

Greyhound Racing New South Wales

# GRNSW Quarterly Greyhound Racing Injury Report

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1 January 2017 and 31 March 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 January 2017 to 31 March 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.

There are some improvements in this report: the injury severity rating for the quarter has been broadened to provide comparisons with previous quarters (**Figure 2**); and an Analysis section has been included at the end to provide an explanation on some of the injury statistics.

The Quarterly report will continue to be improved to provide greater clarity and transparency around the injury statistics.

### 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

Between 1 January 2017 and 31 March 2017 (inclusive) 250 race meetings were conducted across NSW at TAB and Non-TAB racing venues. During these race meetings a total of 4763 individual greyhounds raced in a total of 20,117 race starts. There were an average number of 4.22 starts per greyhound throughout the reporting period.

There were a total of 567 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 539 individual greyhounds.

The total number of reported greyhound racing injury incidents during the period represents an injury rate of 28.2 injury incidents per 1000 race starts and 11% 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 January 2017 to 31 March 2017.

<b>Injury Severity Rating</b>	<b>Incapacitation period</b>	<b>Total numbers of injury incidents</b>	<b>Injury rate (injury incidents/1000 starts)</b>	<b>Injury rate * (injury incidents/100 greyhounds)</b>
Minor I	0 days	86	4.3	1.8
Minor II	1 to 10 days	160	8.0	3.4
Medium	11 to 21 days	184	9.1	3.9
Major	Greater than 21 days	102	5.1	2.1
Catastrophic	Deceased or euthanased immediately	35	1.7	0.7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>567</b>	<b>28.2</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 11% statistic which reflects the percentage of individual greyhounds to incur at least one injury.

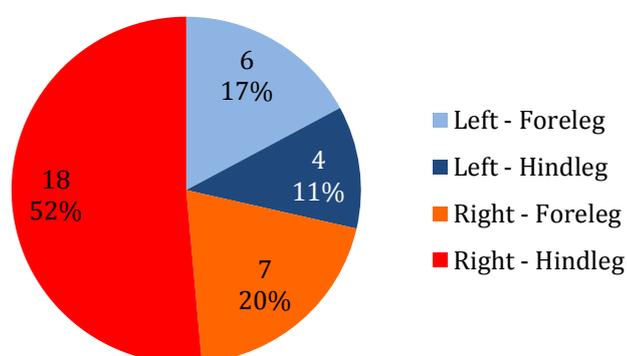
## Part 2. Reported greyhound racing fatalities

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 35 reported greyhound racing fatalities between 1 January 2017 and 31 March 2017. All 35 greyhound fatalities resulted from euthanasia, no greyhound died as a result of fatal track injury. The total number of reported greyhound racing fatalities during the period represents a fatality rate of 1.7 deaths per 1000 race starts.

**Figure 1:** Injuries resulting in 35 greyhound racing fatalities between 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2017 at or immediately after race meetings in NSW.

**Injury region of 35 catastrophic injuries**



### Consequent outcomes of Q4 2016 Injured Greyhounds

Of the 490 greyhounds reported to have incurred a non-fatal injury in the 2016 Fourth Quarter Racing Injury Report (1 October to 31 December 2016), 22 were reported as deceased by 22 May 2017.

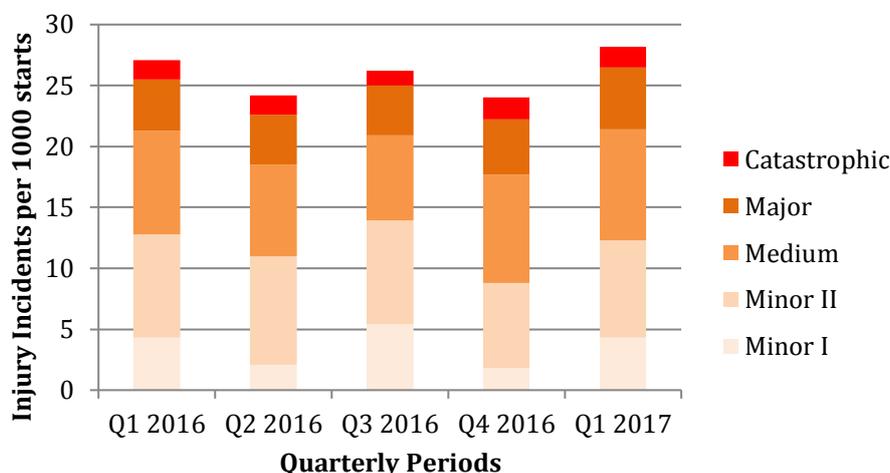
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<sup>1</sup> This statistic does not include euthanasia that occurs subsequent to race meetings at private veterinary hospitals after further diagnostic or treatment advice is sought.

## Part 3. Racing injury and fatality trend report

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

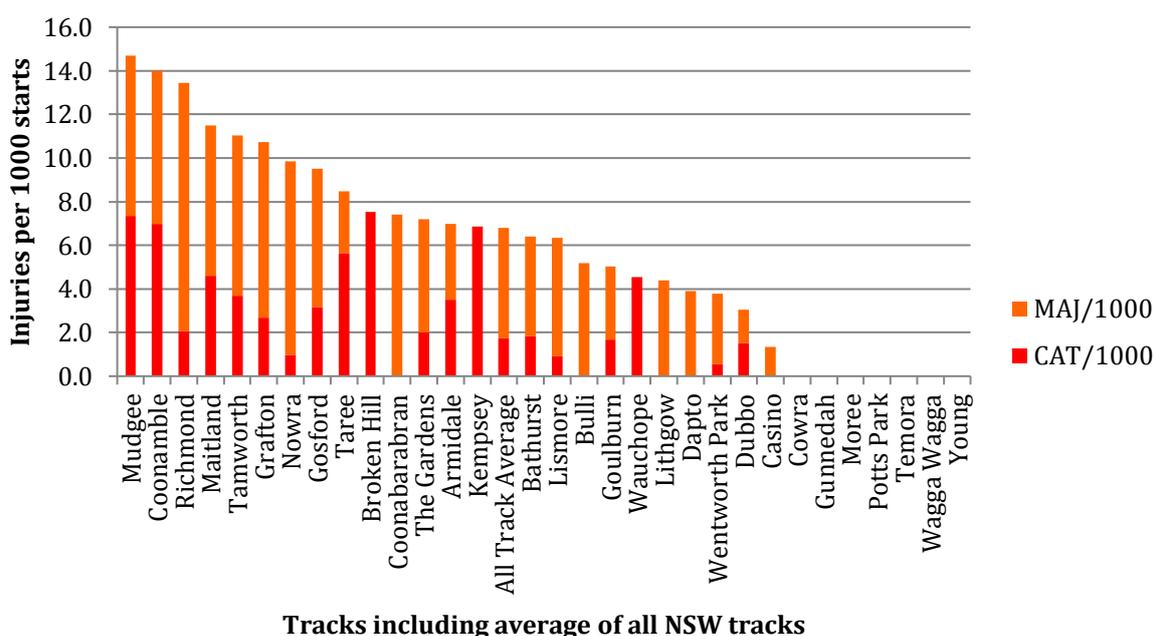
**Figure 2:** The quarterly trend in injury severity ratings reported from 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2017.



## 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 between 1 January 2017 and 31 March 2017.

**Figure 3:** Major and Catastrophic injury incidents per 1000 starts at NSW race venues between 1 January 2017 and 31 March 2017.



## Analysis

Considering the three venues that had the highest injury rates during the quarter:

- The **Mudgee** track had 1 catastrophic and 1 major injury during the quarter with 136 starts. The relatively low number of starts statistically increases the ratio per 1000 starts. Examining the history of catastrophic and major injuries over the last 5 quarters shows that there were 6 injuries over 834 starts which equates to an injury rate of 7.2/1000 starts which is close to the average for all tracks.
- The **Coonamble** track was closed on 22 March 2017 due to an unacceptable injury rate. The track has since undergone a major upgrade including a complete resurfacing, re-grading to ensure adequate cambers and realignment of the 301m starting boxes, and is due to reopen in October.
- The **Richmond** track experienced an unacceptable increase in injuries across the quarter. Unseasonal weather conditions have been experienced at the venue and GRNSW worked closely with the club from February to May to enhance its maintenance program and increase the monitoring of the surface profile to ensure the track is suitable.