

Greyhound Racing Victoria

Grading Changes Explanatory Booklet

Summary of the changes to grading in 2014/15

Greyhound Racing Victoria
5/19/2014

May 2014

Grading Changes Announced

Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) today announced 14 Board-approved enhancements to grading and racing as a result of an extensive consultation process with its members aimed at providing increased opportunities for those involved in the sport.

Acting in accordance with the strategic objective of providing a transparent, fair and enjoyable racing experience for members and maximising racing opportunities for all greyhounds in order to deliver Racing Operations excellence, GRV has enacted two priority initiatives outlined in the five-year plan entitled '**On Track for a Great Future**':

1. **Racing Opportunities maximisation project**
2. **Implement grading review and improvements**

Throughout a substantial planning consultation period GRV received feedback from its members at three strategic consultation sessions, through 632 industry surveys, from one participant workshop, four public grading-specific consultation sessions at Clubs (Warragul, Geelong, Bendigo and Sandown) and contribution from the Greyhound Owners Trainers and Breeders Association (GOTBA). In addition to this, all grading queries from 2013 and 2014 were reviewed.

Each item of feedback was considered by the GRV Racing Department and distilled into common themes, whereby solutions to the recurring items of concern were developed.

Of the 14 recommendations that were approved by the GRV Board, the introduction of a new rule relating to 'Associated Greyhounds' has been identified as one change of major significance. The Associated Greyhounds rule has been introduced to provide as much opportunity for all members as possible and is a direct result of significant, and consistent, industry feedback.

The Associated Greyhounds rule states:

Local Rule 28.7: The Board Grader may impose a limit on the number of Associated Greyhounds eligible to compete in a particular race in accordance with the Grading Guidelines as amended from time to time.

Essentially, the rule limits the number of greyhounds trained, owned, or associated with any member to two per race. Exceptions will be made for races that are Grade 4 and above as well as distance category races. The GRV Grader will also have the discretion to add nominated Associated Greyhounds to fields in the event that nominations are extended, to ensure that field sizes and race numbers are maximised whenever possible in the best interests of greyhound racing. It is anticipated that this change will be introduced on 1 August 2014.

Other significant changes include the introduction of Grade 6 and Grade 7 in 2015 for less experienced greyhounds, Non-Penalty meetings at Metro-Clubs being graded as Provincial Full Stakes meetings and amendments to the Special Event/Group Grading Policy.

GRV Chief Executive, Adam Wallish, commented that these significant changes to grading are a result of the organisation's commitment to listening to participant feedback and being transparent with its processes.

“Transparency, fairness and cooperation are three things that GRV want to be known for throughout its membership base,” Mr Wallish said.

“The strategic planning process identified numerous key areas that we needed to focus on as an organisation and these changes to grading signify a commitment to actioning the plan and a desire to make greyhound racing accessible and fair to all members.”

“We anticipate that these changes will be rolled out between now and the start of 2015 and we will review the way in which the changes are performing in relation to our organisation’s objectives from time to time.”

“Throughout this period, industry feedback will also be sought from all areas of the sport on how the changes are performing to determine whether further changes are needed or whether some of the implemented changes need to be reassessed.”

“This is a very important announcement from GRV and the changes have been strongly considered at all levels of the sport, with the final recommendations the result of a cordial and cooperative collaboration between GRV and its members.

For more information please view the detailed changes at the GRV website (www.grv.org.au) or pick up a booklet at your local Club.

For more information on any of the material in this booklet please contact the GRV Racing Department on 03 8329 1100.

Summary of Changes:

Resolution 1:

Introduction of 'Associated Greyhounds'

Local Rule 28.7

- The Board grader may impose a limit on the number of Associated Greyhounds eligible to compete in a particular race in accordance with the Grading Guidelines as amended from time-to-time.

Grading Guidelines 1.8:

- In accordance with Local Rule 28.7, the GRV Grader has the absolute discretion (notwithstanding eligibility, selection method or ranking) to limit the number of Associated Greyhounds competing in any Event to no more than two (2) or such other number as determined by GRV.
- For the purposes of this Grading Guideline 1.8, the following matters shall be taken into account in the selection process:
 - If after the close of nominations for a Meeting the GRV Grader determines that from the nominations received there will be a breach of Grading Guideline 1.8, nominations shall be extended (for at least 3 hours) to allow opportunity for further nominations to be received.
 - Following the extension of nominations, the GRV Grader shall allow the inclusion of an additional Associated Greyhound or greyhounds as required to fulfil Grading Guideline 1.1 and or 1.2.
 - Grading Guideline 1.8 (a) shall not apply to nominations received for Events stipulated within the 'Weighted Points Table' for Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 inclusive; Level 5 Category 2; Level 6 Category 3; and also nominations received for the 'Staying Distance' category. *NOTE: This is essence is all racing at Grade 4 or better at all tracks.*
 - An Advertised Event (with pre approved Non-Standard Conditions), may also be exempt from the application of Grading Guideline 1.8.
 - In accordance with GRV Local Rule 28.5, the GRV Grader may deem that a greyhound is not suitable for an Event as a result of applying Grading Guideline 1.8, and may refuse the nomination.

'Associated' in reference to Local Rule 28.7 means in respect to one greyhound to another greyhound:

- Both greyhounds are owned by the same person or syndicate or by Related Persons;
- Both greyhounds are trained by the same person or by Related Persons;
- One greyhound is owned, and the other is trained, by the same person or by Related Persons;
- Both greyhounds are kennelled at the same address (unless the shared-kennelling arrangement has otherwise been approved by the GRV Board); or
- Such other relationship or connection determined by the GRV Board from time to time.

'Related Persons' are:

- A person and any other person residing or co-locating with that person; and
- Any other relationship between persons or entities as determined by the GRV Board from time to time

Estimated implementation: 1 August 2014

METRO NON-PENALTY MEETINGS

Common themes from industry consultation:

- The ten wins, \$25,000 prizemoney and four City Wins restrictions are no longer relevant because of changes to prizemoney and the number of meetings conducted per week.
- Only 'Big' Trainers race there
- Non-penalty meetings are not necessarily 'Graded' because the greyhounds are all Grade 5's or Maidens
- Greyhounds running times that would win Metro Full Stakes races are allowed to continue racing as Grade 5's

Resolution 2:

- **Metro Non-Penalty meetings to be treated the same as Provincial Full-Stakes meetings.** These meetings will be graded and treated as standalone tracks. This means that the *Grade on track* will vary on Sunday and Thursdays at Sandown Park and Wednesdays and Saturdays at The Meadows.

Estimated date of implementation: 1 August 2014

GROUP RACE / SPECIAL EVENT GRADING

Common themes from industry consultation:

- High grade dogs (Grades 1-3) are being left out in preference for Grade 5 dogs with better rankings
- Current form used vs. grade on track
- Seeding is perceived by some participants as 'race fixing'

Resolution 3:

Give preference in Order of Entry to greyhounds Graded 1-3 on the track. Grades 4 and 5 would remain on Rankings. The Group Grading policy will be re-worded to reflect this.

Estimated date of implementation: 1 June 2014

Resolution 4:

- **Individual Clubs select Seeded/Random/Guard or Random/Guard for their Group Races.**
- **Special Event Race Type to be Seeded/Random/Guard**

Estimated date of implementation: 1 June 2014

WEIGHTED POINTS TABLE

Common themes from industry consultation:

- Greyhounds with less than 5 starts are being penalised and advantaged as ALL starts are used in the calculations
- The balance of points allocated needs to be addressed as:
- Maidens are being crucified for one bad run
- Quali Trials are rated too high
- Free For All races are not rated high enough
- Maiden Semi Finals are not rated high enough
- Grade 4 are not rated high enough

Resolution 5:

Cap number of points allocated at fifth place for Maidens and lower graded races

Currently, a different number of points are given to greyhounds finishing from fifth to eighth position in a race. This change will cap the number of points given to the greyhounds finishing fifth or lower in a race.

Example:

<u>Amended</u> WEIGHTED POINTS ALLOCATION										
Level	Track Category	GRADE	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
8	2	5Q, 6, AMM, GNP, GRAD, JG, JM, JNP, M, MH, MHH, MJ5, MQF, T3-5, T3-5H, XM5, XM6, XMG, XP	70	140	210	280	350	350	350	350

Estimated implementation: 1 June 2014

Resolution 6:

Sliding scale when ignoring worst runs and allocating points per starts

<u>Total Races</u>	<u>Ignore</u>	<u>Total Assessed races</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>8+</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>

Estimated implementation: 1 August 2014

Resolution 7:

Amendments to weighted points table for anomalies as identified by Grading Review Panel

Some examples include:

- Maiden Semi Final should equal Maiden Final and not Maiden Heat.
- Provincial X45 should equal GR4 not GR5.
- All Maiden Meeting should equal T3-M not T3-5 or M
- FFA points should be on a higher level

Estimated implementation: 1 June 2014

TIER 3 RACING

Common themes from industry consultation:

- Greyhounds that get stuck in the 'hole' between T3 (breaking time standards) and GR5
- A lot of greyhounds in the pool that break the time standard slightly, who are non competitive in Grade 5
- 4 outs can be severe for a greyhound that beats the standard by less than a length
- Encouraging breeding of bad dog
- Change the perception of only bad dogs competing in Tier 3

Resolution 8:

Reduce the number of 'outs' and implement a sliding scale

E.g. Break standard by:

<u>.001 < .100</u>	<u>1 run outside standard to return</u>
<u>.101 < .200</u>	<u>2 runs outside standard to return</u>
<u>.201 < .300</u>	<u>3 runs outside standard to return</u>
<u>.301 <</u>	<u>4 runs outside standard to return</u>

Estimated implementation: 1 August 2014

OVERALL GRADING

Common themes from industry consultation:

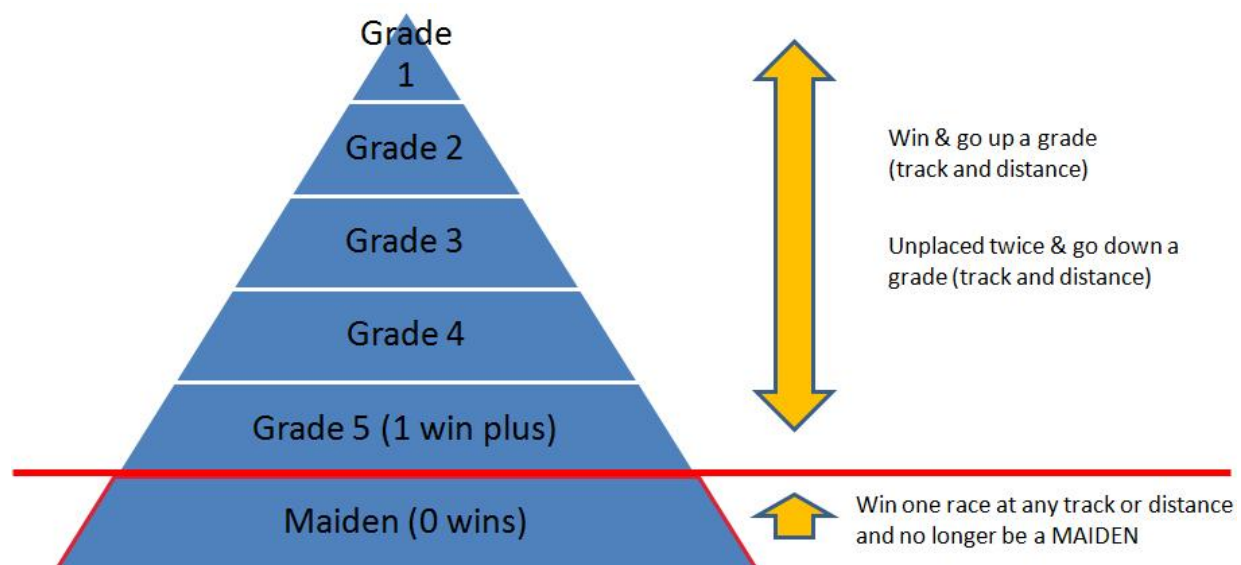
- Less experienced Grade 5's are racing against more experienced greyhounds
- There is too much of a gap in quality from the top Grade 5's to bottom Grade 5's
- 1 win Grade 5 greyhounds are regularly out graded

From this feedback GRV has developed a new Grading system to alleviate these issues and provide more opportunities for more greyhounds to race.

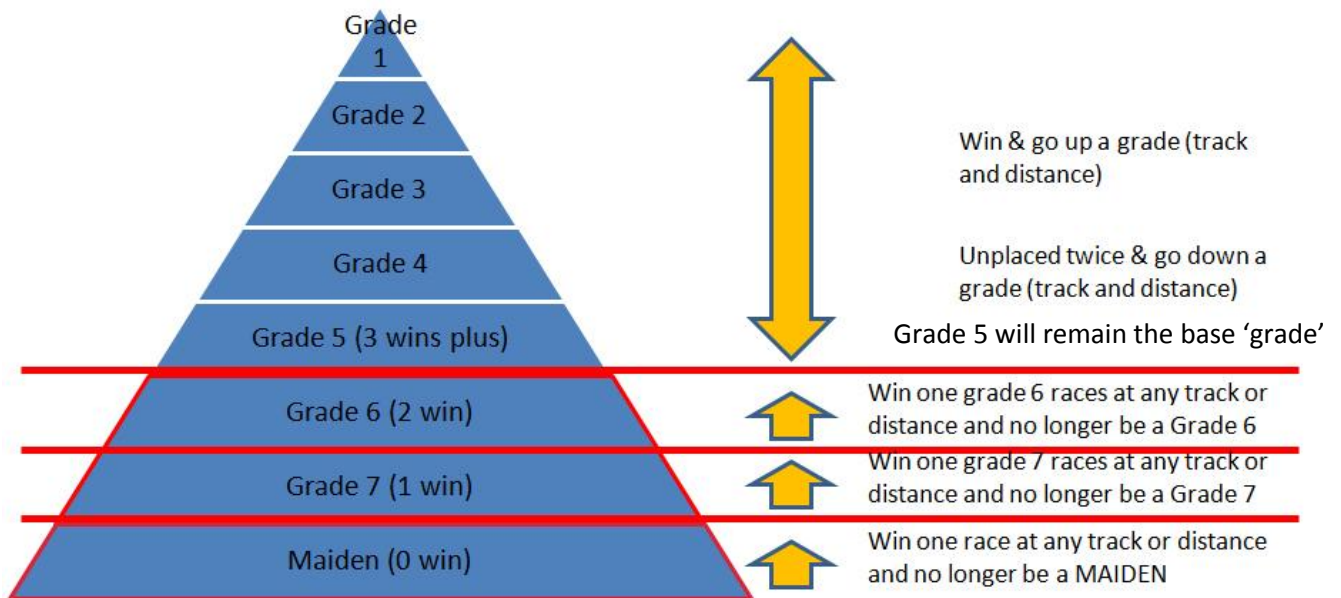
Resolution 9:

Adopt a new Grading system to incorporate Grade 6 and 7

Current Grading System:



Changes to Grading System:



Further communication about Grade 6 and Grade 7 will be released throughout 2014 before implementation.

Estimated implementation 1 January 2015

UPGRADING

Common themes arising from industry consultation:

- 10 Wins, \$25K prize money, 4 city wins too tight
- Grade 3 greyhounds in the city are running in Grade 5's in the Country.
- 3 city win greyhounds should be grade 4 at all country tracks.
- Dogs upgraded to Grade 4 are competing in mixed 4/5 races against 1 win country dogs.
- Half Stakes wins are being treated the same as Full stakes wins

Resolution 10:

When considering an upgrade of a greyhound the 10 wins that are considered must be FULL STAKES.

Estimated implementation: 1 June 2014

Resolution 11:

Upgraded greyhounds on provincial tracks must run in the upgraded grade or above if they have won \$50K or more.

For example, a greyhound upgraded to Grade 4 can only race in Grade 4 or higher, not in a mixed 4/5.

Estimated implementation: 1 August 2014

GRADING GUIDELINES

It was identified that the restriction of greyhound fields with a minimum of 7 runners was too restrictive especially when high grade greyhounds competing at a Metro Full-Stakes meeting at middle distance and above were nominating and not gaining a start. GRV had Tabcorp analyse the turnover figures on the above proposal and discovered that these types of races had better turnover than standard grade 5 races with 8 runners.

Resolution 12:

- **Change to Grading Guidelines(GG): GG 1.3: For any Category 1 595m plus events in Level 4 of the weighted points score table, a minimum of six (6) nominations are required to conduct that event**

Estimated implementation: 1 June 2014

Resolution 13:

Novice grading to incorporate Highest Ranked Grade 5's as determined by GRV Grader followed by the best-performed Maidens.

Estimated implementation: 1 June 2014

Resolution 14:

Amendment to Maiden and Grade 5 Order of Entry Rules to incorporate Tier 3 form by catering for greyhounds that have broken the time standard at their last Tier 3 start.

Estimated implementation: 1 August 2014