

# Proposed amendments to the Local Rules

## Consultation Information

### 1. Proposed amendments to GRV rules of registration and eligibility

These proposed changes form part of GRV's ongoing enhancement of participant registration processes in line with our commitment to uphold professional, welfare and integrity standards in the Victorian greyhound racing industry, and are intended to clarify:

- that applicants must provide sufficient information to the Board to enable it to make a decision regarding an application for registration (amendment to LR 16.1),
- that a finding of guilt for animal cruelty offences will be considered by the Board when making a registration application decision (amendment to LR 16.1.7),
- that a person found guilty of any live baiting offence, regardless of when that occurred, is prohibited from applying for registration (new LR 18.2.5),
- that a person must be, and always remain, capable of undertaking the activities of and meeting their obligations as a registered person – this includes physical and financial capability to look after greyhounds in their care (new LR 19.2.4), and
- the process of voluntary cancellation or suspension of registration (amendments to LR 22.1 and 22.2).

## PART 5: REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONS AND GREYHOUNDS

### Division 1: Registration of persons and greyhounds

#### 16 Registration eligibility

16.1 A *person* is not eligible for registration with the *Controlling Body* under the *Local Rules* unless the *person* satisfies the Board that:

...

16.1.7 the *person* has not plead guilty or had a finding of guilt for any offence provided for by legislation directed at the prevention of cruelty to animals in any jurisdiction, or that would, if occurring in Victoria, be a breach of any legislation directed at the prevention of cruelty to animals; been convicted of an Offence in any jurisdiction that would, if occurring in Victoria, be a breach of GAR 162(a)

...

#### 18 Application process

18.2.5 the applicant has engaged in conduct at any time that, if the same conduct occurred around the time of application, would, in the *Controlling Body's* opinion, amount to a breach of GAR159 or any other offence relating to luring and baiting of live animals.

#### 19 Conditions of Grant of all Registrations

19.2 It is a condition of registration that a *registered person*:

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19.2.4 is, and always remains, capable of undertaking the activities of, and meeting their obligations as, a *registered person*.

...

#### 22 Cancellation or suspension of registration at request of registered person

- 22.1 A *registered person* may at any time apply for cancellation or suspension of their registration. Subject to LR22.2, such person's registration will be deemed to be cancelled or suspended (as the case may be) when the *Controlling Body* notifies the *registered person* that the *Controlling Body* accepts that request.
- 22.2 If a *registered person* gives their registration certificate to a Steward or a member of the *Controlling Body* with an indication that the *registered person* wishes the registration to be cancelled or suspended, this action constitutes an application under LR22.1 on the registration of that person will be deemed to be cancelled or suspended (as the case may be) from the time that the registration certificate is given to the Steward or the *Controlling Body*.

## 2. Proposed amendments to GRV rules relating to greyhound properties

Amendments to LR24 are proposed to clarify that a person's greyhound property may be used for more than just training activities and that the property is not required to be 'registered' by GRV.

Further, the proposed changes clarify that registered participants must comply with all relevant laws and policies in relation to their greyhound property and allow the Board to impose conditions in relation to the greyhound property to address any issues which may arise from time to time.

The proposed amendment to LR25 is to clarify the situation where a person has to apply to the Board for approval to undertake greyhound related activities at any other greyhound property, in addition to the residence of, a person who has had their registration cancelled or suspended.

The proposed amendment to LR27.1 is to ensure the Board has adequate powers in relation to greyhound properties and in ensuring that the properties are fit for purpose. The Board has sought to assist participants when complex issues arise, but have not previously had broad enough powers, other than to deem the property is not fit for purpose such as when complex issues exist at the time of a participant's registration. These amendments will provide flexibility for the Board to deal with these types of issues and impose any necessary conditions, including those that that may need to be met at a future date, rather than having to refuse an application.

### PART 1: INTERPRETATION, DEFINITIONS, AND APPLICATION OF THE LOCAL RULES

#### 9 Definitions

***Greyhound Training Property*** means the property or premises at which a *person* uses for any permitted activities under these rules keeps (unless retired as a pet), trains or races greyhounds and, for the avoidance of doubt, this includes to breeds, whelps, rears, pre-trains, trains or keeps any greyhounds breaking in facilities.

### PART 5: REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONS AND GREYHOUNDS

#### 24 Registration of Greyhound Training Properties

- 24.1 The *Controlling Body* when considering an application for registration may grant the application with conditions that affect the use of a *Greyhound Property*.
- 24.2 The *Controlling Body* may deem any property that has, in the *Controlling Body's* opinion, been used by a *registered person* in connection with greyhound racing, to be a *Greyhound Property* for the purposes of the *Local Rules*.
- ~~24.1 The *Controlling Body* may prescribe categories of registration relative to a *Greyhound Training Property*.~~
- ~~24.2 To register a *Greyhound Training Property* with a *Controlling Body*, a person must:~~
- ~~24.2.1 make an application to the *Controlling Body* in the Prescribed Form~~
- ~~24.2.2 pay the prescribed fee; and~~

~~24.2.3 produce to the Controlling Body, any information required by the Controlling Body to assess the Greyhound Training Property's suitability for registration.~~

~~24.3 The Controlling Body when considering an application for registration may:~~

~~24.3.1 grant the application pursuant to any conditions it considers desirable;~~

~~24.3.2 request a person making application to appear before the Controlling Body and supply such information in respect of the application as the Controlling Body thinks fit; or~~

~~24.3.3 refuse to grant the application.~~

~~24.4 The Controlling Body may cancel a registration or suspend, vary or alter or add to the conditions of a registration of a Greyhound Training Property.~~

~~24.5 Unless sooner cancelled or suspended by the Controlling Body, the registration of a Greyhound Training Property remains in force for such time as may be prescribed by the Controlling Body.~~

~~24.6 The Controlling Body may deem a property that has, in the Controlling Body's opinion, been used by a Trainer in connection with greyhound racing, to be a Greyhound Training Property for the purposes of the Local Rules.~~

**25 Use of a Greyhound Training Property or residence of a person who is disqualified, warned off, or suspended or declared to be a defaulter.**

**25.1 A person registered in the category of Trainer must not keep (unless retired as a pet), breed, whelp, handle, rear, pre-train or train any greyhound at the residence of a person who has had their registration cancelled for a breach of the Local Rules.**

**25.2 Without limiting the prohibition in 25.1, unless otherwise approved by the Controlling Body, no registered person may breed, whelp, handle, rear, pre-train, train or keep any greyhounds train, keep (unless retired as a pet) or race any greyhounds at any Greyhound Property or residence property or premises which are deemed by the Controlling Body as being or as having been the Greyhound Training Property of a person who has had their registration cancelled or suspended ceased as a result of having been disqualified, warned off, suspended or declared to be a defaulter for a breach or potential breach of the Local Rules (the defaulting person).**

**25.3 An approval given under GAR178(3) for a disqualified person does not permit a person registered as a Trainer to keep (unless retired as a pet), breed, whelp, handle, rear, pre-train or train any greyhound at the residence of a person who has had their registration cancelled for a breach of the Local Rules.**

**27 Greyhound Training Property conditions**

**27.1 As a condition of registration, a registered person must, in respect of any Greyhound Property they control, comply with:**

**27.1.1 any conditions issued by the Controlling Body from time to time;**

**27.1.2 any conditions on their registration in respect to their Greyhound Property; and**

**27.1.3 all laws and policies relevant to their Greyhound Property.**

~~As a condition of registration and renewal of registration, a registered person must, in respect of any Greyhound Training Properties they control, comply with any conditions issued by the Controlling Body from time to time in respect of Greyhound Training Properties.~~

### 3. Proposed amendments to GRV rules relating to racing integrity

The proposed amendment to local rules relating to nominations aligns with amendments to GAR 76 to ensure stand down periods commence from the time of a greyhound's withdrawal from nomination for an Event and continues until 10 days after the relevant Event.

#### PART 7: EVENTS AND MEETINGS

##### Division 9: Nominations

#### 49 Conditions of acceptance of nominations by the Controlling Body

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**49.3** *A greyhound which has its nomination for an Event withdrawn after closure of nominations, but prior to box draw, will be subject to a stand-down period. This stand-down period starts at the time of the withdrawal of nomination and continues for 10 days from the date of the Event. Any greyhound in respect of which a nomination is withdrawn after closure of nominations but prior to box draw for any reason is prohibited from competing in any other Event for a period of 10 days from the date of the meeting.*

The proposed new rule relating to misconduct offences addresses some of the recommendations from the Independent Review into the Victorian Racing Industry (VRI) Victim Support and Complaint Processes (VSCP Review). This creates new requirements (in addition to those already provided for in the national rules) to support the prevention of physical and sexual abuse, assault, harassment and other unsafe or disrespectful behaviours in the greyhound racing industry.

#### PART 9: MISCONDUCT/OFFENCES

##### Division 1: General offences

#### 61A Conduct Offences

**61A.1** *An offence is committed if any person assaults, abuses, interferes with, threatens, or harasses another person:*

**61A.1.1** *while undertaking any activity in connection to greyhound racing; or*

**61A.1.2** *in or at any place in connection to greyhound racing, including at or in the vicinity of the place where an inquiry, other disciplinary process, hearing or appeal proceeding is to take place, is taking place or has taken place.*

### 4. Proposed amendments to GRV rules: miscellaneous items

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