



## **DRAFT AMENDMENT TO GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES – MARCH 2024 NOTES**

### **PART 1: REMOVAL OF EAR TATTOO REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Summary:**

The reliable identification of greyhounds is a fundamental integrity measure underpinning the sport of greyhound racing, and the tattooing (branding) of an ear with a unique registration code, is currently compulsory in all Greyhounds Australasia (GA) jurisdictions, with the exception of New Zealand.

In late 2022, Greyhound Racing New Zealand announced the introduction of Local Rules which removed the requirement for the mandatory ear tattoo in all NZ-registered greyhounds, with the practice ceased from 1 February 2023.

Concurrently, the GA Board sought to assess the phase-out of the ear tattoo and designated a working group to review all current methods of greyhound identification and assess their suitability, effectiveness, and associated risks.

The working group noted that advancement and access to technology have improved techniques for the identification of individual animals, and so has the reliability of identification methods employed by and available to the greyhound industry.

Following the review by the working group and consultation between Controlling Bodies, the GA Board has determined that by 1 November 2024, the requirement for ear tattooing of registered greyhounds will cease.

This change will see all jurisdictions move to the microchip as the primary method of identification, with integration of alternative identification measures as tools for secondary identification to be implemented by each responsible Controlling Body.

In preparation for the termination of the ear tattooing of greyhounds and the removal of the ear tattoo as a source of identification within the GA Rules (GARs), the second phase of amended GA Rules are provided for external consultation with the amended rules to remove all reference to ear tattoos.

This is the case in the majority of the amended draft GARs presented, with two exceptions related to GAR 89 Examination in Relation to the identity of a Greyhound and the introduction of a newly defined term within the GARs, "Alternate Method of Identification"



Following substantial discussion at the GA Rules Forum and input of GA Committees, the proposed amendments to GAR 89 seek to maintain the primary consideration for the integrity of any event. Draft amendment GAR 89(1) maintains that no greyhound shall be permitted to race unless the identification of the said greyhound is established to the satisfaction of stewards.

The proposed rule GAR 89(1) is also contingent on the accompanying inclusion, of a newly defined term within the GAR's.

The term, "*Alternate Method of Identification*", has been concurrently presented for consultation and provides for a method of identification, other than microchip, as determined by the controlling body.

The definition is constructed to provide flexibility to individual jurisdictions, dependent upon their capabilities. It also provides jurisdictions with the ability to add methods of identification as new technologies become available, without having to singly amend the associated GA rule.

The GA Board has approved the following proposed GA rule amendments, related to Ear Tattoo removal, for external consultation by the Controlling Bodies.

### **Ear Tattoo Removal**

- i) Definition – Alternate Method of Identification
- ii) Definition – C3 & C5
- iii) Definition – DNA Fingerprinting
- iv) GAR 48 (4) Registration and Naming of a Greyhound
- v) GAR 63 (5) Multiple sired litters
- vi) GAR 64 (1) & (2) Registration of a litter
- vii) GAR 71 (4) Result of Service
- viii) GAR 72 (9) (b) (i) DNA fingerprint analysis
- ix) GAR 89 Examination in Relation to the identity of a Greyhound

### **Termination of Greyhound Ear Tattoo - FAQs**

#### **Q. When will the requirement for greyhound pups to have an ear tattoo cease?**

A. It is intended that by 1 November 2024, the requirement for an ear tattoo to be applied as part of the identification process for greyhound pups will cease. Current identification methods of microchipping and marking will continue to occur.

#### **Q. What methods will replace the ear tattoo for the identification of greyhound pups?**



- A. The microchip will remain as the primary identifier for registered greyhounds. Several alternate identification methods are currently being advanced by Controlling Bodies to replace the ear tattoo.

**Q. What happens if the microchip cannot be located or read by the scanner?**

- A. Each greyhound pup will continue to be provided with a unique registration code (currently the ear tattoo/brand) that will sit within the greyhound's digital profile and remain uniquely attributed to that greyhound for life.

If the microchip cannot be located or read, then a replacement microchip will need to be inserted and a DNA sample may be taken to verify the greyhound's identity.

Controlling Bodies are currently addressing the implementation of alternate methods of identification, which would be available to operate if the microchip cannot be found. It is intended that these measures will be incorporated into the race day procedures at a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction level.



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### PART 2: BREEDING RULES

#### **Summary:**

The contemporary Greyhounds Australasia (GA) Rules were formally adopted in May 2022. Since that time jurisdictions have instituted additional measures concerning the regulation of breeding. These measures have been adopted through several governing mechanisms such as codes of practice and the local rules of greyhound racing.

Regulation of the number of litters and the age of breeding females are prescribed within the GRV Code of Practice and the NSW (GWIC) local rules.

Within the following proposed amendments, several draft GARs seek to capture the provisions prescribed within the codes of practice and local rules to ensure an aligned and consistent approach across all GA jurisdictions.

Concurrently additional consideration has been provided within the draft amendments, for the number of Caesarean Section whelping that a breeding female may have.

In August 2023, the Greyhounds Australasia (GA) Board approved an update to the policy for the approval of Greyhound Passport for export and the execution of GA Rule 44 and Rule 45.

The updated policy provided clarification on destination country requirements (excluding New Zealand) for GA Passport approval where greyhounds are being exported, for racing and/or breeding.

The policy stated that from August 1, 2023, the GA-recognised Racing & Breeding Authorities were limited to:

- Great Britain – Greyhound Board of Great Britain
- Ireland – Greyhound Racing Ireland
- Ireland – Irish Coursing Club
- United States of America – National Greyhound Association

These jurisdictions are also acknowledged as member countries of the International Alliance of Greyhound Registries.



The GA Board has approved the proposed rules amendments, in relation to breeding, for external consultation by the Controlling Bodies.

**Breeding Rules**

- i) GAR 45 Other Rules in Relation to Export
- ii) GAR 56 Registration of Sires and Breeding Females
- iii) GAR 57 Limit on the Age at which a breeding female can be serviced
- iv) GAR 58 Limit on the number of litters that can be whelped by a breeding female
- v) GAR 59A Limit on the number of litters that can be whelped by a breeding female by caesarean section
- vi) GAR 67 Breeding Unit of Semen Collection and Registration
- vii) GAR 70 Import and Export regulation to breeding units of semen



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### PART 3: PROHIBITED & EXEMPTED SUBSTANCES

#### **Introduction:**

In May 2022, Greyhounds Australasia (GA) introduced simplified and modernised National Rules. As part of the 2022 GA Rules rewrite, a significant public consultation process was conducted.

Feedback provided by key stakeholders during this consultation related to exempted, therapeutic and permanently banned (prohibited) substances.

The introduction of changes to exempted substances or permanently banned substances can only be proposed for introduction into the GA rules, once an extensive process has been undertaken that requires consultation with specialist groups, targeted research, and study, followed by an extensive risk analysis to ensure that both the welfare of greyhounds and the integrity of the sport are maintained.

Following such processes, draft amendments to the GARs are proposed. Specifically, GAR 139 *Permanently banned prohibited substances* and GAR 138 Meaning of *exempted substance*.

The proposed addition to GAR 139 would prohibit the use of Bisphosphonates in greyhounds. Bisphosphonates are drugs that inhibit the normal biological mechanism for bone maintenance/repair, which can lead to increased bone fragility. Bisphosphonates can also cause retention of calcified cartilage in skeletally immature animals, leading to developmental orthopaedic disease.

Additionally, the proposed amendment to GAR 138 (a) would add ethinylestradiol and/or levonorgestrel to the exempted substances available for veterinary prescription for the control of oestrus in female greyhounds.

The GA Board has approved the following draft rules for consultation by the Controlling Bodies:

#### **Prohibited and Exempted Substances**

- i) GAR 139 Permanently banned prohibited substances and certain offences in relation to them. (y) Bisphosphonates
- ii) GAR 138 Meaning of an exempted substance. (a) ethinylestradiol and/or levonorgestrel



## DRAFT AMENDMENT TO GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES – MARCH 2024

### PART 4: WELFARE & OTHERS

#### **Introduction:**

The contemporary Greyhounds Australasia (GA) Rules were formally adopted in May 2022.

Since that time, there have been measures identified as opportunities to increase the workability of the GARs. Three such measures are presented as draft amendments within this program of proposed rules.

The first proposed amendment concerning the GARs relates to the consolidation of the definition of presentation and presented, the draft would see alignment to the specifications outlined within the local rules of racing in both Victoria and NSW.

The proposed amendment to the GAR Definition seeks to capture these local rule alterations and ensures an aligned and consistent approach across all GA jurisdictions.

The second draft proposal for GAR 76 relates to measures imposed in the event of a greyhound being scratched from an event after the drawing of boxes. Under the current provisions of GAR 76(2) and GAR 76(4), the stand-down measures imposed commence on the date of the event.

In the scenario whereby a greyhound is scratched in the days between the box draw and the event, a loophole exists whereby a greyhound may compete in an alternate event as the stand-down does not commence until the day of the original event. i.e. scratch on Tuesday from a Friday race, but race on the Wednesday before penalty commencement (Friday).

The draft amendments to GAR 76, seek to close out such a loophole by ensuring that the stand-down commences at the time of scratching and continues for the period outlined from the day of the event.

The third proposal outlines an amendment to GAR 42 which looks to capture any veterinary episode, described within GAR 42, that occurs on a racecourse.

The proposed rule amendment, part (d) of GAR42, provides clarity concerning the location and application of a sanction to a greyhound that suffers a prescribed veterinary episode including seizure or collapse.

The following draft rules are presented for consultation by the Controlling Bodies:



**Welfare & Others**

- i) Definition: Presentation or Presented
- ii) GAR 42 (d) Restrictions on Greyhounds Competing due to central or peripheral nervous system or vision condition
- iii) GAR 76 Scratching after box draw