

Greyhound Racing New South Wales

# GRNSW Quarterly Greyhound Racing Injury Report

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1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017

# Overview

This report is published by Greyhound Racing New South Wales (GRNSW) and details greyhound injuries and fatalities that occur at race meetings in New South Wales (NSW), as well as the related euthanasia of greyhounds. The primary purpose of this report is to keep GRNSW stakeholders including greyhound racing industry participants, wagerers, business partners and the community informed of greyhound racing injuries, fatalities and related euthanasia in the interests of transparency.

This is a quarterly report covering the period 1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017.

This report has been prepared using the information on greyhound racing injuries, fatalities and related euthanasia recorded by on track veterinarians and stewards and maintained in the OzChase system by GRNSW.

## Injury severity classification

All greyhounds with an on-track veterinary reported injury have been included in this report. As the injuries range from very mild and requiring no incapacitation period to catastrophic injuries leading to death or euthanasia, the following rating guide has been used to estimate injury severity.

**Table 1:** Greyhound injury rating guide indicating expected stand down periods and examples of related injury types.

Rating	Incapacitation period	Typical injury types
Minor Class I	0 days	Mild skin abrasions/grazes
Minor Class II	1 to 10 days	Grade 1 muscle injury Mild skin laceration
Medium	11 to 21 days	Joint /ligament sprain Skin laceration Grade 2 muscle injury
Major	Greater than 21 days	Grade 3 muscle injury Bone fractures
Catastrophic	Deceased or euthanased immediately	Severe skull or spinal trauma Complex /open/joint fractures

## Part 1. Reported greyhound racing injuries

From 1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017 (inclusive) 284 race meetings were conducted across NSW at TAB and Non-TAB racing venues. During these race meetings a total of 4933 individual greyhounds raced in a total of 22,059 race starts. There were an average number of 4.5 starts per greyhound throughout the reporting period.

There were a total of 646 incidents where a greyhound with at least one injury was identified by an on track veterinarian after participation in a race in NSW during this period. These injury incidents affected a total of 609 individual greyhounds.

The total number of reported greyhound racing injury incidents during the period represents a rate of 29.3 injury incidents per 1000 race starts and 12.3 per cent of the total number of individual greyhounds to have raced incurred at least one injury. The severity of these injuries is indicated in the following table.

**Table 2:** Total number of injury incidents by injury severity rating, injury rates per 1000 starts and injury rate per 100 greyhounds in NSW race meetings between 1 July 2017 and 30 September 2017 (Q3) and 1 October 2017 and 31 December 2017 (Q4).

Injury Severity Rating	Incapacitation period	Total numbers of injury incidents		Injury rate (injury incidents/1000 starts)		Injury rate * (injury incidents/100 greyhounds)	
		3 <sup>rd</sup> Q	4 <sup>th</sup> Q	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q	4 <sup>th</sup> Q	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q	4 <sup>th</sup> Q
Minor I	0 days	53	80	2.3	3.6	1	1.6
Minor II	1 to 10 days	225	207	9.7	9.4	4.3	4.2
Medium	11 to 21 days	237	207	10.2	9.4	4.5	4.2
Major	Greater than 21 days	103	118	4.4	5.4	2	2.4
Catastrophic	Deceased or euthanased immediately	21	34	0.9	1.5	0.4	0.7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>639</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>29.3</b>		

\*The percentage of individual greyhounds racing in the reporting period who suffered an injury in each of the injury severity rating categories. Note that some greyhounds were injured more than once in the period resulting in a summation of this column exceeding the 12.3 per cent statistic which reflects the percentage of individual greyhounds to incur at least one injury.

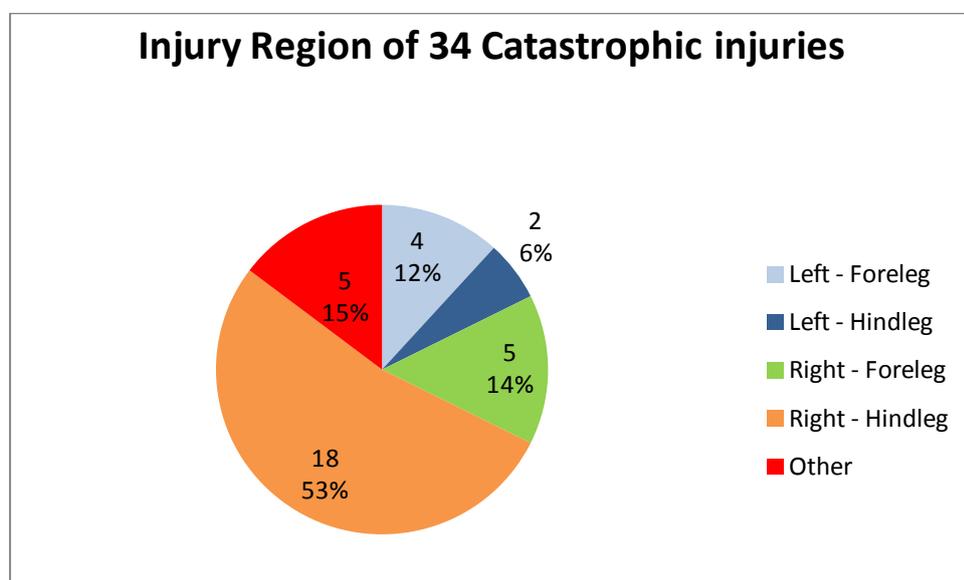
## Part 2. Reported greyhound racing fatalities

GRNSW defines racing fatalities as all injuries and incidents occurring during or subsequent to a race resulting in death at the race meeting or requiring euthanasia at the race meeting.<sup>1</sup>

There were a total of 34 reported greyhound racing fatalities from 1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017. Of the 34 reported greyhound racing fatalities, one died as a result of sudden death at track side following a race, not as a result of euthanasia. The total number of reported greyhound racing fatalities during the period represents a fatality rate of 1.5 deaths per 1000 race starts.

The main sites of the injuries leading to euthanasia are shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1:** Injuries resulting in 34 greyhound racing fatalities from 1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017 at or immediately after race meetings in NSW.



### Consequent outcomes of Q3 2017 Injured Greyhounds

Of the 585 greyhounds reported to have incurred a non-fatal injury in the 2017 Third Quarter Racing Injury Report (1 July to September 2017), 10 were reported as deceased by 31 December 2017.

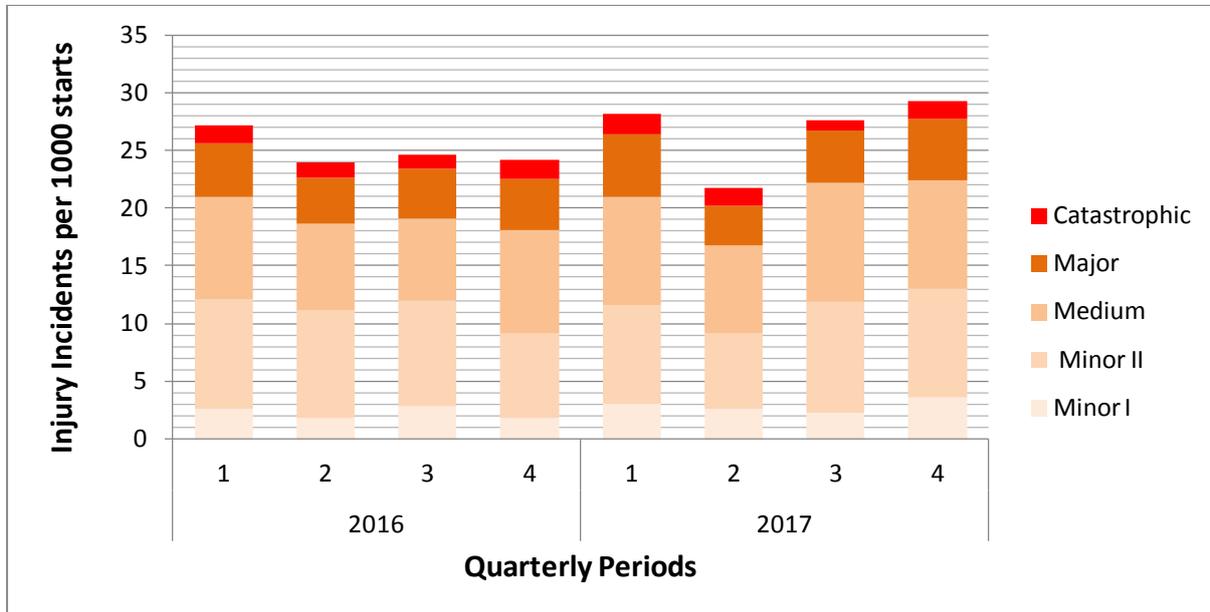
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<sup>1</sup> This statistic does not include euthanasia that occurs subsequent to race meetings at private veterinary hospitals after further diagnostic or treatment advice is sought.

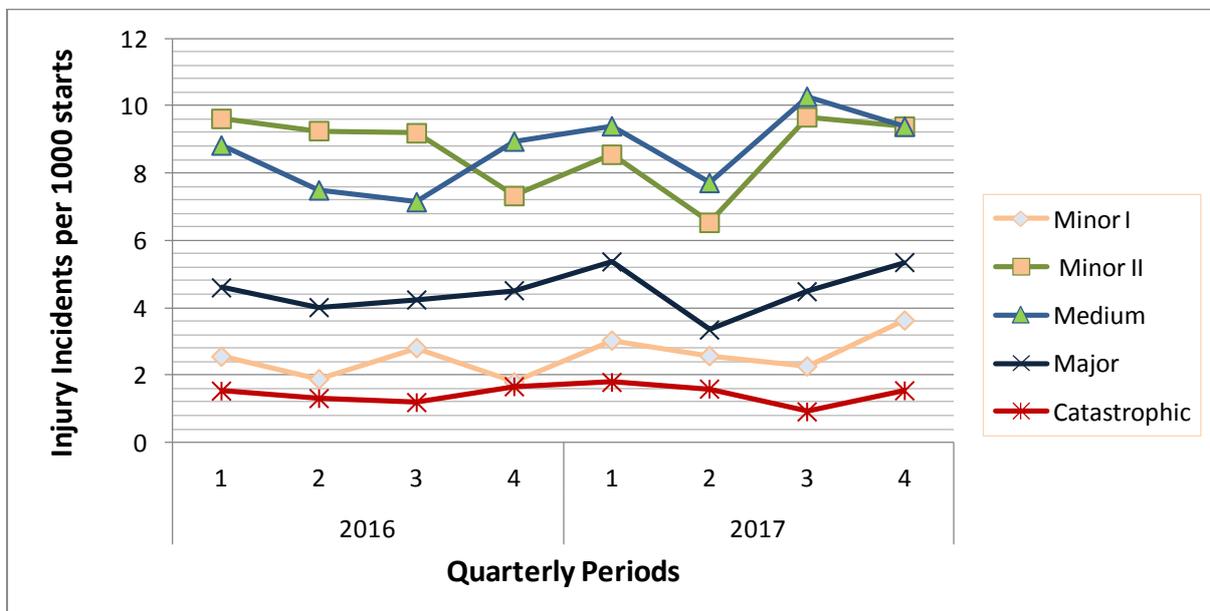
## Part 3. Racing injury and fatality trend report

The quarterly trend in injury severity ratings reported from **1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017** is shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 2:** The quarterly trend in injury severity ratings reported from **1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017**.



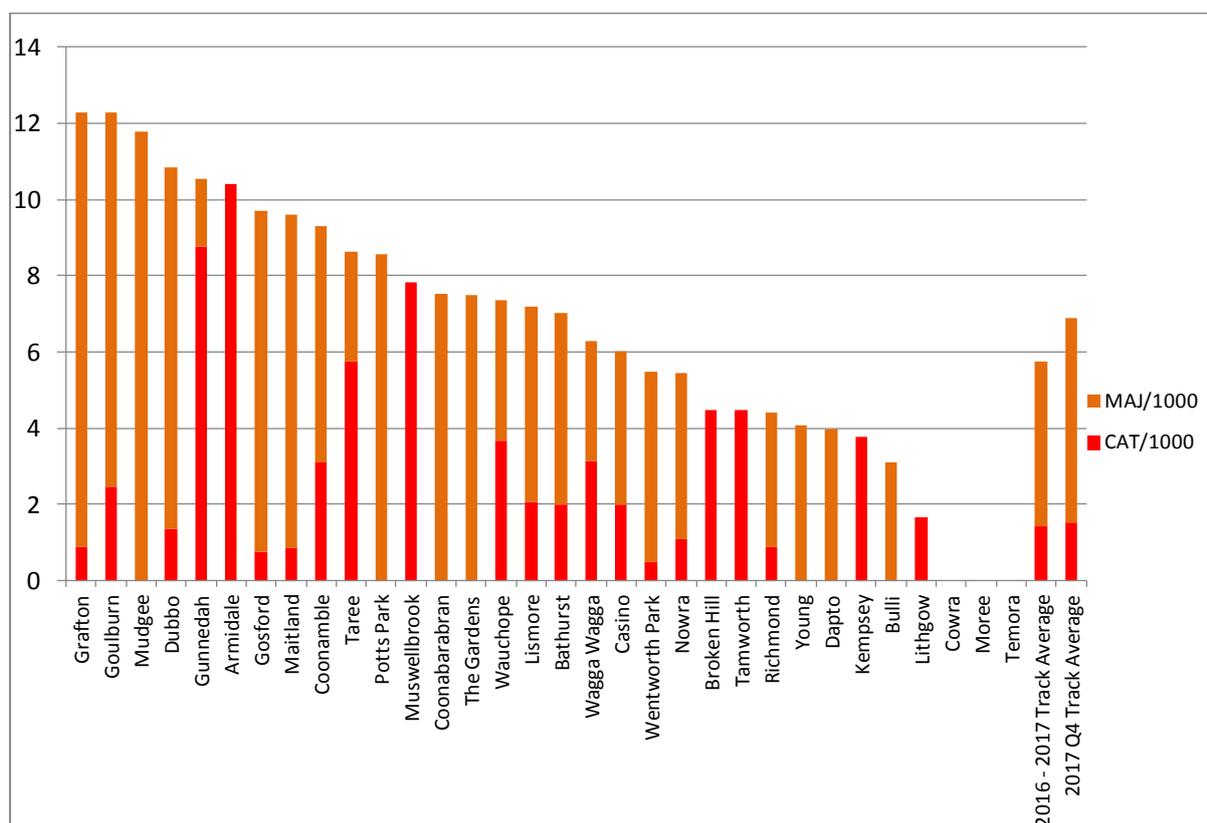
**Figure 2a:** Breakdown of injury severity ratings reported from **1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017**.



## Part 4. Major and catastrophic injuries by track

The column graph in **Figure 3** below outlines the combined rates of Major (incapacitation period greater than 21 days) and Catastrophic (incident resulting in death or euthanasia at the meeting) per 1000 starts for greyhound racing venues in NSW for the period from 1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017.

**Figure 3: Major and Catastrophic injury incidents per 1000 starts at NSW race venues from 1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017.**



## Analysis and Comment

There has been a general increase in the total number of injury incidents over the reporting period, with the overall injury rate of 29.3 injuries per 1000 starts greater than the injury rate of 27.5 per 1000 starts for the previous quarter.

While there was a decrease in the overall rates for Minor Class II and Medium injuries, there were increases in the rates for Minor Class I, Major and Catastrophic injuries. Notably, the number of Catastrophic injuries increased from a rate of 0.9 per 1000 starts (total of 21 Catastrophic incidents) to 1.5 per 1000 starts (total of 34 incidents), an increase of more than 60 per cent over the previous quarter.

Historically the injury rates rise in summer. High temperatures are likely to affect the performance of the dog, and there are also challenges in keeping the tracks in optimum condition.

With regard to the venues that recorded the highest Catastrophic and Major injury rates per 1000 starts during the reporting period (Figure 3):

- **Dubbo, Gosford, Goulburn, Grafton, Gunnedah and Maitland** experienced significant increases.
- The number of starts during the period for **Armidale, Mudgee, Coonamble, Taree, Potts Park** and **Muswellbrook** are relatively low which means that the injury rates per 1000 starts need to be treated with caution, as random factors can distort the numbers.

A number of tracks recorded decreases in their combined rates for Major and Catastrophic injuries.

- **Nowra** recorded a decrease in Catastrophic and Major injuries for the quarter, from 9.97 injuries / 1000 starts to 5.44. It also recorded a significant decrease in the Medium Category from 15.9 to 8.7 injuries per 1000 starts.
- **Bulli** saw its overall injury rate drop from 33.5 injuries per 1000 starts to 14.5 per 1000 starts, with decreases in all injury categories.