

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOT WEATHER

Racing

When will a race meeting be abandoned due to hot weather?

Stewards may abandon a meeting where the temperature rises above 38°C or the stewards are of the opinion that the temperature is likely to rise above 38°C.

At what temperatures can a greyhound be scratched without penalty due to the heat?

Stewards may allow a greyhound to be withdrawn from an event without penalty where the Bureau of Meteorology official forecast temperature is 32°C or higher.

Any application for withdrawal without penalty must be made prior to the official scratching time of the race meeting, however, the stewards may also consider late requests.

Is there anything I should do when travelling to a race track on hot days?

Participants must ensure that their car or trailer is sufficiently cool before greyhounds are loaded for transportation. A car can be started and air-conditioned prior to the time of departure. Greyhounds can be hosed or towelled down with water prior to being placed in the car or trailer.

When planning transport to the track, participants should plan to arrive as close as possible to the opening time of kennelling. Participants must also provide their greyhounds with adequate water and, if appropriate, ice.

Trialling

When will trialling be abandoned due to hot weather?

Clubs must abandon any trialling where the temperature rises above 38°C or a club is of the opinion that the temperature is likely to rise above 38°C.

When is it not acceptable to keep greyhounds in non-air-conditioned trailers during trials?

Greyhounds must not be kept in non-air-conditioned vehicles or trailers during race meetings or trialling when the temperature reaches 22°C or higher.

Will clearance trials be conducted between November and February?

Yes, but under strict conditions. All clearance trials are to be booked with GRNSW before 9am on the day of a race meeting. Any greyhound that is not booked in by this time will not be permitted to trial.

Can I still trial after the last race between November and February?

For trainers with greyhounds drawn to race at the meeting, clubs may take bookings for trialling after the last race only up to the maximum number of kennels available. If no kennels are available, trials must be denied unless the greyhound is housed in an air-conditioned trailer or an air-conditioned vehicle.

Any other greyhound trialling after the last race must arrive no more than 20 minutes prior to the end of a race meeting.

If I do not have an air-conditioned trailer, can I still attend trial sessions at a racetrack on non-racedays if the temperature is above 22°C?

Yes. Clubs must provide access to air-conditioned kennels for greyhounds on any occasion that trialling occurs at a race track, unless the greyhounds are housed in an air-conditioned trailer or an air-conditioned vehicle.

General

Why did GRNSW feel the need to revise the existing hot weather policy?

The revised Hot Weather Policy is evidenced-based and utilises recently published research into heat stress in racing dogs from the University of Adelaide. The research paper is available at the following link:

https://digital.library.adelaide.edu.au/dspace/bitstream/2440/101252/2/hdl_101252.pdf

Who set the temperature figures and cut-offs within the hot weather policy?

GRNSW set the temperature guidelines in the Hot Weather Policy. The new temperature 'cut-offs' are consistent with the new GRV Hot Weather Policy.

Could GRNSW work with the TAB to arrange for night or morning meetings where possible to avoid the heat of the day?

GRNSW is in constant discussions with Sky Racing and TAB to ensure that all scheduled meetings can be staged accordingly. However, there will be some instances due to schedule and logistical restraints which will unfortunately mean some meetings may have to be abandoned.

Will GRNSW be helping some clubs to comply with the new hot weather guidelines?

GRNSW funding is available for each club to install air-conditioning units in the kennelling areas under their annual funding allocations.