

# Hot Weather Policy



Department	Welfare and Integrity
Responsible GRV General Manager	Executive General Manager of Welfare and Integrity
Date of GRV Board approval	10 September 2024
Effective date	30 September 2024
Review	This policy will be reviewed annually.

Purpose	To provide requirements for racing and trialling activity at venues that have been declared 'hot weather affected'.
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Scope	All Registered Persons, GRV staff and officials, and Club staff and officials must comply with the requirements in this policy and <b>Appendix 1</b> .
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Related policies	The GRV Transport Policy applies for all transportation of greyhounds, including on 'hot weather affected' days.
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<b>Policy</b>	
<b>Policy principles</b>	<p>The welfare of the greyhound always comes before travelling, racing and trialling endeavours. This policy will assist in minimising the potential for heat stress in greyhounds in hot weather.</p> <p>For the purpose of this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>event</b> means the competitive pursuit by one or more greyhounds of a lure and includes a series, qualifying trial or in the case of a coursing meeting a 'course'.</li><li>• <b>meeting</b> means any occasion at which greyhound racing events are scheduled to be conducted pursuant to the GRV Rules.</li><li>• <b>venue</b> means the Club at which a meeting is scheduled to be held.</li><li>• <b>scheduled day</b> means the entire day that the meeting is scheduled to be held.</li><li>• <b>scheduled time of the meeting</b> means the time, on the scheduled day, from the start of kennelling, until 30 minutes after the last event.</li><li>• <b>forecast maximum temperature</b> is the highest temperature forecasted by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) for the BoM weather station nearest to the venue at any time on the scheduled day.</li><li>• <b>hot weather affected</b> means where the forecast maximum temperature at the venue at any time on the scheduled day (regardless of the time the meeting is due to start and finish) is 32°C or higher.</li><li>• <b>cancelled meeting</b> means a meeting that the GRV Racing Department has determined will not proceed prior to fields being finalised.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>abandoned meeting and/or abandoned event</b> means a meeting and/or an event that, the Stewards Department has determined will not start or continue after the fields have been finalised.</li> </ul>
<b>Declaring a hot weather affected day</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The GRV Racing and Racing Safety Department will declare a venue to be hot weather affected if the <b>forecast maximum temperature</b> is 32°C or higher at the venue at any time on the scheduled day<sup>1</sup>.</li> <li>2. Once a venue has been declared to be hot weather affected, the venue will remain hot weather affected regardless of any change to forecast temperature or actual temperature on the day.</li> </ol>
<b>Racing at hot weather affected venues</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Where the first race of a meeting at a hot weather affected venue is scheduled after 11am, kennelling for the meeting will open 30 minutes earlier than standard kennelling times.</li> <li>4. Racing must not occur if the Stewards determine the ambient temperature at the venue is 38°C or higher.</li> <li>5. Once the ambient temperature reaches 35°C or higher, Stewards must check the temperature at the Venue’s weather station five minutes prior to each race. If the ambient temperature at the venue weather station reaches 38°C or higher the Stewards will either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. postpone the next race until the ambient temperature at the Venue drops to lower than 38°C; or</li> <li>b. abandon the next race; or</li> <li>c. abandon the remainder of the meeting.</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. During the scheduled time of the meeting, where the actual temperature at the hot weather affected venue is lower than 32°C, the Stewards have discretion to waive compliance with this policy, with the exception of clause 3 (relating to early kennelling) and clause 12 (seeking veterinary advice).</li> </ol>
<b>Scratching on hot weather affected days</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Where a venue has been declared hot weather affected prior to the appointed scratching time, for that meeting, a stand down period will not be applied to a nominated greyhound withdrawn from racing due to the hot weather if the greyhound is withdrawn before the end of the appointed scratching time.</li> <li>8. Where a venue has been declared hot weather affected after the appointed scratching time, for that meeting, the Stewards may at their discretion, waive the stand down period if the greyhound’s withdrawal is notified to Stewards between the time of the declaration and the close of kennelling.</li> <li>9. These provisions only apply to scratching a greyhound due to hot weather and do not apply to withdraw for other reasons including, but not limited to, injury, illness, seasonal, unfavourable box draw or insufficient air-conditioned transport.</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> Regardless of the scheduled time of the meeting.

<p><b>Participant requirements on hot weather affected days</b></p>	<p>10. Registered Persons must transport greyhounds to the meeting in compliance with the GRV Transport Policy.</p> <p>11. The Registered Person in control of the greyhound is permitted to use cooling vests on their greyhounds at any time prior to or after racing or trialling.</p> <p>12. Upon arrival at the venue, the Registered Person in control of the greyhound must offer the greyhound drinking water before proceeding to kennelling.</p> <p>13. Prior to an event, greyhounds must proceed directly to the starting boxes without being paraded.</p> <p>14. Immediately after the greyhound has competed in its event, the Registered Person in control of the greyhound must take the greyhound to the nearest hosing or wash-down bay, without being paraded. The greyhound must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. offered drinking water; and</li> <li>b. hosed down so that it is thoroughly wet on the feet, chest, head, neck, back and groin areas. Excess water must be removed from the greyhound immediately afterwards.</li> </ul> <p>15. Greyhounds must remain on course, preferably inside the kennel block, for a minimum of 15 minutes after their race or trial, to allow the greyhound to cool down.</p> <p>16. The Registered Person in control of the greyhound must immediately seek veterinary advice if the greyhound is showing signs of heat stress, passing dark or red coloured urine, or exhibiting any other abnormalities.<sup>2</sup></p>
<p><b>Club requirements for meeting held at their venue</b></p>	<p>17. All Club air conditioning systems in the kennel building must be functional and serviced at least annually in the months of August or September.</p> <p>18. Clubs must have a functioning weather station, installed in an appropriate position at the venue as determined in consultation with GRV, which is regularly maintained and subjected to regular quality control.</p> <p>19. Clubs must maintain the ambient temperature in the kennels between 16 - 24°C during the scheduled time of the meeting, with the ideal target temperature being 18°C.</p>
<p><b>Club requirements when their venue is declared hot weather affected</b></p>	<p>20. Where a meeting venue has been declared hot weather affected, the Club must turn on every air conditioning unit in the kennels, vet room, swab room, Stewards room and kennel bays at least three (3) hours prior to the start of kennelling. The air conditioning units must be set at a temperature low enough so that the ambient temperature in relevant areas is between 16-24°C by the scheduled start time of the meeting.</p>

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<sup>2</sup> Potential indicators of heat stress include dehydration, panting, skin feeling warm, fast heart rate and pulse, drooling, red gums, muscle tremors and seizures. If there is any doubt as to whether or not a greyhound is suffering from heat stress, the Registered Person in control of the greyhound must consult with the On-Track Veterinarian (OTV) as soon as symptoms present.

<p><b>Trialling at meetings that have been declared hot weather affected</b></p>	<p>21. Where a venue has been declared hot weather affected, trials may only occur at the venue after a meeting, if the meeting is scheduled as a twilight or a night meeting.</p> <p>22. Trialling must not occur at any time when the ambient temperature at the venue reaches 38°C or higher.</p> <p>23. For venues with air-conditioned trial kennels available, where a venue has been declared hot weather affected, a greyhound can only be trialled if the greyhound has been booked in for an after-race trial and is booked into and is kennelled in the air-conditioned trial kennels during the race meeting.</p> <p>24. For venues without air-conditioned trial kennels, or where the air-conditioned trial kennels are unavailable, where a venue has been declared hot weather affected, a greyhound may only be trialled if the greyhound is booked in for an after-race trial and the greyhound does not arrive at the venue any earlier than the scheduled time of the second last race.</p> <p>25. Where a venue has been declared hot weather affected, the Registered Person in control of the greyhound must not permit a greyhound being presented to trail to arrive at the venue before the scheduled time of the second last race, unless the greyhound has been booked into and is kennelled in an air-conditioned trial kennel.</p>
<p><b>Non-race day trialling in hot weather</b></p>	<p>26. Where a Club has scheduled non-race day trials and the forecast maximum temperature for the venue on the day is 32 - 37.9°C during the proposed trial session, the Club must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. continue with the trial session consistent with the principles of the race day options outlined in Appendix 1; or</li> <li>b. re-schedule the trial session to another time on the scheduled day when the weather is predicted to be less than 32°C; or</li> <li>c. re-schedule the trial session to another day; or</li> <li>d. cancel the trial session.</li> </ul> <p>27. Where the forecast maximum temperature for the venue on the day of non-race day trialling is 38°C or higher during the proposed trial session, the Club must cancel or re-schedule the trial sessions.</p> <p>28. NOTE: Trial sessions should be cancelled by noon the day prior if possible.</p>

## Appendix 1: Procedures relating to the Hot Weather Policy

### Declaring a hot weather affected day

- The GRV Racing and Racing Safety Department will check the temperature forecast for the venue regularly in the week prior to a meeting including monitoring the Bureau of Meteorology’s regular updates on the day before the scheduled day.
- Hot weather affected declarations will occur either on the day prior to the scheduled day of the meeting, or on the scheduled day of the meeting. For the avoidance of doubt, this declaration will always occur before fields are finalised.

### GRV options on hot weather affected days

Temperature	Options
<b>32 - 37.9°C</b>	<p>Where the <b>forecast maximum temperature</b> for the venue on the scheduled day is <b>32 - 37.9°C</b>, the GRV Racing and Racing Safety Department will either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>continue with the meeting consistent with requirements set out in this policy; or</li><li>re-schedule the meeting to another time on the scheduled day; or</li><li>re-schedule the meeting to another day; or</li><li>transfer the meeting to a different venue (if fields are not yet finalised); or</li><li>cancel the meeting.</li></ol> <p>All decisions must take into account the scheduled time of the meeting, travel time and the hot weather requirements of the GRV Transport Policy</p>
<b>38°C or higher</b>	<p>Where the <b>forecast maximum temperature</b> for the venue on the scheduled day is <b>38°C or higher</b>, the GRV Racing and Racing Safety Department will either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>continue with the meeting consistent with requirements set out in this policy (but only if the forecast maximum temperature is lower than 38°C during the scheduled time of the meeting); or</li><li>re-schedule the meeting to another time on the scheduled day (but only if the forecast maximum temperature is lower than 38°C during the re-scheduled time of the meeting); or</li><li>re-schedule the meeting to another day; or</li><li>transfer the meeting to a different venue (if fields are not yet finalised); or</li><li>cancel the meeting.</li></ol> <p>All decisions must take into account the scheduled time of the meeting, travel time and the hot weather requirements of the GRV Transport Policy</p>

### **Responsibility for cancellation or abandonment of a hot weather affected meeting and/or event**

- Up until the time that the fields are finalised (close of scratchings), the Racing and Racing Safety Department is responsible for the declaration, management and cancellation of a hot weather affected meeting.
- Between the time that fields are finalised and 2½ hours prior to the first race, the Stewards Department is responsible for the management and abandonment of a hot weather affected meeting, in consultation between the General Manager Racing and Racing Safety and the Chief Steward.
- From 2½ hours prior to the first race, the Stewards Department is responsible for the management and abandonment of a hot weather affected meeting and/or event.
- The Racing and Racing Safety Department will notify Registered Persons of early kennelling.

### **Steward requirements and decisions**

- Stewards must record the kennel area temperature and the outside venue temperature at around the commencement of kennelling.
- The Stewards must regularly check the ambient temperature outside or near the kennel block during the scheduled time of a meeting. If the ambient temperature outside or near the kennel block during the scheduled time of a meeting is 35°C or higher, Stewards must also check the ambient temperature at the Club weather station five minutes prior to each subsequent race. If the ambient temperature at the Club weather station reaches 38°C or higher the Stewards will either:
  - a. postpone the next race until the ambient temperature at the Club weather station drops to lower than 38°C; or
  - b. abandon the next race; or
  - c. abandon the remainder of the meeting.
- Where the actual temperature at the venue, during the scheduled time of the meeting, is significantly lower than 32°C, and noting clause 2 of the Hot Weather Policy, the Stewards may relax or dispense with any of the additional meeting requirements for hot weather affected days set out in this policy, with the exception of clause 3 of the Hot Weather Policy (relating to early kennelling) and clause 12 of the Hot Weather Policy (seeking veterinary advice).

### **Club requirements for meetings held at their venue on hot weather affected days**

- a. Clubs must have functioning temperature and humidity loggers in all kennel areas that simultaneously measure and record temperature and humidity readings.
- b. Clubs must activate the air conditioning system in the trial and race kennels at least three hours before kennel opening time.
- c. Club staff must record the kennel area temperature immediately prior to each race when the greyhounds are being retrieved.
- d. Clubs must open kennels 30 minutes earlier than the standard time of opening for day, twilight and night meetings. Clubs do not need to open kennels early for hot weather affected morning meetings.
- e. Clubs must have a set of eight cooling vests that can be made available, if requested, at the catching pen prior to the start of each race.

- f. Clubs must adhere to the trialling requirements set out in this policy on days where the forecast maximum temperature is 32°C or above.