

Greyhound Racing New South Wales

# GRNSW Quarterly Greyhound Racing Injury Report

---

1 April 2017 to 30 June 2017

## Overview

This report is published by Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) and details greyhound injuries and fatalities that occur at race meetings in 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 April 2017 to 30 June 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 April 2017 to 30 June 2017 (inclusive) 303 race meetings were conducted across NSW at TAB and Non-TAB racing venues. During these race meetings a total of 5385 individual greyhounds raced in a total of 24,507 race starts. There were an average number of 4.6 starts per greyhound throughout the reporting period.

There were a total of 533 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 514 individual greyhounds.

The total number of reported greyhound racing injury incidents during the period represents a rate of 21.7 injury incidents per 1000 race starts and 9.5%\*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 and 31 March 2017 (Q1) and 1 April 2017 and 30 June 2017 (Q2).

Injury Severity Rating	Incapacitation period	Total numbers of injury incidents		Injury rate (injury incidents/1000 starts)		Injury rate * (injury incidents/100 greyhounds)	
		1st Q	2nd Q	1st Q	2nd Q	1st Q	2nd Q
Minor I	0 days	86	63	4.3	2.6	1.8	1.2
Minor II	1 to 10 days	160	160	8.0	6.5	3.4	3.0
Medium	11 to 21 days	184	189	9.1	7.7	3.9	3.5
Major	Greater than 21 days	102	82	5.1	3.3	2.1	1.5
Catastrophic	Deceased or euthanased immediately	35	39	1.7	1.6	0.7	0.7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>567</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>21.7</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 9.5% statistic which reflects the percentage of individual greyhounds to incur at least one injury.

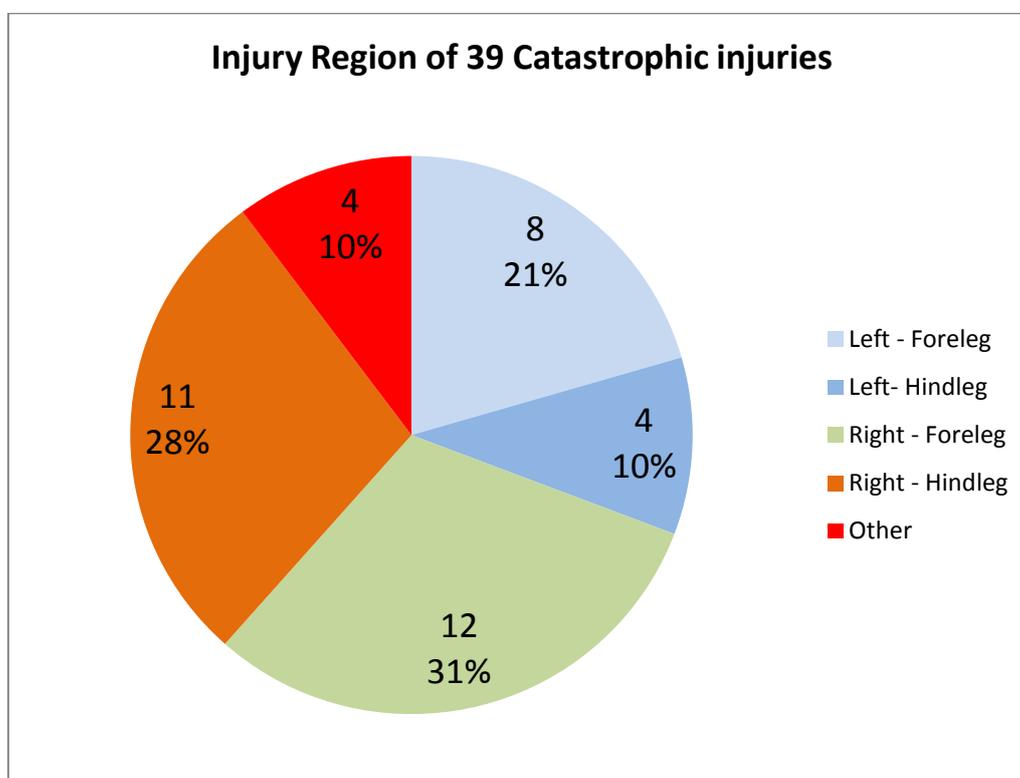
## Part 2. Reported greyhound racing fatalities

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 39 reported greyhound racing fatalities from 1 April 2017 to 30 June 2017. Of the 39 reported greyhound racing fatalities, three died as a result of a fatal track injury or 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 1.6 deaths per 1000 race starts.

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

**Figure 1:** Injuries resulting in 39 greyhound racing fatalities from 1 April 2017 to 30 June 2017 at or immediately after race meetings in NSW.



### Consequent outcomes of Q1 2017 Injured Greyhounds

Of the 495 greyhounds reported to have incurred a non-fatal injury in the 2017 First Quarter Racing Injury Report (1 January to 31 March 2017), 18 were reported as deceased by 18 August 2017.

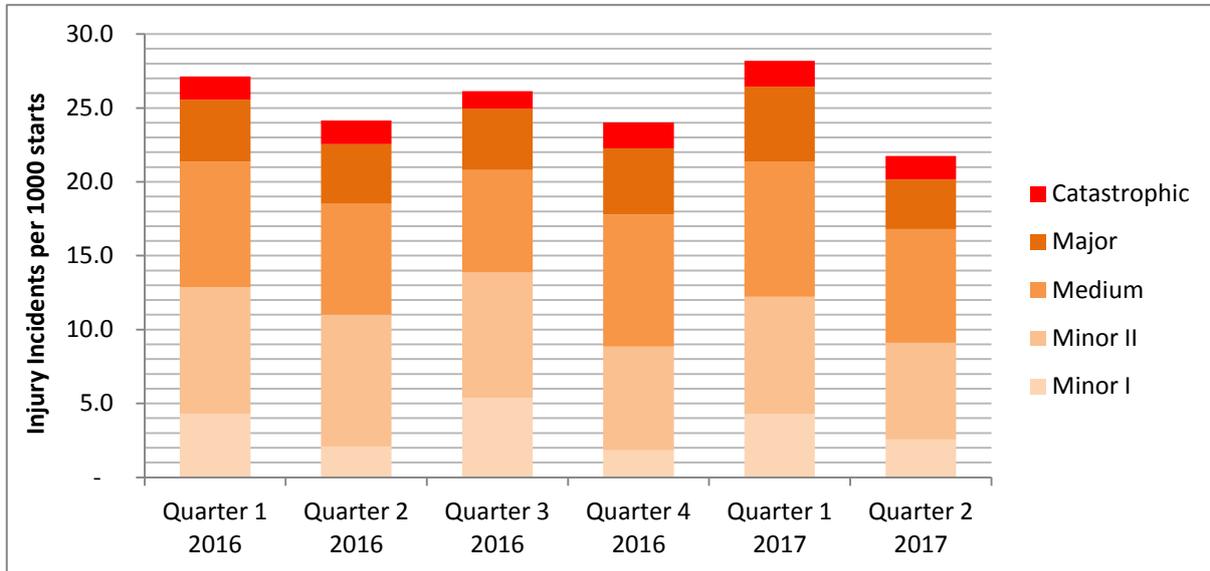
---

<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 30 June 2017** is shown in Figure 2.

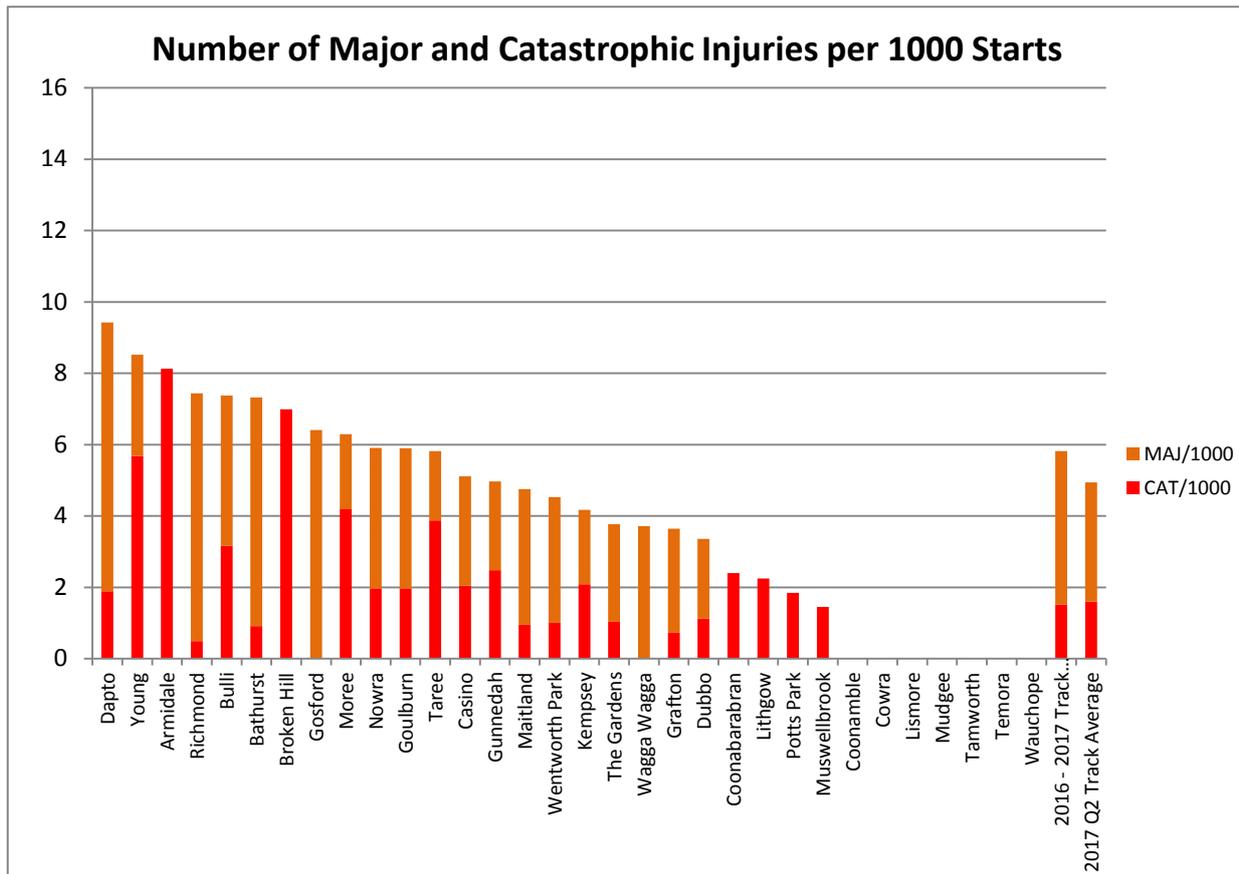
**Figure 2:** The quarterly trend in injury severity ratings reported from **1 January 2016 to 30 June 2017**.



## 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 April 2017 to 30 June 2017.

**Figure 3:** Major and Catastrophic injury incidents per 1000 starts at NSW race venues from 1 April 2017 to 30 June 2017.



## Analysis and Comment

Across all tracks, there has been a general decrease in the total number of injury incidents over the reporting period, including Major and Catastrophic injuries. This decrease reflects renovations and improvements intended to mitigate injury risks that have been carried out at a number of tracks.

With regard to the three venues that had the highest injury rates during the quarter:

- Injury rates at **Dapto** have increased during the reporting period. Injury rates were monitored throughout the reporting period, with track inspections conducted and a scheduled track renovation carried out in early July 2017.
- The **Armidale** track had one Catastrophic and one Medium injury during the quarter with 123 starts. The relatively low number of starts statistically increases the ratio per 1000 starts. The injury rate increased in the second quarter of 2017 from previous quarters. However, this increase is not statistically significant given the limited sample size.
- The **Broken Hill** track had three Catastrophic injuries and one Medium injury in April. A comprehensive track renovation was completed in early-mid May, and only two Minor Class II injuries were suffered in May-June.
- The **Young** track had two Catastrophic, one Major, one Medium, five Minor Class II and six Minor Class I injuries from 352 starts. The relatively low number of starts statistically increases the ratio per 1000 starts. However, this increase is not statistically significant given the limited sample size.

There have also been a number of tracks at which improvements in injury rates were notable.

- Injury rates at **Richmond** have improved.
- **Maitland** has seen a reduction in Catastrophic and Major injuries, but has also seen a concurrent increase in Medium- injuries.

As noted in the Injury Report for the first quarter of 2017, on 22 March 2017, GRNSW prohibited racing and trialling at the **Coonamble** track due to an unacceptable injury rate. The track has since undergone a major upgrade including a complete resurfacing and re-grading to ensure adequate cambers and realignment of the 301m starting boxes.