

Part 7 - GRV Division 15: Coursing

1. Definitions

1.1. In this Division, unless inconsistent with the context or subject matter:

accidental bye means a *bye* caused by the other *greyhound* scheduled to compete in the *course* being *scratched* or declared a *non-starter*.

bye means a *course* in which only one *greyhound* is the sole competitor in the *course*, by reason of a *natural bye* or an *accidental bye*.

draw means the process that determines the *greyhounds* which compete in each *course* in a *stake* and their collar.

marshalling area means a fully or partially enclosed area, also known as the observation yard, set aside at a *coursing meeting* for the purpose of assembling *greyhounds* for examination by a *veterinarian* or inspection by a *Steward* prior to the *greyhounds* being sent to the *Slipper* at the starting area of the *course*.

mechanical quarry means either a drag *lure* (a *lure* being dragged by a cable on the ground) or a trolley *lure* (a *lure* attached to a rail) as approved by the *National Coursing Association* and *Controlling Body*.

National Coursing Association means the National Coursing Association of Victoria Inc A0004175V.

natural bye means a *bye* caused solely as a result of the *draw*.

slips means the lead used by the *Slipper* to secure the *greyhounds* prior to and for the commencement of each *course*.

Slipper means a person appointed by the *National Coursing Association* and approved by the *Stewards* to have the physical control of the *greyhounds* immediately prior to and for the commencement of each *course*.

Slip Steward means a person appointed by the *Stewards* to carry out certain duties including:

- a. confirming the identity of each *greyhound* competing at a *coursing meeting*;
- b. ensuring that each *greyhound* is brought to the *Slips* in its proper turn, wearing its proper collar, and put on its correct side; and
- c. reporting to the *Stewards* without delay, any *greyhound* that does not come to the *slips* in time.

stake means a *coursing Event* that includes a number of rounds of *courses*, that take place at a *coursing meeting* over one or two *days*.

2. Coursing - Interpretation

- 2.1. A *coursing meeting* must, except as otherwise provided for in the *Local Rules*, be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Rules* and any permit issued by the responsible Minister under section 52A of the *Racing Act 1958*.

3. Division 2: Nominations

- 3.1. The *National Coursing Association*, with the approval of the *Controlling Body* may determine the conditions of any *Event* conducted including the *nomination* closing time, payment of *nomination fees*, and eligibility for *Events*.
- 3.2. Where a *greyhound* has been *nominated* for a particular *stake*, the *Controlling Body* may at its own discretion, include the *greyhound* in any other *stake* for which it is eligible at the *coursing meeting* and if so included, the *greyhound* will be deemed to have been *nominated* for such other *stake*.
- 3.3. The *trainer* or at least one *owner* of any *greyhound* which is *nominated* for a *stake* must be a financial member of the club that is conducting the *coursing meeting* (unless the *stake* is an open *nomination stake*) and may be liable for payment of a *nomination fee*. A *greyhound* whose *nomination fee* has not been paid is prohibited from participating and declared to be a *non-starter*.

4. The Draw

- 4.1. Upon application from the *National Coursing Association*, the *Controlling Body* may grant approval for a *draw* to be conducted by an alternative method to a *box draw* provided that the method approved is under the full supervision of the *Stewards* or an *authorised person*.
- 4.2. *Greyhounds* selected to participate in a *stake* will be selected at random and paired, with the odd number in order of selection wearing the red collar.

5. Reserves

- 5.1. A *greyhound* listed as a reserve following the *draw* will be used as a replacement for a *greyhound scratched* or otherwise declared by the *Stewards* to be a *non-starter*.
- 5.2. Where more than one *greyhound* in a *stake* is *scratched* or declared to be a *non-starter*, the reserve *greyhounds* which will participate in the particular *course* will be determined by ballot.
- 5.3. For *coursing events* conducted over a period of two days and where more than eight *greyhounds* are drawn, the number of *courses* conducted each day must be:

<i>Greyhounds</i>	Total <i>courses</i>	<i>Course</i> day 1	<i>Course</i> day 2
33-64	6	3	3
17-32	5	2	2
9-16	4	2	2

6. Collars

- 6.1. Each *greyhound* must wear a collar in the form approved by the *Controlling Body* of not less than five centimetres in width and provided by the *greyhound's Trainer*.
- 6.2. The colour of the collar must be red for the left side and white for the right side of the *slips*, as viewed from behind.
- 6.3. After each *course* of a *stake*, the defeated *greyhounds* in each round shall be disregarded. The odd numbered remaining *greyhounds* (as calculated from the top of the card) must wear the red collar in each subsequent *course* (round).

- 6.4. If for any reason the *greyhounds* competed in wrong collars, the *course* shall be awarded to the *greyhound* which, in the *Stewards'* sole discretion, wore the collar corresponding in colour of the flag hoisted by the *judge*.

7. Byes

- 7.1. Any *greyhound* in a *bye* must complete the *course*, unless at the commencement of any round in a *stake* a *greyhound* in each *course* of that round has a *bye*.
- 7.2. A *natural bye* must be run by the lowest *greyhound* in each round of a *stake* when odd numbers occur and in every case the *bye greyhound* must run wearing the red collar.
- 7.3. No *greyhound* must, in any *stake*, be permitted to run two *natural byes* unless it becomes unavoidable.
- 7.4. The *greyhound* in an *accidental bye* must wear the collar colour which it would have been required to wear had the *accidental bye* not occurred.
- 7.5. The *Trainer* of a *greyhound* in a *bye* may, with the permission of the *Stewards*, run an accompanying *greyhound* in that *course*.
- 7.6. *Byes* will count as *courses* won.
- 7.7. If a *greyhound* is entitled to a *bye* and is then *scratched* or otherwise declared a *non-starter* at any stage after the first round of *coursing* of the *stake*, *prize money* shall be paid as if the *bye* had been completed.

8. Presentation for Coursing

- 8.1. A *Trainer* of a *greyhound* nominated to participate in a *stake* must produce to the *Stewards* at the *marshalling area*, or such other area designated for the purpose of this rule by the *Stewards* no later than thirty minutes prior to the scheduled time of the first *course* of the day:
- 8.1.1. The *greyhound identification card* for the *greyhound*; or
- 8.1.2. another *document* (including an electronic record) establishing the registration and identity of the *greyhound* which the *Stewards* consider is satisfactory. .
- 8.2. A *Trainer* must ensure that a *greyhound* is *presented* at the *marshalling area* for examination by an officiating *veterinarian* and confirmation of identity and collar colour by *Stewards*, not later than two minutes after the final call for each *course* has been made by *Stewards*.
- 8.3. A *greyhound* which is not appropriately *presented* without delay to the starting area when required by the *Steward* will be prohibited from participating and declared to be a *non-starter*.
- 8.4. If a *trainer* has concerns regarding the condition of their *greyhound* following its first or subsequent *course* in a *stake*, the *greyhound* may be *scratched* from any further *courses* on that *day* without penalty. For the avoidance of doubt, the officiating *veterinarian* may apply a *stand-down period* to that *greyhound*.
- 8.5. Part 7: Division 4 of the *GARs* (weighing and weight procedures) do not apply to *coursing meetings*.

9. Slipping

- 9.1. Any *greyhound* found to be beyond control or mischievous in *Slips*, or which refuses to leave *Slips*, or pursue the *mechanical quarry*, may by order of the *Steward*, be taken out of *Slips* and declared to be a *non-starter* and prohibited from participating in the *course*.
- 9.2. Immediately prior to the commencement of a *course* the *Slip Steward* must hoist/switch on, or cause to be hoisted/switched on, a coloured flag and/or lights in the following circumstances:
- 9.2.1. A red flag/light denoting that the *greyhound* wearing a red collar has a *bye*.
- 9.2.2. A white flag/light denoting that the *greyhound* wearing a white collar has a *bye*.

- 9.2.3. A yellow flag/light denoting that an "undecided *course*" or "no *course*" is being recommenced.
- 9.2.4. A green flag/light denoting that a *course* is being commenced.
- 9.3. Prior to the commencement of each *course* the *mechanical quarry* must be placed not less than 10 metres or more than 15 metres in front of the *Slipper*.
- 9.4. The *Slipper* will have discretion as to the length of each *Slip*, but as far as possible the various *Slips* must be of uniform length.
- 9.5. If a *greyhound* gains release from the *Slips* prematurely:
 - 9.5.1. the *Slipper* must not release the other *greyhound* (if any); and
 - 9.5.2. the *greyhounds* must not be replaced into the *Slips* for at least 15 minutes, unless the *Stewards* and *Trainers/Handler* of the two *greyhounds* otherwise agree.
- 9.6. *Greyhounds* must not be placed into *Slips* for a subsequent *course* in a *stake* until at least 45 minutes after the conclusion of the previous round.
- 9.7. Except as set out in this Rule or authorised by the *Stewards*, each *course* must be conducted in the order of running as provided for in the *draw*.

10. "No Course" and "Undecided Course"

- 10.1. A declaration of "no *course*" may be made by the *Stewards* if:
 - 10.1.1. a *greyhound* gains premature release from *Slips*;
 - 10.1.2. the *greyhounds* are not released simultaneously from *Slips*;
 - 10.1.3. the *mechanical quarry* malfunctions; or
 - 10.1.4. any matter occurs which, in the opinion of the *Stewards*, justifies a declaration of "no *course*".
- 10.2. Where a declaration of "no *course*" or "undecided *course*" is made:
 - 10.2.1. the *course* will be recommenced after a period of at least 15 minutes or such time as determined by the *Steward*, after consultation with the officiating *veterinarian*; and
 - 10.2.2. both *greyhounds* must be examined by the officiating *veterinarian* prior to the recommencement of the "no *course*" or "undecided *course*".
- 10.3. If after the declaration of an "undecided *course*", the *Stewards* permits the *scratching* of a *greyhound* and declares it to be a *non-starter*, the remaining *greyhound* is not required to run a *bye*.
- 10.4. If, after the declaration of a "no *course*", the *Stewards* permits the *scratching* of a *greyhound* and declare it to be a *non-starter*, the remaining *greyhound* will be required to run a *bye* unless the *Stewards*, in their discretion, are satisfied that the remaining *greyhound* did sufficient work during the "no *course*" to constitute the equivalent of a *course*.
- 10.5. The *Stewards* must publicly announce any declaration of "undecided *course*" or "no *course*".

11. Judging

- 11.1. The judge must, on the completion of each *course*, deliver their determination as to the winner by exhibiting a flag corresponding in colour with the collar worn by the winning *greyhound*.
- 11.2. If the judge is of the opinion that the provisions of LR 12 may apply, or any matter has occurred which may result in a declaration of "no *course*" or *non-starter* being made, they must:
 - 11.2.1. immediately report the matter to the *Stewards*; and
 - 11.2.2. make their determination (if any) on the basis of any order made by the *Stewards* after investigation of the matter.

- 11.3. If the *judge* is unable to determine which greyhound has won the *course*, the *judge* must deliver the determination of "undecided *course*".
- 11.4. Notwithstanding anything in this Rule, the *Stewards* have the power to alter the *judge's* decision.

12. Greyhound Offences / Satisfactory Trials

- 12.1. For the avoidance of doubt, where a *greyhound* has breached a rule in Part 7: Division 6, and the *Stewards* are satisfied that as a consequence of that breach a greyhound was advantaged or disadvantaged so as to affect the outcome of the *Event* the *Stewards* may declare the *greyhound* a *non-starter*.
- 12.2. Where, as a result of any *course*, an order is made by *Stewards* that a *greyhound* must undergo a *satisfactory trial*:
 - 12.2.1. That *greyhound* must not participate in any subsequent *course* in that *stake*.
 - 12.2.2. The *Stewards* may declare that *greyhound* a *non-starter* in that *course* to allow the defeated *greyhound* to progress to the subsequent *course* in that *stake*.
 - 12.2.3. The *greyhound* must perform a *satisfactory trial* at any *coursing track* before being eligible to be *nominated for* or compete in any future *coursing stake*.
- 12.3. Where as a result of any *course* an order is made by *Stewards* that a *greyhound* must undergo a *satisfactory trial* the provisions of GAR 132 apply, except that in order for a *greyhound* to obtain clearance to compete at all *tracks* the trial may be performed at any *coursing track*.
- 12.4. Where a *satisfactory trial* is performed at a *coursing meeting*, the *greyhound* must compete in the trial with at least one other *greyhound* and wear an approved collar.
- 12.5. If a *greyhound* is ordered to undergo a *satisfactory trial* in an *Event* that was not a *coursing Event*, and successfully completes that *satisfactory trial* on a *coursing track*, it will be cleared for *coursing* only.

13. Call of the Card betting

- 13.1. Call of the Card betting is permitted only at a *coursing meeting*.
- 13.2. Call of the Card betting must only take place between a *bookmaker* and the *owner*, or the *owner's* nominated representative, of the particular *greyhound* on which the bet is made.
- 13.3. Call of the Card betting must be made on the basis of "play" or "pay" and the provisions of BBR 4.8 do not apply. The last bet laid by a *bookmaker* at the Call of the Card must be underlined on their betting sheets.

14. Other Betting

- 14.1. General betting must not commence until the conclusion of the betting on the Call of the Card.
- 14.2. Except as provided in sub rule 14.3, all bets on a *greyhound* to win the *stake* must be made on the basis of "play" or "pay" provided that the *greyhound* participates in a *course* and notwithstanding that the *greyhound* is later *disqualified* or declared to be a *non-starter*.
- 14.3. If a *greyhound* is declared to be a *non-starter* prior to its first slipping and after betting on the *stake* has commenced, all bets on the *greyhound* will be declared off and the backers of all winning bets in the *stake* made prior to that declaration will be paid the full amount of the bet, less deduction, made at the rate declared by the *Stewards* pursuant to BBR 4.2.
- 14.4. All bets on an undecided *course* under rule 10.3 will stand unless one of the *greyhounds* is declared a *non-starter* prior to the recommencement of the *course* in which case all bets will be declared off.

- 14.5. If a declaration is made pursuant to rules 6.3, 14.2 or 16, all bets on the particular *course* must be declared off.
- 14.6. All straight-out bets go with the *stake*, the interest of bets being inseparable from the interest in the *stakes*.
- 14.7. All bets must be paid on the settling day as nominated by the National Coursing Association.
- 14.8. If a *coursing meeting* is postponed for any reason after *coursing* has commenced, then all bets on the *stakes* will stand.
- 14.9. If *coursing* has not commenced prior to postponement, then all bets on *stakes* will be void.
- 14.10. If a postponement occurs after a bet has been laid on an individual *course* and before the *course* is run, then such bets must be declared off.
- 14.11. If a *coursing meeting* is abandoned prior to commencement, then all bets on the *stakes* will be void.
- 14.12. If at least a full round of a *stake* has been completed, then betting will stand as in division of stakes.
- 14.13. Betting on individual *courses* will be treated in accordance with PC 21.8, PC 21.9 and PC 21.10.