



DRAFT NSW Grading Policy

Greyhound Racing NSW
1 Oxford Street
Darlinghurst, NSW
2000

Correspondence

PO Box 698
NSW 1300

Phone 02 83247600

www.thedogs.com.au
admin@grnsw.com.au

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Greyhound Racing New South Wales Grading Policy:
- (a) Creates a fair, equitable and transparent system where greyhounds with the most appropriate form secure starts and are grouped with greyhounds of similar ability; and
 - (b) Ensures the viability of the industry by promoting the highest standard of racing possible that maximises the racing career of greyhounds in New South Wales (**NSW**).

2. Scope

- 2.1 This Policy is applicable to the grading of all TAB and Non-TAB race meetings conducted at NSW racetracks.
- 2.2 This Policy must be read in conjunction with the Rules.

3. Definitions

- Class of Meeting – There are three classes of race meetings in NSW. The Class of Meeting will determine the grading and penalty applied to results.
- Distance Category – There are three distance categories in NSW. Each distance category will attract a separate grade.
- Event – The competitive pursuit by one or more greyhounds of a mechanical lure.
- Free For All – An Event open to eligible first to fourth grade greyhounds.
- Greyhound – A greyhound that is owned or kept in connection with greyhound racing.
- Greyhound Racing New South Wales (**GRNSW**) – the body corporate charged with providing strategic direction and leadership in the development, and welfare of greyhound racing in NSW.
- Guarding – Guarding is the allocation of greyhounds owned/trained by the same person into separate Events.
- Maiden Event – An Event open to greyhounds who have not won an Event.
- Masters Event – An Event open to greyhounds having attained the age of 45 months at close of nominations.

- Meeting – Means any occasion at which greyhound racing Events are scheduled to be conducted pursuant to the Rules.
- Non-Grade – An Event open to all graded greyhounds.
- Order of Entry – The order in which greyhounds will be drawn in an Event.
- Rules – The Greyhounds Australasia Rules of greyhound racing which together with the Local Rules are the Rules.
- Special Event – A Special Event will be any Event where the conditions of the Event differ from this Policy.
- Weighted Points Score Table – The points allocated for each resulted Event. The last five allotted points will form the points score.

4. Class of Meeting

Greyhound race meetings in NSW will be classified into the following classes prior to the opening of nominations:

- **City**
- **Provincial**
- **Country**

5. Distance Category

There are three distance categories found in NSW:

- **Short** – 0m – 420m
- **Sprint** – 421m – 564m
- **Distance** – 565m or further

6. General Grading Provisions

- 6.1** The grader may exercise discretion with regard to the inclusion of a greyhound in an Event subject to the provisions of this Policy.
- 6.2** A greyhound will be deemed to have won an Event if it is adjudged that one or more greyhounds dead-heated during an Event.
- 6.3** A greyhound which wins a fourth grade Event or higher will advance one grade when it next competes in an Event at the same class of meeting in a particular distance category.
- 6.4** A greyhound is penalised for each win unless the conditions of the Event stipulate otherwise.
- 6.5** A greyhound that is disqualified after an Event will have any grading penalty removed and its prior grade reinstated.
- 6.6** The grader will:
- (a) Determine the grade and distances of Events to be drawn at any race meeting subject to nominations received; and
 - (b) Give preference to drawing full fields for all races.

7. Eligibility for Events

7.1 Maiden

- (a) A greyhound is eligible to compete in a Maiden Event if the greyhound at the time of starting has not won an Event.
- (b) A maiden greyhound must not be nominated to compete at a City or Provincial meeting unless:
 - (i) The greyhound has satisfactorily completed a performance trial; or
 - (ii) The greyhound has placed in a Country Event in NSW; or
 - (iii) The greyhound has placed at an interstate City or Provincial race meeting.
- (c) A maiden greyhound having competed at a Country Event must not be nominated to compete at a City or Provincial meeting at a distance of 439m or more unless:
 - (i) The greyhound has satisfactorily completed a performance trial at a distance of 439m or more; or
 - (ii) The greyhound has placed at a Country Event in NSW at a distance of 439m or more; or
 - (iii) The greyhound has placed at an interstate City or Provincial race meeting.
- (d) A greyhound which competes satisfactorily in a performance qualifying trial at a distance of less than 439m must not be nominated for a distance of greater than 439m for its first City or Provincial race start.
- (e) An unraced greyhound is ineligible to compete in a race at a City or Provincial meeting if such a race is run more than 42 days after that greyhound has satisfactorily completed a performance trial.
- (f) A greyhound that competes in a Maiden Series which wins more than one Event in the Series will, at the conclusion of the Series, be deemed to have won one Event for the purposes of determining the greyhound's grade under this Policy.

7.2 After winning a Maiden Event:

- (a) A greyhound will be graded as a fifth grade greyhound at all class of race meetings in all distance categories.
- (b) A greyhound will be elevated from fifth grade to fourth grade at a Provincial or Country meeting in a particular distance category after four wins at a Provincial or Country meeting and in a particular distance category.
- (c) A greyhound will be elevated one grade for each win after reaching fourth grade at **all** tracks in a particular distance category.

CITY

7.3 A greyhound's grade will be calculated at a City meeting as follows:

- (a) A greyhound will be graded as a fourth grade greyhound at a City meeting in a particular distance category in accordance with one of the following:
- (i) On winning two fifth grade Events at a City meeting in NSW in a particular distance category excluding its maiden;
 - (ii) On winning two Events at a City meeting outside NSW in a particular distance category excluding its maiden; and
 - (iii) On winning two Events at a City meeting, including one in NSW and one outside NSW in a particular distance category excluding its maiden.

Thereafter, it will progress up and down the Grades in accordance with 7.2(c) and 8.

PROVINCIAL

7.4 A greyhound's grade will be calculated at a Provincial meeting as follows:

- (a) A greyhound will be graded as a fourth grade greyhound at a Provincial meeting in a particular distance category in accordance with one of the following:
- (i) On winning two Events at a City meeting in a particular distance category excluding its maiden; or
 - (ii) On winning four Events at City or Provincial meetings combined in a particular distance category excluding its maiden; or
 - (iii) On winning eight Events at City or Provincial meetings combined at any track, excluding its maiden.

Thereafter, it will progress up and down the Grades in accordance with 7.2(c) and 8.

COUNTRY

7.5 A greyhound's grade will be calculated at a Country meeting as follows:

- (a) A greyhound will be graded as a fourth grade greyhound at a Country meeting in a particular distance category in accordance with one of the following:
- (i) On winning one Event at a City meeting excluding its maiden; or
 - (ii) On winning two Events at a Provincial meeting excluding its maiden; or
 - (iii) On winning four Events at Country meetings in a particular distance category excluding its maiden; or
 - (iv) On winning ten Events at Provincial or Country meetings combined at any track excluding its maiden.

Thereafter, it will progress up and down the Grades in accordance with 7.2(c) and 8.

- (b) A greyhound will be graded as a third grade greyhound at a Country meeting in a particular distance category in accordance with one of the following:
- (i) On winning two Events at a City meeting excluding its maiden; or
 - (ii) On winning four Events at City or Provincial meetings combined excluding its maiden; or
 - (iii) On winning twelve Events at City, Provincial or Country meetings combined excluding its maiden.

Thereafter, it will progress up and down the Grades in accordance with 7.2(c) and part 8.

8. Drop-Back Rule

- 8.1** A greyhound will drop back one grade at its next start in a particular class, and particular distance category if:
- (a) It is unplaced at a NSW track at the same class of meeting in a particular distance category in two Events after its last win at that particular class of meeting and in a particular distance category.
- 8.2** After being lowered one grade in accordance with clause 8.1(a) a greyhound will upon winning an Event in that particular class of meeting and in that particular distance category, be elevated one grade at that particular class of meeting in that particular distance category.
- 8.3** After being lowered one Masters grade in accordance with clause 8.2(a) a greyhound will upon winning a Masters Event be elevated one Masters Grade.
- 8.4** A greyhound's Masters Grade will drop one grade following two unplaced Masters Events.
- 8.5** A greyhound will be ineligible to compete in a fifth grade Event at Provincial, or Country race meetings after winning twenty combined City or Provincial Events, including its maiden.

9. Order of Entry

- 9.1** The following is the order of entry that the Grader must use for the inclusion of greyhounds in fields for all **Maiden** Events:
- (i) Last start placegetters at the class of meeting and in a particular distance category of nomination;
 - (ii) First start greyhounds having satisfactorily competed in a performance qualifying trial at the track at which the greyhound is nominated as determined by the Weighted Points Score Table;
 - (iii) First start greyhounds having satisfactorily competed in a performance qualifying trial at any track as determined by the Weighted Points Score Table;
 - (iv) Greyhounds placed in two of their last three race starts;
 - (v) Greyhounds placed in one of their last three race starts;
 - (vi) Greyhounds having their first start at Country meetings only;
 - (vii) Greyhounds that were reserves at the previous meeting in the class of meeting and distance at the same track of nomination that had not gained a start at that meeting;
 - (viii) Greyhounds unplaced after having one race start;
 - (ix) Greyhounds unplaced as determined by the Weighted Point Score Table.
- 9.2** The following is the order of entry that the Grader must use for the inclusion of greyhounds in fields for **Graded** Events :
- (i) Last start winners at the category of meeting and particular distance category of nomination;
 - (ii) Last start placegetters at the category of meeting and particular distance category of nomination;
 - (iii) Last start winners at a City race meeting when nominating at an alternative City race meeting or at a different distance at the track of nomination;
 - (iv) Last start winners at a Provincial race meeting when nominating at an alternative Provincial race meeting or at a different distance category at the track of nomination;
 - (v) Last start winners at a Country race meeting when nominating at an alternative Country race meeting or at a different particular distance category at the track of nomination;
 - (vi) Greyhounds that were reserves at the previous meeting at the class of meeting and distance at the same track of nomination that had not gained a start at that meeting;
 - (vii) Greyhounds dropping in grade at the class of meeting, and particular distance category of nomination;
 - (viii) Greyhounds with the best race form amongst the remainder as determined by the Weighted Points Score Table. (See Appendix A)

- 9.3** For the purposes of City, Provincial and Country race meetings, once the Order of Entry has determined the pool of greyhounds to be drawn, the 'top-down' grading principle will be applied in the following order:
- (a) Greyhounds graded first grade will be drawn to race ahead of second grade, second grade ahead of third grade, third grade ahead of fourth grade, fourth grade ahead of fifth grade, and fifth grade ahead of maiden greyhounds;
 - (b) Greyhounds of the same grade will be drawn in the following order:
 - (i) Greyhounds with the highest number of points under the Weighted Points Score Table (See Appendix A);
 - (ii) Greyhounds with the highest number of class wins in the particular distance category;
 - (iii) Greyhounds with the highest number of total wins.
- 9.4** The following is the order of entry that the Grader must use for the inclusion of greyhounds in fields for all **Masters** Events:
- (a) Last start winner in a Masters Event;
 - (b) Last start placegetters in a Masters Event;
 - (c) Greyhound with the best form as determined by the Weighted Point Score Table.
- 9.5** For the purposes of Masters Events, once the Order of Entry has determined the pool of greyhounds to be drawn, the 'top-down' grading principle will be applied in the following order:
- (a) M1's will be drawn to race ahead of M2's and M2's will be drawn ahead of M3's.
 - (b) Greyhounds of the same Masters Grade will be drawn based on their weighted Point Score.
- 9.6** **Guarding**
- (a) Guarding will be applied to the following:
 - (i) All maiden Events;
 - (ii) All Events consisting of heats and/or semi-finals;
 - (iii) All Grade 5 Events where no greyhound has five or more wins
 - (b) The grader will guard all Events listed in clause 9.6(a) except in circumstances where doing so will not be fair or equitable to a majority of participants in an Event.

10. Special Event

- 10.1 A Special Event will be any Event where the conditions of the Event differ from this Policy. GRNSW may grant permission to a Club to conduct an Event, the conditions of which differ from this Policy.
- 10.2 All Events provided on the Australian Greyhound Racing Group Race Calendar will be defined as Special Events.
- 10.3 Nominators **must** nominate directly into all Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 and Listed Events.
- 10.4 An eligible greyhound will be drawn in a Special Event unless the nominator states '**NO**' to a Special Event at the time of nomination.
- 10.5 Nominators **cannot** opt out of an advertised Non-Grade Event if eligible to compete.
- 10.6 Nominators **must** nominate directly into heats where the final is to be run at a different track.

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11. Mixing of Grades

- 11.1** Special Events may consist of greyhounds of any grade subject to the eligibility requirements of the particular Special Event.
- 11.2** A greyhound is eligible for a Free For All Event if:
- (a) the greyhound is graded, first, second or third grade at the class of meeting and in that particular distance category; or
 - (b) a fourth grade greyhound has won:
 - (i) a minimum of five Events; and
 - (ii) Includes a minimum of two Events at class of race meeting at which the Free For All Event is to be conducted.
- 11.3** A mixed grade Event may be conducted where the field consists of:
- (a) One greyhound from the higher grade; and
 - (b) At least two from the lower grade.
- 11.4** Where a mixed grade Event is to be drawn the higher grade greyhounds will be drawn before the lower grade greyhounds.
- 11.5** A fourth grade greyhound is eligible to compete in a third and fourth grade Event if:
- (a) It has won four or more Events; and
 - (b) Includes a minimum of two Events at the Class of race meeting or higher at which the third and fourth grade Event is to be conducted.
- 11.6** A fifth grade greyhound is eligible to compete in fourth and fifth grade Event if it has won three or more Events
- 11.7** Where a greyhound wins an Event consisting of multiple grades, that win is classified as a win in the lowest grade for which the greyhound was eligible to compete at that class and particular distance category.
- 11.8** Masters Events may consist of any Masters Grade.
- 11.9** Where a Masters Event consists of mixed Masters Grades the points awarded will be awarded at the highest Masters Grade in the race.

12. Masters Racing

- 12.1** Masters Racing consists of three Masters grades:
- (a) M1;
 - (b) M2; and
 - (c) M3.
- 12.2** All Masters wins will be classified as Penalty Free when greyhounds return from Masters to Non Masters Events.
- 12.3** A greyhound's Masters grade will be calculated when it becomes eligible to compete in Masters Events at the age of 45 months at close of nominations, as follows:
- (a) No greyhound will commence Masters Racing as a M1;
 - (b) A greyhound will commence Masters Racing as a M2 if the greyhound has won:
 - (i) Two or more City Events, excluding its maiden; or
 - (ii) Six or more Provincial Events, excluding its maiden;
 - (iii) Six or more City and Provincial combined Events, excluding its maiden; or
 - (iv) Twelve total wins, excluding its maiden.
 - (c) All other greyhounds will commence Masters Racing as a M3.
- 12.4** A greyhound's Masters Grade will move up one grade on winning two Masters Events.
- 12.5** Multiple Masters stakes Events will not be guarded.
- 12.6** Maiden greyhounds are ineligible to nominate and compete in a Masters Event.

13. Pathways Racing

- 13.1** A greyhound will be ineligible to compete in a Pathways Event if:
- (a) The greyhound won its last Event at a City or Provincial race meeting including its maiden; or
 - (b) The greyhound is graded fourth grade or higher in the class of meeting and in the particular distance category.

14. Categories of Race Meetings

For the purposes of this Grading Policy, race meetings conducted at greyhound racing tracks are categorised as follows:

14.1 City Race Meetings

NEW SOUTH WALES

City Class Meetings

VICTORIA

Meadows Saturday night meetings only
Sandown Thursday night meetings only

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Cannington Saturday night meetings only

QUEENSLAND

QLD Category 1 race meetings

All Group races as set out in the Australian Greyhound Racing Group Race Calendar conducted interstate will be classified as City Events regardless of the classification of the track at which the Group race is held for the purposes of determining a greyhound's grade under this Policy.

14.2 Provincial Race Meetings

NEW SOUTH WALES

Provincial Class Meetings

ACT

Canberra

VICTORIA

All TAB meetings, except Meadows Saturday night and Sandown Thursday night

QUEENSLAND

QLD Category 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 race meetings

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

All TAB meetings

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

All TAB meetings except Cannington Saturday night

TASMANIA

All Tracks

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Darwin

NEW ZEALAND

All Tracks

INTERNATIONAL

All Tracks

14.3 Country Race Meetings

NEW SOUTH WALES

Country Class Meetings

ALL OTHER STATES

Non TAB Meetings

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Appendix A: Weighted Points Score & Pro Rata

Weighted Point Score for the purpose of determining order of entry in accordance with clause 7.								
City	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
Grade 1	112	96	88	44	40	36	32	28
Grade 2	104	88	80	40	36	32	28	24
Grade 3	96	80	72	36	32	28	24	20
Grade 4	88	72	64	32	28	24	20	16
Grade 5	80	64	56	28	24	20	16	12
Maiden	36	32	28	14	12	10	8	6
Provincial	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
Grade 1	84	72	66	33	30	27	24	21
Grade 2	78	66	60	30	27	24	21	18
Grade 3	72	60	54	27	24	21	18	15
Grade 4	66	54	48	24	21	18	15	12
Grade 5	60	48	42	21	18	15	12	9
Maiden	36	32	28	14	12	10	8	6
Country	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
Grade 1	56	48	44	22	20	18	16	14
Grade 2	52	44	40	20	18	16	14	12
Grade 3	48	40	36	18	16	14	12	10
Grade 4	44	36	32	16	14	12	10	8
Grade 5	40	32	28	14	12	10	8	6
Maiden	36	32	28	14	12	10	8	6
Masters	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
M1	70	60	55	28	25	22	19	16
M2	60	50	45	22	19	16	14	12
M3	50	40	35	17	14	12	10	8
Perf Trial	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th				
	17	13	8	4				

Note: The points quoted for Performance Trials is used as an order of merit and only applies to unraced maidens when nominating for their first official race start.

Note: A greyhound's weighted point score will continue to be calculated on its last five starts, whether those starts in Masters or Non Masters Events.

Pro Rata

Greyhounds that have not yet competed in five starts are allocated points on a pro-rata or an average over five starts with a weighting of 80% applied to the "pro-rata" points. To calculate the points of a greyhound that has not competed in five starts you divide the greyhound's total points by the amount of starts it has competed in, then you multiply the new average by the difference between five and the number of actual starts and after applying the **80%** discount weighting add the result to the actual points earned from the greyhound's starts.

Examples for working out the points of greyhounds using this method:

One Start = 36 points $36 / 1 = 36$ $36 \times 4 = 144$ $144 \times 0.8 = 115$ $115 + 36 = 151$ points

Two Starts = 46 points $46 / 2 = 23$ $23 \times 3 = 69$ $69 \times 0.8 = 55$ $55 + 46 = 101$ points

Four Starts = 84 points $84 / 4 = 21$ $21 \times 1 = 21$ $21 \times 0.8 = 16$ $16 + 84 = 100$ points

Grading Department Contact

Grading Queries:

Participants are advised that, subject to the provisions of LR21A and R22, no alterations to published box draws will be made unless the Grading Department is notified about a problem within three hours of the box draw being published on thedogs.com.au website. Please note that races will only be re-drawn in the following circumstances:

- The omission of an eligible greyhound that was correctly nominated; or
- Incorrect grading allocation of a greyhound in a field; or
- The incorrect allocation of a reserve greyhound(s)

Please note that if your enquiry does not relate to any of the above points, it will not be considered by the Grading Department outside of the allocated daily phone enquiry period of 10am-2pm.

Prior to contacting the Grading Department regarding any grading issue, participants are encouraged to view the Order of Choice Report for the meeting in question. The Order of Choice Report can be found on thedogs.com.au website and is attached to all published NSW race fields.

General grading enquiries, for example, on the grade of a greyhound at a particular track or eligibility to compete in certain events, can be submitted to GRNSW for response via the online Grading Enquiry Form or facsimile - the GRNSW Grading Department will typically respond to these enquiries within 48 hours of receipt.

Nominations:

Nominations for meetings can be made online through the OzChase portal at www.thedogs.com.au

or via fax on (02) 8580 5301 or by phone on 1300 664 565.

Closing Time of Nominations:

Closing times for nominations are determined by GRNSW and are subject to change from time to time. Closing times for nominations for all race meetings can be found under the calendar section of www.thedogs.com.au website.