

## 1. Registration Guidelines

Under the *Racing Act 1958* the Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) Board regulates the sport of greyhound racing. This function includes registering people seeking to participate in the sport. The Board may register a person if they meet the eligibility requirements. The GRV Board also has absolute discretion to refuse an application for registration or may grant an application subject to any conditions they think appropriate.

Under the Rules of Racing, there is a staged process for determining applications:

Stage 1: Determines whether the person is eligible to apply for registration;

Stage 2: Considers whether the Board should register the person having regard to their individual circumstances.

## 2. Stage 1 – Eligibility to Apply

To be eligible to apply for registration a person must:

- be over 18yrs (unless registering as a catcher or attendant) and live in Victoria;
- satisfy the GRV Board that they are a fit and proper person;
- have the training and experience required (or be able to satisfy the Board that they will get that training and experience within a reasonable time);
- the person must not have had an application refused by the Board in the preceding 6 months;
- not have been convicted of animal cruelty offences;
- comply with any other requirements, including any additional eligibility requirements, prescribed by the Controlling Body from time to time;
- (where a premises required for, or used in connection with the registration) have a premises that is fit for purpose.

### ***Consideration of the Board***

The Board must first determine whether they can consider the person's application, that is, does the applicant meet the eligibility requirements? Some requirements are matters of fact - for example, is the person old enough, where do they live, or do they have convictions? The other requirement is a determination of suitability referred to as the 'fit and proper person' test.

An applicant must satisfy the Board that they are a fit and proper person to be registered, having regard to all matters relevant to the category of registration being sought. This includes but is not limited to the person's character, reputation, honesty, integrity, criminal history, and the person's history in relation to animal welfare. The onus is on the person applying for

registration to provide enough information to satisfy the Board that they are suitable to be registered as a participant in the sport in the category that they are applying for.

Fit and proper is a point in time determination. The fact that a person may have been a fit and proper in the past (for example, they have previously been registered), does not automatically mean that the Board will be satisfied that the person is fit and proper for a new application. Similarly, the fact that a person was not fit and proper in the past (such as when committing an offence) does not mean that they will not be able to satisfy the Board that they are fit and proper at some point in the future.

More information can be found about the fit and proper person test

<https://greyhoundcare.grv.org.au/get-involved/>

If the Board determines the person does not meet any of the eligibility requirements, then the Board cannot consider the person's application further.

If the Board determines that person is eligible to be registered, the Board then moves on to considering whether the Board **should** register the person based on the impact that registration may have on the Board's functions and the sport.

### 3. Stage 2 – Determining the Application

Assuming the person meets the eligibility requirements to apply, the next stage in the application process requires the Board consider whether the person should be registered. The Board can:

1. grant an application;
2. grant the application with conditions; or
3. refuse an application.

While the Board has a general and absolute discretion to refuse an application, however the Rules also provide specific areas that the Board can rely on when deciding to refuse an application.

The Board has express provisions allowing refusal of an application when the person's associations or where they live will pose a risk. This includes where:

- the applicant lives with or is the current spouse or domestic partner of a person who has been refused registration or had their registration cancelled by GRV, who is disqualified, or who is suspended for a not insignificant period; or
- the Board believes that the applicant is likely to, for purposes of activity related to their proposed registration, associate with a person who is disqualified, warned off, suspended or declared to be a defaulter under the Local Rules, in the period for which the applicant is registered (this association is also prohibited by the Rules).

The Board has a specific Rule which provides that the Board can refuse an application where the person has not provided information requested by GRV that the Board reasonably believes will assist in its consideration of the person's application.

The Board also has Rules that provide for the Board to refuse an application where the registration may adversely impact on the Board's functions of:

- control of the sport of greyhound racing;
- promotion of the sport of greyhound racing;
- conduct of greyhound Events;
- promotion or improvement of animal welfare within the sport of greyhound racing;
- promotion of compliance with the Rules or
- monitoring of compliance with the Rules.

If the Board has determined that an application would pose an unacceptable risk if approved, the Board must then consider whether there are any reasonable conditions that could mitigate the risk to a reasonable level. If the risk level is unacceptable to the Board, the Board will refuse the application.

That someone has previously been registered does not give that person any 'rights' to registration in the future. Being refused registration does not constitute a penalty or an extension of any period of disqualification.

### **Show Cause**

If the Board is considering refusing an application or applying significant conditions, the Board will give the applicant an opportunity to provide further information to address the Board's concerns. Usually, the applicant has 30 days to respond. If no further information is provided, the Board will decide the application based on the information it already has.

If the person does provide further information either generally or to address the concerns and risks identified by the Board, the Board will review this information as part of the application process.

### **Notification**

GRV will inform the applicant of decision of the Board, usually via email. At this stage the person may be refused or registered or may be notified that they will be registered after they meet the remaining requirements (such as having a kennel inspection or undertaking the required training).

### **Appeal**

If the Board refuses to grant an application for registration or approves the registration on conditions that the applicant is unhappy with, the applicant may appeal to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).