

Participant Registration Framework

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Participation Registration Framework

Introduction

Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) is responsible for governing and promoting greyhound racing in Victoria. In performing its statutory functions, GRV ensures that registered persons comply with the rules, policies and standards that apply to the sport.

GRV provides several registration categories to accommodate different levels and types of participation in the greyhound racing industry. These categories are **Owner, Trainer, Catcher, Attendant, Studmaster and Breeder**.

Owner registration is required for any person who owns, part-owns, or otherwise holds an interest in a greyhound.

Catcher registration authorises a person to catch greyhounds at race meetings. This category is limited and permits the holder to perform catching duties only at Events.

Attendant registration authorises a person to handle and catch greyhounds at race meetings, this includes transportation to Events.

Trainer registration is required for any person who cares for or trains greyhounds. A person registered as a Trainer must also hold Owner registration.

Breeder registration authorises a person to conduct breeding activities and whelp litters. A person registered as a Breeder must also hold Owner registration.

Any person involved in the whelping, rearing, breaking-in or education of a greyhound must hold registration with GRV.

1.0 Applications for registration

In assessing applications for registration, the Board is not only concerned with the conduct of individual applicants but also with the broader interests of the sport. The Board's regulatory functions are directed towards protecting the industry from risks that may adversely affect its integrity, animal welfare



outcomes, reputation or effective governance. By ensuring that only suitable persons are registered, the Board supports public confidence in greyhound racing and promotes a sustainable future for the sport.

Registration applications are assessed through a two-stage process. Stage 1 applies as an initial threshold that must be met by the applicant before their application considered for approval under Stage 2 of the process.

Stages 1 and 2 involve separate inquiries, and a finding that an applicant meets the eligibility criteria at Stage 1 does not mean that their application must be approved at Stage 2.

The level of regulatory risk, and the weight given to relevant considerations before the Board, will vary according to the category of registration sought.

For example, **Owners** occupy an important position within the industry. They make decisions relating to the welfare and management of greyhounds, are responsible for rehoming outcomes, may have custody and control of greyhounds, and can influence public confidence in the integrity and reputation of the sport.

The role of a **Breeder** is also of particular significance from an animal welfare perspective. Breeders are responsible for the care, management and wellbeing of greyhounds from birth and throughout the early stages of their development. This is a critical period in a greyhound's life, during which they are particularly vulnerable and reliant on appropriate care. Breeders' decisions and conduct can have lasting implications for the health, welfare and traceability of greyhounds and therefore play an important role in maintaining community confidence in the industry's welfare standards.

Applications for registration as a **Trainer** attract the highest level of scrutiny. Trainers occupy positions of significant responsibility and have the greatest capacity to affect the welfare of the greyhounds, the integrity of the sport and the reputation of the greyhound racing industry. Trainers' responsibilities extend beyond the day-to-day care and management of greyhounds. Trainers are entrusted with making critical decisions regarding the health, welfare and racing careers of the animals in their care. The Board must be satisfied that an applicant for registration as a Trainer will adhere to high standards of integrity, responsibility, judgment and compliance with the Rules and regulatory requirements.

GRV assesses each application on its individual merits, having regard to all relevant information and circumstances known at the time of the decision.



Stage One: Eligibility – Can the applicant be considered for registration?

Stage One of registration process determines whether the applicant meets a series of eligibility criteria prescribed by **Local Rule 16 Registration eligibility**. Eligibility is a threshold question - if an applicant fails to meet one or more eligibility criteria, the application cannot be considered further and must be refused.

Some eligibility criteria are matters of fact, such as whether the person is over 18 years of age, resides in Victoria, or has had an application for registration refused in the previous six months.

Other eligibility criteria require assessment, such as LR 16.1.3, which requires GRV to be satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to be registered.

The full list of the current eligibility requirements are contained within LR 16.

Further information about the following assessment-based eligibility criteria is available at:

1. Appendix 1 - Fit and Proper Person Assessment
2. Appendix 2 - Fit for Purpose Property requirements

Where the Board is satisfied that the eligibility requirements have been met, the application will proceed to the Stage 2 assessment.

Where the Board is not satisfied that the applicant is eligible for registration under LR 16, it will issue an **Eligibility Notice** setting out the Board's concerns and providing the applicant with an opportunity to make written submissions in response (further information about submissions is below).

The onus is on the applicant to provide sufficient information to satisfy the Board or address the Board's areas of concern.

After considering any submissions received, the Board will reassess the applicant's eligibility and determine whether:

- the applicant satisfies the eligibility requirements and may proceed to Stage 2; or
- the applicant does not satisfy the eligibility requirements, in which case the application must be refused.



Stage Two: Suitability Assessment – Should the applicant be registered?

Where the Board is satisfied that an applicant meets the eligibility criteria under LR 16, it must then determine whether the application should be approved, approved subject to conditions, or refused under the **Local Rule 18 Application process**.

A person's previous registration does not create an entitlement to future registration. Similarly, a refusal to grant registration is not a penalty and does not constitute an extension of any period of suspension, disqualification or warning off.

The second stage of GRV's process considers whether the applicant is suitable for registration under LR18, having regard to the broader protective and regulatory objectives of the registration framework. In exercising its discretion under LR18, the Board may consider matters that do not render an applicant ineligible under LR16, but nevertheless raise concerns about the applicant's suitability for registration or the risks that their participation may pose to GRV or the industry.

While some matters may be relevant to both stages, the purpose of each inquiry is materially different. LR16 is directed to eligibility, principally by reference to an applicant's past conduct and circumstances. LR18 requires a broader assessment of suitability, regulatory risk, and whether granting registration would be consistent with the Board's obligation to protect the integrity, animal welfare standards, reputation, and proper administration of the sport.

The Stage 2 assessment is broader than the Stage 1 assessment and an applicant may satisfy the eligibility criteria under LR 16 and yet be considered unsuitable for registration under LR 18.

The registration assessment is a key mechanism through which the Board protects the greyhound racing industry from actual and potential harm. The Board's role is not confined to responding to misconduct after it occurs; it also involves identifying and proactively managing risks before the harm arises. The Board must be satisfied that granting registration would not expose the sport to an unacceptable risk of harm, including harm to its integrity, animal welfare standards, reputation or the effective administration of the regulatory framework.

Public confidence in greyhound racing is fundamental to the sport's community acceptance, ongoing operation and long-term sustainability. The Board must also



be satisfied that the applicant's conduct, both within and outside the racing environment, is consistent with maintaining and promoting confidence in the integrity, accountability and reputation of the sport and the industry's commitment to animal welfare.

The greyhound racing regulatory framework relies significantly upon participants voluntarily complying with the Rules of Racing, policies, directions and other regulatory requirements. The Board must be satisfied that an applicant can be relied upon to comply with those obligations without the need for intensive monitoring or direct regulatory oversight.

Examples of matters the Board may have regard to in assessing suitability are available in **Appendix 3**.

Each application is assessed on its own merits, having regard to the information available to the Board at the time the decision is made. LR 18 confers a broad discretion on the Board and provides both general powers and specific grounds upon which an application may be refused. These powers are discussed further in **Appendix 3**.

Where the Board forms a preliminary view that an application may be refused under LR 18, it will issue a Notice of Intent to Refuse outlining the matters of concern and inviting the applicant to provide written submissions. The onus is on the applicant to provide sufficient information to satisfy the Board or address the Board's areas of concern.

Following consideration of any submissions and supporting material received, the Board will reconsider the application and determine whether:

- the application should be approved;
- the application should be approved subject to conditions; or
- the application should be refused.

The Board will make its determination having regard to all information available to it at the time of the decision, including any submissions made by the applicant.

Conditional registration

The Rules prescribe a number of standard conditions that apply to registration. Further information on these conditions is set out in:



- LR19 Conditions of grant of all registrations
- LR20 Term of registration; and
- LR 21 Additional Provisions for Owners, Trainers, Catchers, Attendants.

Where the Board identifies concerns about an applicant's suitability, it may approve the application subject to additional conditions if satisfied that those conditions will adequately mitigate the identified risks.

Conditions provide the Board with a mechanism to manage risks that might otherwise warrant refusal of the application.

However, the Board may refuse an application where it considers that the risks associated with registration cannot be effectively managed through conditions, or would remain unacceptable despite the imposition of conditions.

Examples of the conditions may be imposed by the Board include (but are not limited to):

- additional greyhound numbers caps;
- a requirement that the person's registration be reviewed should they be charged with, convicted of, or otherwise become involved in specified offending or conduct of concern;
- restrictions relating to the custody, housing, care, management or welfare of greyhounds;
- restrictions on the use of specified properties or premises in connection with greyhound racing activities;
- requirements to maintain and provide additional records, including records of persons entering or leaving premises where greyhounds are kept;
- requirements for enhanced control measures at premises used in connection with greyhound racing activities;
- obligations to notify GRV of specified events, changes in circumstances, or matters relevant to the person's registration; and
- any other condition the Board considers necessary to manage identified integrity, welfare, compliance or regulatory risks.



2.0 Submissions

As part of the application process, the Board may require, request or invite an applicant to provide further information.

Where the Board **requires** information under LR 17.2, an applicant must provide the information within the period specified by the Board. Failure to do so may result in the application being refused.

Where the Board **requests** or **invites** an applicant to provide information as part of Stage 2 of the process, the applicant is not required to do so. However, if the applicant does not provide the requested information and the Board reasonably considers that the information would assist in the assessment of the application, the Board may refuse the application pursuant to LR 18.2.4.6.

Where the Board invites submissions in relation to an application, applicants will ordinarily be provided with 30 days in which to respond.

If no further information or submissions are provided, the Board may determine the application on the information available to it and without further notice to the applicant.

Where an applicant provides further information or submissions, whether generally in support of the application or in response to specific concerns identified by the Board, that material will be considered as part of the assessment process.

Applicants may provide personal or character references in support of their application. References must be in writing and signed and dated by the author. A reference should clearly identify:

- the referee's relationship to the applicant or the capacity in which they know the applicant;
- the length of time the referee has known the applicant; and
- the basis upon which the referee is able to comment on the applicant's eligibility or their suitability to be registered.

The onus remains on the applicant to provide sufficient information to satisfy the Board and to address any concerns identified during the assessment process.



3.0 Registration subject to meeting further requirements

In some circumstances, the Board may approve an application subject to the applicant satisfying outstanding competency or operational requirements. In these cases, the Board has formed the view that the applicant is suitable for registration, however, the registration will not take effect unless and until the specified requirements have been met.

This approach allows applicants to obtain an indication of the Board's decision before incurring the time and expense associated with meeting certain registration requirements.

For example:

- Owners, Breeders and Trainers may be approved for registration subject to a satisfactory kennel inspection. This avoids the need for an applicant to invest in kennel facilities before receiving an indication that their application is likely to be approved.
- Catchers and Attendants may be approved for registration subject to successfully completing a practical assessment conducted by GRV Stewards where they demonstrate the ability to control a greyhound and undertake race day duties.

In these circumstances, Registration will not commence until all applicable requirements and conditions have been met.

4.0 Appeal

Decisions of the Board relating to registration may be reviewed by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

An applicant may apply to VCAT for review of a decision to:

- refuse an application for registration;
- revoke a registration;
- impose, vary or revoke a condition of registration; or
- refuse an application to vary or revoke a condition of registration.



An application for review must be lodged with VCAT within 28 days after the applicant receives notice of the Board's decision.

The commencement of a review proceeding at VCAT does not ordinarily suspend the operation of the Board's decision. Unless VCAT orders otherwise, the Board's decision remains in effect until the review has been determined.

If an applicant wishes the operation of the Board's decision to be suspended pending the outcome of the review, they may apply to VCAT for a stay of the decision. However, in some circumstances, a stay may have little or no practical effect. For example, a stay of a decision refusing an application for registration would not result in the applicant being granted registration pending the outcome of the VCAT review.

Following its review, VCAT may:

- confirm the Board's decision;
- vary the Board's decision;
- set aside the Board's decision and substitute its own decision;
- set aside the Board's decision and send the application back to the Board for reconsideration, with or without directions; or
- invite the Board to reconsider its decision at any stage of the proceeding.

Further information regarding review applications can be found on the VCAT website. <https://www.vcat.vic.gov.au/case-types/review-and-regulation/application-for-review-of-a-decision/racing-act-1958-review>

5.0 Reassessment after registration

Ongoing Eligibility and Registration Requirements

Throughout the period of Registration, a registered person must remain eligible for registration, continue to satisfy the fit and proper person requirement, and ensure that any Greyhound Property remains fit for purpose.

The Board may review a person's registration at any time to determine whether the person continues to satisfy the requirements for registration. This review may occur as part of a regular regulatory audit or may occur as a result of



information coming to GRV's attention.

Registration is a continuing privilege, not a one-time assessment. Registered persons are expected to maintain the standards required for registration throughout the period of their participation in the industry. Where circumstances change, the Board may revisit questions of eligibility, fitness, propriety or property suitability to ensure the integrity, welfare standards, reputation and effective regulation of the sport continue to be protected.

5.1 Eligibility

Meeting the eligibility requirements is an ongoing requirement of registration. A person must not only be eligible to obtain registration but must also remain eligible throughout the period of registration.

If a registered person ceases to satisfy a question of fact eligibility requirement, the Board will cancel their registration. For example, where a person has a finding of guilt for an animal welfare offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (Vic), they cease to be eligible for registration, and their registration will be cancelled.

5.2 Fit and Proper Person Requirement

Remaining a fit and proper person is an eligibility requirement and a continuing condition of registration (LR19.2.3). The Board may review a registered person's fit and proper status at any time.

Where the Board is no longer satisfied that a registered person is fit and proper, it may suspend or cancel the person's registration in accordance with LR 19.4.

Unlike those eligibility requirements that are based on objective facts, the fit and proper person requirement involves an evaluative assessment by the Board. This means that concerns regarding a person's fit and proper status may arise from circumstances that are capable of being addressed, explained or remedied over time.

Recognising this distinction, LR 19.4 provides the Board with the discretion to suspend a person's registration rather than cancel it. This allows the registered person an opportunity to take steps to address the Board's concerns and, where appropriate, satisfy the Board that they continue to meet the fit and proper person requirement.



Where the Board is subsequently satisfied that the person is fit and proper, the suspension may be lifted. However, where the concerns cannot be adequately addressed, the Board may cancel the registration.

5.3 Greyhound Property

Registered persons who use a Greyhound Property in connection with their registration must ensure that the property remains fit for purpose.

Fit for purpose is not restricted to whether the facilities meet the minimum Code requirements. A property may be considered not fit for purpose for any reason that makes the premises unsuitable for use as a Greyhound Property, either permanently or temporarily.

For example, the Board may look at the security of the property, the people residing at or frequenting the property, what else the property is being used for, whether the use is legal, whether the use is in breach of the Rules, whether there are welfare concerns such as contamination or recent and unusual numbers of greyhound deaths at the property.

The Board may review the suitability of a Greyhound Property at any time. Where the Board determines that a Greyhound Property is no longer fit for purpose, it may suspend or cancel the person's registration in accordance with LR 19.5.

Like the fit and proper requirements, LR 19.5 provides discretion for the Board suspend the registration to allow the registered person an opportunity to take steps to address the Board's concerns and, where appropriate, satisfy the Board at a later date that their Greyhound Property is fit for purpose or they have secured an alternative Greyhound Property.

5.4 Capability

A registered person must remain capable of undertaking the activities and meeting the obligations associated with their registration (LR19.2.4).

Capability may be affected by a range of changes in circumstances, including financial difficulties, declining physical health, age-related conditions, or mental health issues. These circumstances may be temporary or ongoing.

Reduced capability does not relieve a participant of their obligations under the Rules or their responsibilities to their greyhounds. Participants must prioritise



greyhound welfare and should act promptly to secure suitable homes for retired greyhounds or transfer active greyhounds to another registered person where their capability becomes impaired.

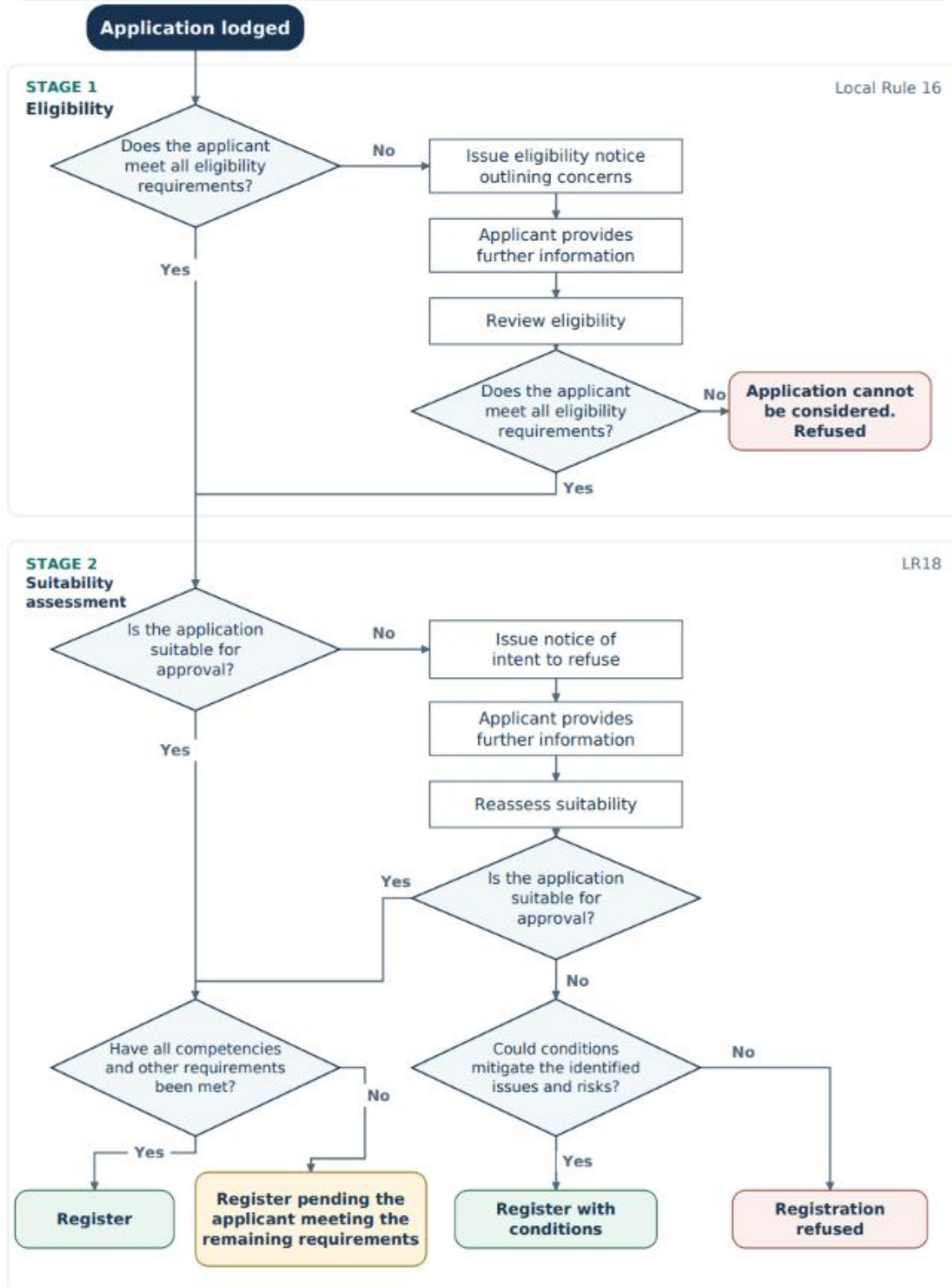
Where concerns are raised about a registered person's capability, GRV may request relevant information, including financial or medical evidence, to assess whether the person remains capable of fulfilling their responsibilities. For example, where a catcher appears unsteady on their feet and may be unable to perform their duties safely, GRV may require a medical certificate from the person's medical practitioner confirming that they are physically capable of performing those duties.

Where the Board determines that the registered person is no longer capable of performing their duties, the Board will consider cancelling their registration or suspending the registration until the registered person demonstrates that they are capable.



Registration Application Assessment Process

Registration Application Assessment Process





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Registration Framework: Appendix One – Fit and Proper Assessment



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Appendix One – Fit and Proper Person Assessment

Introduction

Registration applications are assessed through a two-stage process. Stage 1 applies as an initial threshold that must be met by the applicant before their application is considered for approval under Stage 2 of the process.

Stages 1 and 2 involve separate inquiries, and finding that an applicant meets the eligibility criteria at Stage 1 does not mean that their application must be approved at Stage 2.

The eligibility criteria for Stage 1 is the basic threshold the applicant themselves must be met before a person's application can be considered by the Board. The eligibility elements are prescribed by **Local Rule 16**.

If an applicant fails to meet one or more eligibility criteria, their application cannot proceed and must be refused.

Some criteria the applicant must meet are matters of fact (such as whether the person is over 18 years of age) and others require assessment (such as whether the applicant is fit and proper).

This document discusses the Fit and Proper requirements and should be read as part of the Registrations Framework document.

1.0 Fit and Proper Assessment

Local Rule 16.1.3 requires the Board to be satisfied that an applicant is a fit and proper person to be registered in the category of registration sought.

The fit and proper person requirement is intended to ensure that persons participating in greyhound racing can be trusted to meet the standards expected of registered participants and to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the integrity, welfare and regulatory objectives of the sport.

In determining whether an applicant is a fit and proper person, the Board will consider all relevant information available at the time of its decision, having regard to the category of registration sought and the responsibilities associated with that category. Relevant considerations may include the applicant's character, honesty, integrity, criminal history, animal welfare history, conduct, reputation, and any other matter the Board considers relevant.



The fact that an applicant has previously been registered does not, by itself, establish that the applicant is currently a fit and proper person.

Equally, a history of offending, misconduct or adverse conduct will not automatically prevent registration. The Board will consider the nature and seriousness of the conduct, when it occurred, its relevance to the application, and any evidence that the applicant has demonstrated rehabilitation, insight, behavioural change, personal responsibility, or a commitment to future compliance.

The Board may base its assessment on a single matter of significant concern or on the cumulative effect of multiple matters that, when viewed together, raise concerns about the applicant's fitness or propriety.

The onus rests with the applicant to provide sufficient information to satisfy the Board that they meet the fit and proper person requirement.

The test has two interrelated components:

- Fit refers to the applicant's capacity, competence and ability to meet the obligations, responsibilities and expectations associated with the category of registration sought.
- Proper refers to the applicant's character, honesty, integrity, reputation and conduct, including whether they can be trusted to comply with the Rules and uphold the standards expected of participants in the sport.

The fit and proper person assessment:

- is not a checklist or a prescriptive assessment against predetermined criteria;
- requires the Board to consider the applicant's individual circumstances and the category of registration sought;
- involves an evaluative judgment based on all relevant information; and
- is made at a particular point in time. A previous registration, refusal or other decision does not determine the outcome of a future application.

In assessing whether an applicant is a fit and proper person, the Board undertakes a broad evaluative assessment and asks:

Having regard to all available information at the time of the decision, is the applicant fit and proper to be registered in the category of registration sought?

This assessment requires the Board to consider not only the applicant's past conduct, but also whether they can reasonably be trusted to meet the standards and responsibilities expected of a registered participant in the future.



The fit and proper person test may be determined by a single significant factor or the combined effect of a number of less significant factors.

The onus is on the person applying for registration to satisfy the Board of their suitability.

If the Board determines the person does not meet the fit and proper person test, then the Board cannot consider the application further.

1.1 Assessing Fitness

The fit element of the fit and proper person assessment concerns whether an applicant possesses the capacity, competence and ability to meet the obligations, responsibilities and expectations associated with the category of registration sought.

The Board must be satisfied that the applicant is capable of performing the functions of the relevant registration category safely, responsibly and in accordance with the Rules of Racing and regulatory requirements. This assessment is directed to the applicant's present ability to fulfil the role. It is distinct from the proper element of the assessment, which focuses on matters such as character, honesty, integrity and conduct.

Fitness is concerned with whether an applicant has the practical ability to undertake the activities associated with registration and discharge the responsibilities of the role. It includes an assessment of whether the applicant has the necessary knowledge, skills, experience, judgment and resources to participate in the sport safely and effectively.

Matters Relevant to Fitness

In assessing whether an applicant is fit for registration, the Board may have regard to:

- **Competence and Capability** - Whether the applicant possesses the knowledge, skills, qualifications, training and experience necessary to perform the functions associated with the category of registration sought.
- **Ability to Comply** - Whether the applicant has the capacity to understand and comply with the Rules of Racing, Local Rules, policies, directions and other regulatory requirements.
- **Judgment and Decision-Making** - Whether the applicant can exercise appropriate judgment and make timely and effective decisions in circumstances relevant to their role, including where animal welfare, safety or compliance considerations arise.
- **Resources, Systems and Support** - Whether the applicant has access to appropriate resources or support necessary to meet their obligations and manage associated risks.



- **Physical and Cognitive Capacity** - Whether the applicant possesses the physical, intellectual and cognitive capacity required to safely perform the activities associated with the category of registration sought and to understand and discharge the responsibilities of registration.
- **Capacity to Meet Ongoing Obligations** - Whether the applicant has the ability to meet the responsibilities associated with registration on an ongoing basis, including the care and management of greyhounds and compliance with regulatory requirements.

The Board recognises that the requirements of the fitness assessment will vary depending on the category of registration sought. For example, the knowledge, skills and capabilities required of a Trainer differ from those required of an Owner, Catcher or Attendant. Accordingly, fitness will be assessed having regard to the responsibilities and risks associated with the particular registration category.

The fitness assessment is intended to ensure that registered persons can participate in the sport safely, effectively and in a manner consistent with animal welfare, the integrity of racing and the objectives of the regulatory framework.

Practical Examples of Fitness Considerations

Where an applicant is responsible for the custody, handling or control of greyhounds, the Board may consider whether the applicant is able to:

- safely handle and control a greyhound in a range of environments;
- maintain effective physical control of a greyhound when required;
- recover and secure a loose greyhound;
- identify circumstances where a greyhound requires veterinary attention and take appropriate action;
- respond appropriately to emergencies or unexpected situations involving greyhounds; and
- make timely decisions that protect the welfare of greyhounds and the safety of participants and the public.

Applicants seeking registration as a Trainer occupy a position of significant responsibility and must demonstrate the capacity to make independent decisions regarding the training, welfare, management and racing of greyhounds.



It is not sufficient for a Trainer to rely upon others to make decisions on their behalf. The Board must be satisfied that the applicant can independently exercise the responsibilities of the role, including:

- making timely decisions in routine and emergency situations;
- understanding and applying the Rules of Racing, Local Rules, policies and regulatory requirements;
- assessing and responding to animal welfare concerns;
- supervising the care and management of greyhounds;
- exercising sound judgment in high-pressure or time-critical circumstances; and
- processing relevant information and making informed decisions affecting the welfare, management and racing career of greyhounds.

Reasonable Adjustments and Accessibility

The Board recognises that applicants may have disabilities, health conditions, injuries or other circumstances that affect how they perform particular tasks. The existence of such a condition does not, of itself, mean that an applicant is not fit for registration.

The Board's assessment is directed to the applicant's functional capacity to undertake the relevant role and manage the responsibilities associated with registration. An applicant will not be assessed solely by reference to a medical diagnosis, disability or health condition.

However, the Board must ultimately be satisfied that the applicant can perform the core functions of the registration category safely and effectively, including meeting any animal welfare, safety, integrity and regulatory obligations that arise from participation in the sport.

In considering the fitness of an applicant in these circumstances, the Board may take into account how responsibilities are performed in practice, including the use of reasonable adjustments, assistive technologies, support persons or business arrangements. The relevant question is whether the applicant can effectively fulfil the obligations of the registration category and remain accountable for decisions and compliance, rather than whether tasks are performed in a particular way unless prescribed.

Examples assessing fitness

The examples below are provided for guidance only. Whether an adjustment is



appropriate will depend on the nature of the registration category sought, the applicant's circumstances, and whether the Board is satisfied that the applicant can safely and effectively discharge their responsibilities.

Owners

Examples of reasonable adjustments for an Owner may include:

- assistance from family members or employees with routine husbandry tasks;
- use of assistive technology to maintain records and meet administrative obligations;
- engagement of veterinarians, transport providers or other professionals to assist with greyhound management;
- modified housing or accessibility arrangements to facilitate the safe care and supervision of greyhounds.

However, the Owner must remain responsible for decisions concerning the care, welfare and management of their greyhounds.

Trainers

Examples of reasonable adjustments for a Trainer may include:

- use of administrative support to assist with record keeping and regulatory reporting;
- use of assistive technology, communication aids or adaptive equipment;
- delegation of permitted operational tasks to kennel staff or assistants;
- use of modified kennel practices, facilities or equipment.

However, a Trainer must remain the person responsible for decision-making regarding the training, welfare, management and racing of greyhounds, and must remain accountable for compliance with the Rules and regulatory requirements.

1.2 Assessing Proper

In assessing whether an applicant is a fit and proper person, the Board will have regard to all matters it considers relevant to the applicant.

Particular regard will be given to the applicant's character, reputation, honesty, integrity,



criminal history, animal welfare history, compliance history, cooperation with regulatory processes, and candour in dealings with GRV.

While the proper criteria overlap and are often considered together, each focuses on a distinct aspect of an applicant's appropriateness for registration.

The following provides guidance on the matters the Board may consider; however, the Board will also consider any other relevant matters:

- **Character** - The Board will consider whether the applicant demonstrates responsible, lawful and ethical behaviour, adherence to appropriate standards of conduct, and professionalism. This will include any conduct occurring within any racing industry if the applicant has previously been registered. Character is an indicator of whether the applicant be trusted to meet the obligations and expectations associated with registration.
- **Reputation** - The Board will consider information relevant to the applicant's standing and reputation within the community. This will include the applicant's reputation within the racing industry if the applicant has been previously registered as well as the. Reputation will also be assessed against a public interest test – would the registration affect public or industry confidence if the applicant's past conduct became widely known.
- **Honesty** - The Board will consider whether the applicant has demonstrated truthfulness, reliability and integrity in their dealings. This includes consideration of the accuracy, completeness and consistency of information provided in applications, interviews and other interactions with GRV (both within and outside of the applications process); whether the applicant has been willing to disclose relevant adverse matters; and whether they have accepted responsibility for previous conduct where appropriate. Honesty is a key indicator of whether an applicant can be relied upon to engage openly and truthfully with the regulator and to comply with their obligations as a registered participant.
- **Integrity** - The Board will assess whether the applicant's conduct demonstrates sound moral and ethical principles. This involves a broader assessment of an applicant's adherence to values, behaviour, judgment, and personal responsibility. In looking at Integrity, it is not only the adverse conduct that the Board will consider, but also whether the applicant has shown genuine remorse and a sustained commitment to improved behaviour.
- **Criminal History** - The Board will have regard to any criminal offending when assessing whether an applicant is a fit and proper person to be registered. Relevant considerations include the nature and seriousness of the offending, when it occurred, whether it forms part of a pattern of behaviour, its relevance to the category of registration sought, and any evidence of rehabilitation or reduced future risk. Particular concern may arise where offending involves



violence, sexual offending, animal welfare breaches, dishonesty, organised criminal activity, or conduct that may adversely affect the integrity, reputation or effective regulation of the sport. Note: The applicant must provide a current National Police Check (NPC) obtained via GRV's designated provider as part of the application process. This NPC will disclose a wide range of court outcomes, including outcomes not usually disclosed as they are 'spent' or were recorded without conviction.

- **Animal Welfare History** - The Board will consider the applicant's record in relation to the care, treatment, management and welfare of animals. This may include consideration of any welfare-related complaints, investigations, enforcement action, disciplinary findings or convictions. Particular regard will be had to conduct involving animal cruelty, neglect, abandonment, failures to provide appropriate care, emergency surrender of greyhounds, or circumstances requiring intervention to protect an animal. The Board may also consider any failure to adequately account for the whereabouts, custody or disposal of a greyhound. Such matters may be relevant to the Board's assessment of the applicant's suitability to uphold the welfare standards expected of registered participants.
- **Compliance History with GRV** - The Board may consider the applicant's history of compliance with the Rules of Racing, Local Rules, policies, directions, licence conditions and other regulatory requirements administered by GRV.
- **Compliance History with Other Codes or Regulators** - The Board may consider the applicant's compliance history with other racing codes, sporting bodies, government agencies or regulatory authorities.
- **Cooperation with GRV** – where the applicant has been previously registered with GRV, the Board will consider whether the applicant has cooperated with GRV inquiries, investigations, inspections, audits and other regulatory processes, including whether they have responded promptly and appropriately to requests for information. The Board will consider the applicant's stated view on GRV policies and relevant information that the applicant has put into the public domain.
- **Candour** - The Board will consider whether the applicant has been open, frank and forthcoming in their application and interviews. A lack of candour, including omissions, misleading statements or attempts to conceal relevant information, will weigh against the applicant in the Board's assessment of whether the applicant is a fit and proper person.

The weight given to each matter will depend on the circumstances of the particular application, the category of registration sought, and the extent to which the matter is relevant to the Board's fit and proper person assessment.



Examples assessing proper

The examples below provide general guidance only. Each application is assessed on its individual merits, having regard to all relevant circumstances known to the Board at the time of the decision.

The Board may depart from the indicative approach outlined below where the circumstances of a particular case warrant a different outcome.

Criminal history or background of applicant Likely Board approach

Convicted of an animal cruelty offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (Vic) or equivalent legislation.

The Person does not meet eligibility criteria and cannot be registered.

Currently disqualified, warned off, or otherwise prohibited from participating in a racing industry.

The person cannot apply until their period of exclusion ends.

Previous disqualification, warning off, suspension or cancellation of registration in the greyhound racing industry or another racing industry.

The applicant will be required to provide further information. The application may be refused or approved subject to conditions.

Omission of relevant information or provision of false, misleading or inaccurate information in connection with an application.

The applicant will be required to provide further information. The application may be refused on integrity grounds. If the information provided is false or misleading it is likely that the application will be refused. Any registration obtained based on false and misleading information is subject to cancellation.

History of emergency surrender, abandonment or neglect of greyhounds, or circumstances requiring GRV intervention outside normal Greyhound Adoption Program processes.

The applicant will generally be required to provide further information. The application may be refused or approved subject to further conditions.



Previous failure to adequately account for the whereabouts of a greyhound while participating in the industry or during any gap in registration.

The applicant will generally be required to provide further information. The application may be refused or approved subject to further conditions.

Convicted of a sexual offence against a child or subject to Sex Offender Register reporting obligations.

An application would ordinarily be refused.

Involved in, or associated with, a criminal organisation or organised criminal activity.

An application would ordinarily be refused.

Convictions for significant offences involving violence against emergency services personnel, family violence, weapons, drug trafficking, or sexual offending.

The applicant will be required to provide further information. The application is likely to be refused unless the applicant can demonstrate compelling evidence of rehabilitation and reduced risk.

Criminal offending within the preceding 10 years.

The applicant will be required to provide further information. The Board may refuse the application depending on the nature, seriousness, recency and frequency of the offending, together with any evidence of rehabilitation and behavioural change.

Historical serious convictions for serious offences or any history that demonstrate a significant pattern of repeated offending.

The applicant will be required to provide further information. The application may be refused if the applicant cannot demonstrate evidence of rehabilitation and reduced risk.

Currently subject to a Community Corrections Order, parole order or equivalent supervision order.

An application would ordinarily be refused. Applicants would generally be encouraged to reapply upon completion of the order or supervision period.

Criminal charges currently before a court.

The application may be deferred pending the outcome of the proceedings. The applicant may be required to provide relevant court documents and the final outcome.





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Registration Framework: Appendix Two: Guidance for Participants – Fit for Purpose Property



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Appendix Two: Guidance For Participants – Fit for Purpose Property

Introduction

As part of the eligibility assessment, Local Rule 16.1.5 requires the Board to be satisfied that any premises required for, or used in connection with, the proposed category of registration are fit for purpose.

Where a category of registration requires the use of a Greyhound Property, the property must be capable of meeting all applicable welfare, safety, security and regulatory requirements before registration can be granted.

The Rules define a Greyhound Property as premises used for activities permitted under the Rules of Racing, including keeping, breeding, whelping, rearing, pre-training or training greyhounds (other than greyhounds retired as pets).

In assessing whether a Greyhound Property is fit for purpose, GRV may conduct a physical inspection of the property and discuss with the applicant how the property will be used and managed. The applicant must be able to demonstrate compliance with the Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds and any other requirements arising under the Rules of Racing.

The assessment is directed towards whether the property is suitable for the activities proposed and whether it provides an environment that supports appropriate animal welfare outcomes, safety, security, supervision and regulatory compliance.

The fit-for-purpose assessment is made on the information available to the Board at the time of the decision. However, compliance is an ongoing obligation. A property that is suitable at the time of registration may subsequently become non-compliant if standards are not maintained or circumstances change.

In assessing whether a Greyhound Property is fit for purpose, the Board may consider matters including, but not limited to:

- compliance with the Code of Practice for the Keeping of Racing Greyhounds;
- kennel design, construction and maintenance;
- fencing, containment and security arrangements;



- cleanliness, hygiene and biosecurity measures;
- animal welfare and enrichment arrangements;
- feeding, watering and exercise facilities;
- record-keeping systems;
- staffing, supervision and management arrangements;
- emergency management and veterinary care arrangements; and
- any other matter relevant to the welfare of greyhounds or compliance with the Rules of Racing.

When GRV Stewards visit a property it is likely that they will ask the applicant about:

1. Facilities and Equipment

Are the kennels, whelping areas, empty out yards, exercise yards, straight tracks or training facilities, fencing and equipment constructed and compliant?

- are they safe and secure without hazards?
- do they meet size requirements?
- do they have weather protection?
- is the bedding clean and dry and bowls secured and clean?

2. Vehicles

Are vehicles being used for transporting greyhounds appropriate?

- Vehicle must be safe and in good condition
- Vehicles must be registered
- Vehicles must meet transport and hot weather policy requirements
- Vehicle must have adequate ventilation.
- Vehicle must be suitable for the number of greyhounds.
- Individual compartments must be suitable and comfortable for greyhounds



3. Hygiene and Cleanliness

Is the kennel environment clean and hygienic to prevent disease?

- are there appropriate cleaning and hygiene routines in place (for both persons on site and greyhounds)?
- where is food being stored and secured and are preparation areas adequate?
- what are the pest management protocols in place?
- is there a plan to ensure all the equipment is clean and inspected regularly?

4. Food

What feeding schedule and what will be fed to them?

- Information of food and nutrition can be found on the GRV website:
<https://greyhoundcare.grv.org.au/Greyhound-Care/Health-and-Well-being/Greyhound-feeding-and-nutrition/>

5. Health Care

What preventative and other health care arrangements are in place?

- arrangements for vaccinations, parasitic programs, dental management, grooming and diet

6. EHMP and Record Keeping

Is the EHMP completed and signed?

- It is important to know the EHMP well. We may ask things such as:
- how will dogs be introduced into the property
- how you will operate your isolation or quarantine housing for new dogs or in the event of a disease outbreak
- what your staffing arrangements look like
- what are the veterinary care arrangements for regular and emergency care
- what are the cleaning and disinfection regimes



- what record keeping arrangements have you set up for the greyhounds
- protocols for exercise and enrichment and socialisation
- your plans for preparing greyhounds for retirement and rehoming
- your plans for emergency evacuations

7. Use of the Property

What the property used for?

- What else is the property used for?
- Is the use legal – that is, and is their appropriate documentation to undertake these activities
- GRV is looking to identify any other uses of the property that create a welfare, integrity or security concern for its use as a greyhound Property.

8. Other Persons

Who else resides at the property?

- Are they greyhound related people?
- Is there anyone suspended, disqualified, declared a defaulter, or warned off residing at the premises?
- Does any person suspended, disqualified or warned off have access to the premises?
- Who owns the property? Are they disqualified or warned off?
- Has any person at the property committed a POCTA offence or been subject to prosecution under POCTA or the Rules of offences relating to baiting or luring?

9. Ongoing compliance - Greyhound Property

Registered persons who use a Greyhound Property in connection with their registration must ensure that the property remains fit for purpose.

Fit for purpose is not restricted to whether the facilities meet the minimum Code requirements. A property may be considered not fit for purpose for any reason that makes the premises unsuitable for use as a Greyhound Property, either permanently or



temporarily.

For example, the Board may look at the security of the property, the people residing at or frequenting the property, what else the property is being used for, whether the use is legal, whether the use is in breach of the Rules, whether there are welfare concerns such as contamination or recent and unusual numbers of greyhound deaths at the property.

The Board may review the suitability of a Greyhound Property at any time. Where the Board determines that a Greyhound Property is no longer fit for purpose, it may suspend or cancel the person's registration in accordance with LR 19.5.

Where circumstances allow, prior to determining to cancel the registration, LR 19.5 provides discretion for the Board suspend the registration to allow the registered person an opportunity to take steps to address the Board's concerns and, where appropriate, satisfy the Board at a later date that their Greyhound Property is fit for purpose or they have secured an alternative Greyhound Property and can resume participation with greyhound racing.





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Registration Framework: Appendix Three – Guidance for Participants – Stage 2 – Local Rule 18 Assessment



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Appendix Three: Guidance For Participants - Stage 2 – Local Rule 18 Assessment

Introduction

Registration applications are assessed through a two-stage process. Stage 1 applies as an initial threshold that must be met by the applicant before their application considered for approval under Stage 2 of the process.

Stages 1 and 2 involve separate inquiries, and a finding that an applicant meets the eligibility criteria at Stage 1 does not mean that their application must be approved at Stage 2.

The eligibility criteria for Stage 1 is the basic threshold the applicant themselves must be met before a person's application can be considered by the Board. The eligibility elements are prescribed by **Local Rule 16**.

If the Board consider that the applicant themselves meet the eligibility criteria at Stage 1, then the Board proceeds to assessing the person's application in Stage 2 under LR18.

This document discusses considerations the Board may have regard to in its assessment under LR18 and should be read as part of the Registrations Framework document.

Considerations in determining under LR 18

In determining suitability to be registered, the Board may have regard to any matter it considers relevant to the exercise of its functions and the objectives of the regulatory framework.

Examples of matters the Board may have regard to include:

- whether the applicant's past conduct indicates an elevated risk of future non-compliance or behaviour that may adversely affect the sport;
- the applicant's honesty, integrity, character and reputation;
- the applicant's history of compliance with the Rules of Racing, Local Rules, policies, directions and other regulatory requirements;
- whether the applicant has demonstrated candour, openness and cooperation in



their dealings with GRV;

- any conduct indicating a disregard for regulatory requirements, lawful authority, animal welfare obligations, or industry standards;
- the applicant's record in relation to the care, welfare, treatment and management of greyhounds or other animals;
- any criminal offending, unlawful conduct, or other behaviour that may adversely affect the integrity, welfare, reputation or effective regulation of the sport;
- whether the applicant has been the subject of disciplinary action or adverse regulatory findings, including a suspension, disqualification, warning off, cancellation of registration, or similar action by GRV or another racing, sporting, professional or regulatory body;
- the applicant's associations, relationships or dealings with persons whose conduct, status or activities may give rise to integrity, welfare, compliance or reputational risks for the sport;
- the applicant's financial history and circumstances, where relevant to the category of registration sought or the risks associated with registration;
- the applicant's capacity and abilities to meet the obligations of person registered in the category sought;
- the likelihood of the applicant complying with the Rules and regulatory requirements in the future;
- the nature and extent of any risk that the applicant's registration may pose to the integrity, welfare, reputation or effective regulation of greyhound racing;
- whether the risks posed by the registration places an unreasonable or undue burden on GRV, such as the level of monitoring required;
- whether any identified risks can be adequately managed through the imposition of conditions on registration; and
- any other matter the Board considers relevant.

Each application is assessed on its own merits, having regard to the information available to the Board at the time the decision is made.

LR 18 confers a broad discretion on the Board and provides both general powers and specific grounds upon which an application may be refused.



General power of refusal

The Rules of Racing confer on the Board an absolute discretion to refuse an application for registration under Local Rule 18.1.

The Board may exercise this discretion where there are reasonable grounds to conclude that granting registration would be inconsistent with the objectives of the regulatory framework or may adversely affect the integrity, welfare, reputation, or effective regulation of greyhound racing.

In exercising its discretion, the Board must act fairly and in accordance with the purposes of the Rules. The Board will have regard to all relevant considerations, give those considerations appropriate weight, disregard irrelevant matters, and make its decision impartially and without bias.

Specific powers of refusal

Without limiting GRV's general power, there are also specific reasons that an application may be refused where:

- the registration may adversely impact the Board's:
 - control of the sport of greyhound racing; or
 - promotion of the sport of greyhound racing; or
 - conduct of greyhound Events; or
 - promotion or improvement of animal welfare within the sport of greyhound racing; or
 - promotion of compliance with the Local Rules or monitoring of compliance with the Local Rules; or
- the applicant is the current spouse or domestic partner¹ of a person who:
 - is ineligible to apply for registration,
 - has been refused registration by GRV,
 - has had their registration cancelled by GRV,
 - is disqualified, or who is suspended for a not insignificant period².

¹ as defined in the *Racing Act 1958*

² Local Rule 18.2.1



- the applicant resides with a person who:
 - has been refused registration,
 - has had their registration cancelled by the Controlling Body,
 - is disqualified, or who is suspended for a not insignificant period.³
- the applicant is likely during their period of registration to associate for purposes of activity related to their proposed registration, with a person who is:
 - disqualified,
 - warned off,
 - suspended
 - declared to be a defaulter under the Local Rules⁴ (); or
- the person has not provided information requested by the Controlling Body that the Controlling Body reasonably believes will assist the Controlling Body in its consideration of the person's application (LR18.2.4).
- 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 GAR 159 or any other offence relating to luring and baiting of live animals (LR18.2.5).

³ Local Rule 18.2.2

⁴ Local Rule 18.2.3





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