conditions of this race. The definition of a "match race" or "private sweepstakes", in any particular instance, is at the absolute discretion of the VRC Board.
9. In assessing a horse's performance in a race, for the purposes of these conditions a "dead heat" for a win or placing is deemed to be a win or the specific placing outright.
10. All entry and acceptance fees quoted are inclusive of Goods & Services Tax, (GST). All prizemoney and Starters' Rebates amounts quoted are exclusive of GST, and any required GST amount will be added by the VRC to any sum of money payable to an entity registered for GST, as identified by its Australian Government approved Australian Business Number.
11. All horses seeking final acceptance will be required to undergo and comply with the requirements of RV as set out at [racingvictoria.com.au/the-sport/international/international/](https://racingvictoria.com.au/the-sport/international/international/)

[resources](#) in order to be eligible.

VRC Executive General Manager Racing: Leigh Jordon  
VRC Chief Executive Officer: Steve Rosich  
(Secretary in accordance with the Rules of Racing)  
Handicapper: David Hegan  
(Racing Victoria Ltd)

For further information or assistance please contact:

Leigh Jordon  
Executive General Manager Racing  
VICTORIA RACING CLUB  
448 Epsom Road  
Flemington VICTORIA 3031  
AUSTRALIA  
Phone: +61 3 8378 0808  
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Phone: +61 3 8378 0888  
e-mail: [racing@vrc.net.au](mailto:racing@vrc.net.au)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### AMBUSH MARKETING

When engaging in any event or activity connected with the Victoria Racing Club, Melbourne Cup Carnival or the Lexus Melbourne Cup specifically, the owners, trainers, jockeys or any other person directly or indirectly connected with a horse competing in the Lexus Melbourne Cup agree not to engage in any action that promotes or advertises any brand that conflicts, in any way, with the VRC's Principal Sponsor, Lexus.

### FLEMINGTON RACECOURSE

Australia's International Racecourse, Flemington, is situated 6 kilometres west from the Melbourne CBD, by the Maribyrnong River. On raceday the course is accessible by car, tram, special race trains or rivercraft.

Flemington has been the venue for the running of the Melbourne Cup, since it was first run in 1861. With a capacity for up to 120,000 people, it is famous world-wide for its four-day Melbourne Cup Carnival. In 2023, this magnificent week of racing will comprise: Penfolds Victoria Derby Day on Saturday 4 November; Lexus Melbourne Cup Day on Tuesday 7 November; Kennedy Oaks Day on Thursday 9 November, and TAB Champions Stakes Day on Saturday 11 November.

Flemington Facts:

Course Proper (fully grassed - anti-clockwise, fully re-constructed in 2007)	
Circumference	2312 Metres
Length of Straight	450 Metres
Width of Straight	30 Metres
Run To First Turn (Cup)	888 Metres

### FIELD LIMIT

Maximum of 24 Starters - No Emergencies

### BALLOT PLANS (ORDER OF ENTRY)

Progressive ballot order lists will be available on a regular basis from Tuesday 19th September 2023 at [racingvictoria.com.au/the-sport/international/international-resources](http://racingvictoria.com.au/the-sport/international/international-resources)

### SCRATCHINGS

Betting on the 2023 Lexus Melbourne Cup will start in earnest soon after entries are closed. To reduce the possibility of the public placing non-refundable wagers on horses that will not be starting, nominators are urged to officially withdraw a horse immediately after a decision is made not to run.

### PRIZEMONEY DISTRIBUTION

For horses earning prizemoney for being placed 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> inclusive, respective prizemonies payable shall be distributed as follows:

Owner - 85%; Trainer - 10%; Rider - 5%

### PROTOCOL FOR OVERSEAS TRAINED HORSES

(For Approved Countries - (New Zealand is exempt))

In Melbourne, an excellent Quarantine & Training facility is located at Werribee Racecourse, situated 30 kilometres west of the Melbourne CBD.

Enquiries regarding protocol and the Quarantine & Training facility should be directed to:

Paul Bloodworth  
Racing Victoria General Manager International and Racing Operations

**2023 Lexus Melbourne Cup Race Conditions**

Melbourne, Australia

Phone: +61 403 346 467

Email: P.Bloodworth@racingvictoria.net.au

All other information relating to the quarantine, testing and welfare requirements of RV can be found at [racingvictoria.com.au/the-sport/international/international-resources](https://racingvictoria.com.au/the-sport/international/international-resources)