

Hot Weather Policy



Department	Greyhound Welfare and Re-homing
Responsible GRV General Manager	General Manager - Greyhound Welfare and Re-homing
Date of GRV Board approval	27 August 2019
Effective date	16 September 2019
Review	This policy will be reviewed annually.

Purpose	<p>To outline when the GRV Racing Department will declare a venue is 'hot weather affected'.</p> <p>To provide requirements for all racing and trialling activity at venues that have been declared 'hot weather affected'.</p> <p>To ensure the welfare of greyhounds during transportation, at race meetings and trial sessions in hot weather conditions on days that are 'hot weather affected'.</p>
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Scope	All Registered Participants, transporters engaged by Registered Participants, GRV and Club officials must comply with the requirements in this policy.
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Related policies	The GRV Transport Policy applies for all transportation of greyhounds, including on 'hot weather affected' days.
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Policy	
Policy principles	<p>The welfare of the greyhound always comes before travelling, racing and trialling endeavours. Adherence to the requirements in this policy will assist in minimising the potential for heat stress in greyhounds transported, raced or trialled on 'hot weather affected' days. For the purpose of this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• event means the competitive pursuit by one or more greyhounds of a lure and includes a series, qualifying trial or in the case of a coursing meeting a 'course'.• meeting means any occasion at which greyhound racing events are scheduled to be conducted pursuant to the GRV Local racing Rules.• venue means the location where a meeting is scheduled to be held.• scheduled day means the day that the meeting is scheduled to be held.• scheduled time of the meeting means the time from the start of kennelling, until the end of the last event.• forecast maximum temperature is the highest temperature forecasted by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) for the venue at any time on the scheduled day.• hot weather affected means where the forecast maximum temperature at the venue at any time on the scheduled day (regardless of the time the meeting is due to start and finish) is 32°C or higher.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cancelled meeting means a meeting that ceases to proceed when it has a status of 'Graded'. • abandoned meeting and/or abandoned event means a meeting and/or an event that ceases to proceed when it has a status of 'Fields Finalised'.
<p>Declaring a hot weather affected day</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GRV Racing Department will check the temperature forecast for the venue regularly in the week prior to a meeting including monitoring the Bureau of Meteorology's regular updates on the day before the scheduled day. 2. GRV Racing Department will declare a venue to be hot weather affected if the forecast maximum temperature is 32°C or higher at the venue at any time on the scheduled day (regardless of the time the meeting is due to start and finish). The declaration will occur either on the day prior to the scheduled day of the meeting, or on the scheduled day of the meeting. 3. Once a venue has been declared by GRV Racing Department to be hot weather affected, the venue will remain hot weather affected regardless of any change to forecast temperature or actual temperature on the day.
<p>GRV options on hot weather affected days:</p> <p>32 - 37.9°C</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Where the forecast maximum temperature for the venue for the scheduled day is between 32 - 37.9°C, GRV Racing Department will either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. continue with the meeting consistent with requirements set out in this policy; or b. re-schedule the meeting to another time on the same day; or c. re-schedule the meeting to another day; or d. change the venue of the meeting; or e. cancel the meeting. <p>All decisions must take into account the scheduled time of the meeting, Travel Time and the hot weather requirements of the GRV Transport Policy.</p>
<p>GRV options on hot weather affected days:</p> <p>38°C or higher</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Where the forecast maximum temperature for the venue for the scheduled day is 38°C or higher, GRV Racing Department will either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. continue with the meeting consistent with requirements set out in this policy (but only if the forecast maximum temperature is below 38°C during the scheduled time of the meeting); or b. re-schedule the meeting to another time on the same day (but only if the forecast maximum temperature is below 38°C during the re-scheduled time of the meeting); or c. re-schedule the meeting to another day; or d. change the venue of the meeting; or e. cancel the meeting. <p>All decisions must take into account the scheduled time of the meeting, Travel Time and the hot weather requirements of the GRV Transport Policy.</p>

<p>Participant requirements on all hot weather affected days</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Registered Participants must only transport greyhounds according to the GRV Transport Policy. 7. Registered Participants must not use barking muzzles on greyhounds at any time. 8. Registered Participants are permitted to use cooling vests on their greyhounds at any time prior to or after racing or trialling. 9. Registered Participants must offer drinking water to their greyhound, without forcing it to drink, upon arrival at the racetrack and then proceed to kennel the greyhounds as soon as possible. 10. Greyhounds must proceed to the boxes without being paraded. 11. Registered Participants must offer drinking water to their greyhound, without forcing it to drink, as soon as practical after an event. 12. Greyhounds must be directed to the nearest hosing or wash-down bay immediately after the event, without being paraded. Registered Participants must hose down the greyhound immediately to thoroughly wet the feet, chest, head, neck, back and groin areas. Excess water must be removed from the greyhound afterwards. 13. Greyhounds must remain on course close to the kennel block for a minimum of 15 minutes after their race or trial, to allow cool down. 14. Veterinary advice must be sought immediately if a greyhound is showing signs of heat stress, passing dark or red coloured urine, or exhibiting any other abnormalities. Potential indicators of heat stress include dehydration, panting, skin feeling warm, fast heart rate and pulse, drooling, red gums, muscle tremors and seizures. If there is any doubt as to whether or not a greyhound is suffering from heat stress, Registered Participants must consult with the On-Track Veterinarian (OTV) as soon as symptoms present.
<p>Scratchings on hot weather affected days</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. If a venue has been declared hot weather affected prior to the appointed scratching time for that meeting, a stand down penalty will not be applied to any nominated greyhound withdrawn (due to the hot weather) from racing at that meeting, if the greyhound's withdrawal is notified to GRV via FastTrack or to Racing Services and Registrations between the time the meeting is declared hot weather affected and the appointed scratching time for the meeting. 16. If a venue has been declared hot weather affected after the appointed scratching time for that meeting, the Stewards may consider waiving the stand down penalty for any nominated greyhound withdrawn (due to the hot weather) from racing at that meeting, if the greyhound's withdrawal is notified to Stewards between the time the meeting is declared hot weather affected up until the close of kennelling.
<p>Club requirements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Clubs must fit all kennel areas with temperature and humidity loggers that simultaneously measure and record temperature and humidity readings. 18. All Club air conditioning systems must be functional and serviced at least annually before the month of October.

	<p>19. Clubs must activate the air conditioning system in the trial and race kennels at least three hours before kennel opening time.</p> <p>20. Clubs must aim to keep the ambient temperature in the kennels between 18 - 24°C.</p> <p>21. Clubs must open kennels 30 minutes earlier than the standard time of opening.</p> <p>22. Clubs must have a set of eight cooling vests that can be made available, if requested, at the catching pen prior to the start of each race.</p>
<p>Steward requirements and decisions</p>	<p>23. Stewards must record the kennel area temperature at the time of kennelling and immediately prior to each race when the greyhounds are retrieved.</p> <p>24. Stewards will abandon or postpone the remainder of a meeting if the temperature in the race kennel block reaches 26°C and cannot be reduced promptly.</p> <p>25. Stewards will abandon or postpone the remainder of the meeting if the ambient temperature at the racetrack reaches 38°C or higher and is not forecast to decrease in a period of 40 minutes or less.</p> <p>26. Stewards may postpone or abandon the meeting at any time due to any circumstances that adversely affect the meeting including weather conditions or, in consultation with the OTV, animal welfare concerns (GAR 57(4)).</p> <p>27. Where the actual temperature at the venue, at the start of kennelling on the day of the racing or trialling activity, is significantly lower than 32°C, the Stewards may relax or dispense with any of the additional meeting requirements for hot weather affected days set out in this policy.</p>
<p>Trialling on hot weather affected days</p>	<p>28. Trialling must not occur at any time when the ambient temperature at the track reaches or exceeds 38°C.</p> <p>29. A Club will cancel or re-schedule non-race day trial sessions when the forecasted maximum temperature for the venue is 38°C or higher during the proposed trial session timeslot. NOTE: Trial sessions should be cancelled by noon the day prior if possible.</p> <p>30. Clubs must abandon all qualifying and after race trial sessions if the temperature in the trial kennel area reaches 26°C and cannot be reduced promptly.</p> <p>31. Where a venue has been declared hot weather affected, trials may only occur after twilight and night meetings.</p> <p>32. For racetracks with air-conditioned trial kennels, greyhounds can only be trialled after meetings if the greyhound has been booked into the air-conditioned trial kennels; or if the air-conditioned trial kennels are unavailable (or the participant chooses not to use them), greyhounds nominated for after-race trials must not arrive at the track earlier than the scheduled time of the second last race on a hot weather affected day.</p> <p>33. For racetracks with no air-conditioned trial kennels, greyhounds nominated for after-race trials must not arrive at the track earlier than the scheduled time of the second last race on a hot weather affected day.</p>