



NSW Grading Policy

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Greyhound Racing NSW

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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 and or 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 Four years.
- **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 Greyhound Racing Rules 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 greyhounds weighted 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 - C**
- **Provincial - P**
- **Country - Y**

5. Distance Category

There are three distance categories found in NSW:

- **Short** = 0m to 420m
- **Sprint** = 421m to 564m
- **Distance** = 565m and over

6. General Grading Provisions

- 6.1** The Chief 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 for first.
- 6.3** A greyhound is penalised for each win unless the conditions of the Event stipulate otherwise.
- 6.4** A greyhound that is disqualified after an Event will have any grading penalty and points associated with the Event removed.
- 6.5** 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 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 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 the following:
 - (i) On winning two fifth grade Events at City meetings in a particular distance category excluding its maiden.

Thereafter, it will progress up and down the grades in accordance with 7.2(b) 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 City meetings in a particular distance category excluding its maiden; or
 - (ii) On winning four Events at Provincial meetings in a particular distance category excluding its maiden; or
 - (iii) On winning four Events at City or Provincial meetings combined in a particular distance category excluding its maiden; or
 - (iv) On winning eight Events at City or Provincial meetings combined in all distance categories, excluding its maiden.

Thereafter, it will progress up and down the grades in accordance with 7.2(b) 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 any City meeting excluding its maiden; or
 - (ii) On winning two Events at any Provincial meetings excluding its maiden; or
 - (iii) On winning four Events at Country meetings in a particular distance category excluding its maiden; or
 - (iv) On winning eight Events at any Provincial or Country meetings combined in any distance category, excluding its maiden.Thereafter, it will progress up and down the grades in accordance with 7.2(b) 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 any City meetings excluding its maiden; or
 - (ii) On winning four Events at any City or Provincial meetings combined excluding its maiden; or
 - (iii) On winning ten Events at any City, Provincial or Country meetings combined excluding its maiden.Thereafter, it will progress up and down the grades in accordance with 7.2(b) 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 three 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** A greyhound's Masters grade will drop back one Masters grade at its next Masters start following three unplaced starts in NSW Masters Events.
- 8.4** After being lowered one Masters grade in accordance with clause 8.3 a greyhound will upon winning a Masters Event be elevated one Masters grade.
- 8.5** A greyhound will be ineligible to compete in a fifth grade Event at Provincial or Country race meetings after winning fifteen combined City and Provincial Events excluding 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, including heats:
- (i) Last start placegetters at the class of meeting and in a particular distance category of nomination;
 - (ii) Greyhounds placed in two of their last three race starts;
 - (iii) Greyhounds placed in one of their last three race starts;
 - (iv) Greyhounds having their first start;
 - (v) 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;
 - (vi) Greyhounds unplaced after having one race start;
 - (vii) 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, excluding heats:
- (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 a preference in accordance with 9.1 and 9.2;
 - (ii) Greyhounds with the highest number of points under the Weighted Points Score Table (See Appendix A);
 - (iii) Greyhounds with the highest number of class wins in the particular distance category;
 - (iv) 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) Greyhounds with a Masters preference in accordance with 9.4.
 - (b) M1’s will be drawn to race ahead of M2’s and M2’s will be drawn ahead of M3’s.
 - (c) 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 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 heats where the final is to be run at a different track.
- 10.4** Nominators must nominate directly into all Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 and Listed Events.
- 10.5** An eligible greyhound will be drawn in a Special Event that is not a group or listed Event unless the nominator states '**NO**' to a Special Event at the time of nomination.
- 10.6** Nominators cannot opt out of an advertised Non-Grade Event if eligible to compete.

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 in the distance category and in the class of race meeting or higher 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 in the distance category and in 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 is eligible to compete in Masters Events at the age of four years on the date of the Event.
- 12.4** A greyhound's Masters grade will be calculated 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 City and or Provincial Events combined, excluding its maiden;
or
 - (iii) Twelve total wins, excluding its maiden.
 - (c) All other greyhounds will commence Masters Racing as a M3.
- 12.5** A greyhound's Masters grade will move up one grade on winning two Masters Events. Thereafter, it will progress up and down the Masters grades in accordance with 8.3 and 8.4.
- 12.6** Multiple Masters Events will not be guarded.
- 12.7** 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

Sandown

Metropolitan Class Race Meetings

Metropolitan Class Race Meetings

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

City Class Race Events

QUEENSLAND

QLD Category 1 race meetings

All Group race finals 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.

14.2 PROVINCIAL RACE MEETINGS

NEW SOUTH WALES / ACT

Provincial Class Meetings

VICTORIA

All TAB meetings, except Meadows and Sandown Metropolitan Class Race Meetings

QUEENSLAND

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

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

All TAB meetings

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

All TAB meetings, except City Class Events

TASMANIA

All TAB meetings

NORTHERN TERRITORY

All TAB meetings

NEW ZEALAND & INTERNATIONAL

All Tracks

14.3 COUNTRY RACE MEETINGS

NEW SOUTH WALES

Country Class Meetings

ALL OTHER STATES
Non TAB Meetings

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

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