

Proposed Local Rule Consultation Document

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO GRV RULES OF GREYHOUND RACING: GREYHOUND WELFARE

These rule changes form part of GRV's ongoing commitment to ensure that Victorian racing is as safe as possible, and to promote greyhound welfare.

- Reducing the potential frequency of greyhound starts
- Enabling preferential box draws

ADD NEW LOCAL – FREQUENCY OF STARTS

The national rules of greyhound racing prevent a greyhound from starting on consecutive days. GAR 39 provides that:

39 Consecutive days' racing or trialling prohibited

A greyhound shall not be eligible to compete in more than one Event or satisfactory trial over any consecutive two day period, except that a greyhound may be permitted to compete in more than one Event over that time period at a coursing meeting.

The purpose of this new local rule is to impose a maximum number of starts that a greyhound may have across a period of 7, and 28 days. For the purposes of calculating starts, any coursing activities occurring on one day is considered to be one Event.

This rule would be implemented in a similar way to that applying to the inability to race on consecutive days where eligibility for an event is checked prior to nominations being finalised.

Similar requirements regarding frequency of starts are currently in place or proposed for implementation in several other racing jurisdictions, across the greyhound, harness and thoroughbred codes.

PART 4: ANIMAL WELFARE

Division 4: Limitations and/or exclusions in relation to participation of greyhounds in Events

[Add new local rules]

LR A Frequency of Starts

A.1 A *greyhound* is not eligible to compete in more than:

- A.1.1 one *Event* or *satisfactory trial* in any consecutive two day period; and
- A.1.2 two *Events* or *satisfactory trials* in any consecutive seven day period; and
- A.1.3 seven *Events* or *satisfactory trials* in any consecutive 28 day period.

A.2 For the purposes of LRA.1, participating in any *courses* on the same day at a *coursing meeting* conducted over one *day* is considered to be one *Event*.

ADD NEW LOCAL RULE – PREFERENTIAL BOX DRAWS

The purpose of this new local rule is to enable preferential box draws, where greyhounds with a preference for running wide or on the rail will be accommodated and reduce the risk of collisions.

Similar preferential box draw races are currently operating in New Zealand and Great Britain.

Guidelines, providing details of how a greyhound will be classified as an outside runner, middle runner or inside runner will be issued by GRV prior to the advertisement of a preferential box draw event. This will include the ability for trainers to propose a greyhound's early race trait when nominating for a preferential box draw race on the first occasion.

PART 1: INTERPRETATION, DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATION OF THE GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES

Division 4: Definitions

[Add new definition]

Preferential box draw means a box draw conducted by way of a partially random allocation process and used to determine the respective starting boxes that *greyhounds* are to be placed in for an *Event*.

PART 7: EVENTS AND MEETINGS

GRV Division 9: Nominations

[Replace LR 54 with the following]

[add new rule]

LR B Preferential box draws

- B.1 The *Controlling Body* may, from time to time, determine that a *box draw* for an *Event* will be drawn as a *preferential box draw*.
- B.2 For the purposes of this rule B, if any inconsistency between it and LR54 arises, then the provisions of this rule B or the allocation process used for a preferential box draw shall prevail.
- B.2 For the purposes of a *preferential box draw* the *Controlling Body* may, in its sole discretion, designate a *greyhound* in the Initial Field as a wide runner, railer or straight runner.
- B.3 Starting boxes for will be allocated to the Initial Field in the following sequence until that particular allocation is exhausted:
 - B.3.1 greyhounds designated under B.2 as wide runners will be randomly allocated to the highest available starting box numbers calculated by the number of greyhounds designated as wide runners plus one;
 - B.3.2 greyhounds designated under B.2 as railers will be randomly allocated to the lowest available starting box numbers calculated by the number of greyhounds designated as railers plus one;
 - B.3.3 greyhounds designated under B.2 as straight runners will be randomly allocated to the middle box numbers calculated by the number of greyhounds designated as straight runners plus one;
 - B.3.4 greyhounds without a designation under B.2 will be randomly allocated to the remaining starting box numbers.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO GRV RULES OF GREYHOUND RACING: RACING INTEGRITY

ADD NEW RULES: FINES AND DEBTS

Currently, a substantial number of participants do not pay their fines or repay prizemoney in circumstances where a greyhound is disqualified post an Event. Until a fine or penalty is paid or discharged, or prizemoney repaid, the recipient has effectively avoided the penalty consequences of their offending behaviour.

Enforcement, through payment, is therefore crucial to achieving the purpose of the monetary penalty. This is the case regardless of whether that monetary penalty or requirement for prizemoney repayment was imposed by GRV or the Victorian Racing Tribunal.

The current approach to GRV's management and enforcement of fines and repayment of prizemoney is resource heavy and, in the case of non-repayment of prizemoney, requires GRV to declare a participant a defaulter, thereby rendering that person subject to the same consequences as a disqualified participant.

A proportionate, simpler and consistent approach to the management of fines is proposed to enhance the credibility, and compliance with fines. This approach will enable GRV to:

- set off prizemoney with unpaid fines or debts owed
- prevent a participant from nominating a greyhound owned or trained until an outstanding fine or debt is paid
- enable a Controlling Body to cancel or revoke a licence, registration or permit granted to any person who has not:
 - o paid any fine imposed upon them within 90 days after the fine is due for payment
 - o repaid any prizemoney owing to GRV within 90 days after a written demand for the repayment is received

Subject to the implementation of these rules, it is envisaged that GRV would not be required to exercise the power within GAR117(3) to declare a participant a defaulter for non-payment of prizemoney debts.

PART 10: DISCIPLINARY PROCESSES AND *PENALTIES*

Division 3: *Penalties*

LR C Failure to pay

- C.1 Where the *Controlling Body* has issued a *registered person* with a demand for payment and
- (a) that demand provided the person with notice of the *Controlling Body's* powers under this rule; and
 - (b) the person failed to pay the *Controlling Body* within 14 days or such other longer time specified within that demand;
- the *Controlling body* may, without needing to further communicate with that person or provide any further time to pay:
- C.1.1 withhold the payment of *prize money* allocated to that person and offset that *prize money* allocation against the amount due to the Controlling body under the demand for payment until the full amount is paid; and/or

C.1.2 prohibit that person from *nominating* a *greyhound* for an *Event* or Satisfactory Trial until the full amount is paid to the *Controlling Body*;

C.1.3 prohibit a *greyhound* that person owns or otherwise has an interest in from being *nominated* for an *Event* or a satisfactory trial until the full amount is paid to the *Controlling Body*.

C.2 The *Controlling Body* may issue a *person* with a demand for payment in relation to:

C.2.1 *fees*;

C.2.2 fines or other monetary penalty imposed in accordance with the *Local Rules*;

C.2.3 *prize money* the person is not entitled to; or

C.2.4 payments made in error;

C.2.5 any other monies owing or due from that person to the *Controlling Body*.

LR D Revocation of licence or registration for unpaid fines or repayment of prizemoney debts

D.1 A *Controlling Body* may cancel or *suspend* a *person's* registration, or the registration of any *greyhound* owned (in whole or part) by that person, if the *Controlling Body* determines that the person has failed to:

D.1.1 pay any fine imposed upon them in accordance with GAR 175; or

D.1.1 return any *prize money* in accordance with GAR 117(2).

LR E (LR16.1.9) Registration eligibility

[A *person* is not eligible for registration with the *Controlling Body* under the *Local Rules* unless]

insert

the *person* has paid to the *Controlling Body* all *fees*, fines or other monetary penalties, *prize money* under GAR 117(2), payments made in error, or any other moneys owing or due from that person to the *Controlling Body* or has entered into an agreement with the *Controlling Body* relating to the payment of these monies.

AMEND CURRENT DEFINITION: "PRESENTATION"

The GAR's currently define presentation as:

presentation or ***presented*** means a *greyhound* is presented for an *Event* as from the time commencing at the *appointed scratching time* of the *Event* the *greyhound* is *nominated* for, and which continues until the time a *greyhound* is removed from the *racecourse* after the completion of that *Event* with the permission of the *Stewards* pursuant to rule 94(2), or is *scratched* with the permission of the *Stewards*.

Amendment of this definition is proposed to clarify that the presentation of a *greyhound* for an *Event* continues even if a *greyhound* is scratched or removed from the *racecourse*.

PART 1: INTERPRETATION, DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATION OF THE GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES

Division 4: Definitions

[Add new section to definition]

LR E. Addition to GAR definition of presentation or presented

- E.1 Where a *greyhound* is *presented* for an *Event* in Victoria and the *Controlling Body* requires a *sample* to be taken from the *greyhound*, *presentation* at that Event is deemed to continue until the *sample* is taken notwithstanding the *scratching* of the *greyhound* or the removal of the *greyhound* from the *racecourse*.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO GRV RULES OF GREYHOUND RACING: MISCELLANEOUS

A review of the rules has identified minor technical and typographical issues which will be rectified.

- Remove the word “and” from the end of LR16.1.5.
- Replace LR 18.2.4.5 with “promotion of compliance with the *Rules* or monitoring of compliance with the *Rules*”
- Replace LR19.2.2. with “is bound by and must comply with the Rules as amended from time to time; and”

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO GRV RULES OF GREYHOUND RACING: COURSING

NEW GRV Part, Divisions and Rules: Coursing

Rules relating to coursing activities are currently contained with the “Plumpton Coursing Rules.” These rules have been reviewed, and are proposed to be:

- modernised and simplified, reflecting the current expectations and operations of coursing events
- reformatted for inclusion in the local rules, and in the format used for the current national and local rule, thereby avoiding the need to reference separate rule books for coursing

These rules have been reviewed in consultation with the National Coursing Association

These rules will be incorporated as a new “Part 12” of the rule book.

Remove **LR3: Application of the Plumpton Coursing Rules**

Replace definition of “**Plumpton Coursing Rules**” in LR9.1 with “**Coursing Rules** means the rules set out in Part [12] of these *Local Rules*”

Add new **PART [12]: COURSING** – see Attachment F for proposed rules