

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	12 October 2021
Effective date	25 October 2021
Review	This policy will be reviewed annually.

Purpose	<p>To ensure the welfare of greyhounds at race meetings and trial sessions in hot weather conditions.</p> <p>To outline when the GRV Racing Department will declare a race meeting as 'hot weather affected', re-schedule a meeting, transfer a meeting to a different venue or cancel a meeting.</p> <p>To outline when the Steward in Charge will abandon a meeting or event due to hot weather.</p> <p>To provide requirements for all racing and trialling activity at venues that have been declared 'hot weather affected'.</p>
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Scope	All Registered Persons, GRV staff and officials, and Club staff and officials must comply with the requirements in this policy and Appendix 1 .
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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 in hot weather. 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 by GRV to be conducted pursuant to the GRV Rules.• venue means the Club at which a meeting is scheduled to be held.• scheduled day means the entire day that the meeting is scheduled to be held.• scheduled time of the meeting means the time, on the scheduled day, from the start of kennelling, until 30 minutes after the last event.• forecast maximum temperature is the highest temperature forecasted by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) for the BoM weather station nearest to the venue at any time on the scheduled day.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • cancelled meeting means a meeting that the GRV Racing Department has determined will not proceed prior to fields being finalised. • abandoned meeting and/or abandoned event means a meeting and/or an event that, the Stewards Department has determined will not start or continue after the fields have been finalised.
Declaring a hot weather affected day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The 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 day¹. 2. Once a venue has been declared 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. 3. Kennelling for declared hot weather affected day, twilight and night meetings will open 30 minutes earlier than standard kennelling times. Kennels will not open early for hot weather affected morning meetings.
Scratchings on hot weather affected days	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. 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 between the time of declaration the appointed scratching time.² 5. If a venue has been declared hot weather affected after the appointed scratching time for that meeting, the Stewards may, at their discretion, waive the stand down penalty if the greyhound’s withdrawal is notified to Stewards between the time of the declaration and the close of kennelling.
Participant requirements on hot weather affected days	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Registered Persons must transport greyhounds in compliance with the GRV Transport Policy. 7. In addition to barking muzzle restrictions during hot weather affected journeys in accordance with the GRV Transport Policy, Registered Persons must not use, or allow another person to use, barking muzzles on any greyhounds at the venue, at any time on a hot weather affected day. 8. Registered Persons are permitted to use cooling vests on their greyhounds at any time prior to or after racing or trialling. 9. Upon arrival at the venue, a greyhound must be immediately offered drinking water before proceeding to kennelling.

¹ Regardless of the time the meeting is due to start and finish.

² It is not permitted, and is a breach of this policy, for a Registered Person to take advantage of penalty-free scratching by falsely scratching a greyhound due to hot weather when the true reason is something else, including but not limited to injury, illness, seasonal, unfavourable box draw and insufficient air-conditioned transport.

	<p>10. Prior to an event, greyhounds must proceed directly to the starting boxes without being paraded.</p> <p>11. Immediately after the greyhound has competed in its event, the greyhound must be taken to the nearest hosing or wash-down bay, without being paraded. The greyhound must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. offered drinking water; and b. hosed down so that it is thoroughly wet on the feet, chest, head, neck, back and groin areas. Excess water must be removed from the greyhound immediately afterwards. <p>12. Greyhounds must remain on course, preferably inside the kennel block, for a minimum of 15 minutes after their race or trial, to allow the greyhound to cool down.</p> <p>13. The Registered Person in control of the greyhound must immediately seek veterinary advice if the greyhound is showing signs of heat stress, passing dark or red coloured urine, or exhibiting any other abnormalities.³</p>
<p>Club requirements for meeting held at their venue on hot weather affected days</p>	<p>14. Club air conditioning systems must be functional and serviced at least annually in the months of August or September.</p> <p>15. Clubs must have a functioning weather station, installed in an appropriate position at the venue as determined in consultation with GRV, which is regularly maintained and subjected to regular quality control.</p> <p>16. Clubs must maintain the ambient temperature in the kennels between 16 - 24°C during the scheduled time of the meeting, with the ideal target temperature being 18°C.</p>
<p>Trialling at meetings that have been declared hot weather affected</p>	<p>17. Where a venue has been declared hot weather affected, trials may only occur after twilight and night meetings.</p> <p>18. Trialling must not occur at any time when the ambient temperature at the venue reaches 38°C or higher.</p> <p>19. For venues with air-conditioned trial kennels, greyhounds can only be trialled after meetings if the greyhound has been booked into the air-conditioned trial kennels. If the air-conditioned trial kennels are unavailable or not booked, greyhounds nominated for after-race trials must not arrive at the venue earlier than the scheduled time of the second last race on a hot weather affected day.</p> <p>20. For venues with no air-conditioned trial kennels, greyhounds nominated for after-race trials must not arrive at the venue earlier than the scheduled time of the second last race on a hot weather affected day.</p>

³ 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, the Registered Person in control of the greyhound must consult with the On-Track Veterinarian (OTV) as soon as symptoms present.

Non-race day trialling in hot weather	<p>21. Where the forecast maximum temperature for the venue on the scheduled day of non-race day trialling is 32 - 37.9°C during the proposed trial session, the Club must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. continue with the trial session consistent with the principles of the race day options outlined in Appendix 1; orb. re-schedule the trial session to another time on the scheduled day when the weather is predicted to be less than 32°C; orc. re-schedule the trial session to another day; ord. cancel the trial session. <p>22. Where the forecast maximum temperature for the venue on the scheduled day of non-race day trialling is 38°C or higher during the proposed trial session, the Club must cancel or re-schedule the trial sessions. NOTE: Trial sessions should be cancelled by noon the day prior if possible.</p>
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Appendix 1: Procedures relating to the Hot Weather Policy

Declaring a hot weather affected day

- The 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.
- Hot weather affected declarations will occur either on the day prior to the scheduled day of the meeting, or on the scheduled day of the meeting. For the avoidance of doubt, this declaration will always occur before fields are finalised.

GRV options on hot weather affected days

Temperature	Options
32 - 37.9°C	<p>Where the forecast maximum temperature for the venue on the scheduled day is 32 - 37.9°C, the GRV Racing Department will either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> continue with the meeting consistent with requirements set out in this policy; or re-schedule the meeting to another time on the scheduled day; or re-schedule the meeting to another day; or transfer the meeting to a different venue (if fields are not yet finalised); or 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>
38°C or higher	<p>Where the forecast maximum temperature for the venue on the scheduled day is 38°C or higher, the GRV Racing Department will either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> continue with the meeting consistent with requirements set out in this policy (but only if the forecast maximum temperature is lower than 38°C during the scheduled time of the meeting); or re-schedule the meeting to another time on the scheduled day (but only if the forecast maximum temperature is lower than 38°C during the re-scheduled time of the meeting); or re-schedule the meeting to another day; or transfer the meeting to a different venue (if fields are not yet finalised); or 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>

Responsibility for cancellation or abandonment of a hot weather affected meeting and/or event

- Up until the time that the fields are finalised (close of scratchings), the Racing Department is responsible for the declaration, management and cancellation of a hot weather affected meeting.
- Between the time that fields are finalised and 2½ hours prior to the first race, the Stewards Department is responsible for the management and abandonment of a hot weather affected meeting, in consultation between the Racing General Manger and the Chief Steward.
- From 2½ hours prior to the first race, the Stewards Department is responsible for the management and abandonment of a hot weather affected meeting and/or event.
- The Racing Department will notify Registered Persons of early kennelling.

Steward requirements and decisions

- Stewards must record the kennel area temperature at the time of kennelling.
- The Stewards must regularly check the ambient temperature outside or near the kennel block during the scheduled time of a meeting. If the ambient temperature outside or near the kennel block during the scheduled time of a meeting is 35°C or higher, Stewards must also check the ambient temperature at the Club weather station five minutes prior to each subsequent race. If the ambient temperature at the Club weather station reaches 38°C or higher the Stewards will either:
 - a. postpone the next race until the ambient temperature at the Club weather station drops to lower than 38°C; or
 - b. abandon the next race; or
 - c. abandon the remainder of the meeting.
- Where the actual temperature at the venue, during the scheduled time of the meeting, is significantly lower than 32°C, and noting clause 2 of the Hot Weather Policy, the Stewards may relax or dispense with any of the additional meeting requirements for hot weather affected days set out in this policy, with the exception of clause 3 of the Hot Weather Policy (relating to early kennelling), clause 7 of the Hot Weather Policy (relating to the use of barking muzzles) and clause 13 of the Hot Weather Policy (seeking veterinary advice).

Club requirements for meetings held at their venue on hot weather affected days

- a. Clubs must have functioning temperature and humidity loggers in all kennel areas that simultaneously measure and record temperature and humidity readings.
- b. Clubs must activate the air conditioning system in the trial and race kennels at least three hours before kennel opening time.
- c. Club staff must record the kennel area temperature immediately prior to each race when the greyhounds are being retrieved.
- d. Clubs must open kennels 30 minutes earlier than the standard time of opening for day, twilight and night meetings. Clubs do not need to open kennels early for hot weather affected morning meetings.
- e. 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.
- f. Clubs must adhere to the trialling requirements set out in this policy on days where the forecast maximum temperature is 32°C or above.