



## RACING NOTICE - IMPORTANT UPDATES – 23 DECEMBER 2015

Several important changes to racing and nomination procedures and policies will be implemented in early January 2016. Changes include an extension of the Finish On Lure (FOL) Trial, changes to the Grading Guidelines and to FASTTRACK.

### Finish On Lure (FOL) Trial – Extension

Trialing of the FOL was implemented following recommendations from the Racing Integrity Commissioner that GRV analyse the effectiveness of new lure systems to help greyhounds to consistently chase. Following FOL meetings at Geelong, Warragul and Shepparton, the trial is to be extended to cover three (3) meetings per week.

The FOL will continue to be used at Shepparton on the Provincial Full Stakes meetings on Monday nights. Ballarat will introduce the FOL during the Monday afternoon Tier 3 meetings. Sandown Park will also introduce the FOL during the Provincial Full Stakes meetings on Sunday afternoons. The FOL meeting dates through until the end of March 2016 are currently as follows:

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Ballarat</b>		Mon 18/1/16 (D)	Mon 25/1/16 (D)	Mon 1/2/16 (D)	Mon 8/2/16 (D)	Mon 15/2/16 (D)
<b>Sandown (SAP)</b>	Sun 10/1/16 (D)	Sun 17/1/16 (D)	Sun 24/1/16 (D)	Sun 31/1/16 (D)	Sun 7/2/16 (D)	Sun 14/2/16 (D)
<b>Shepparton</b>	Mon 11/1/16 (N)	Tue 19/1/16 (N)	Mon 25/1/16 (N)	Mon 1/2/16 (N)		Mon 15/2/16 (N)

Week	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>Ballarat</b>	Mon 22/2/16 (D)	Mon 29/2/16 (D)	Mon 7/3/16 (D)	Mon 14/3/16 (D)	Mon 21/3/16 (D)	Mon 28/3/16 (D)
<b>Sandown (SAP)</b>	Sun 21/2/16 (D)	Sun 28/2/16 (D)	Sun 6/3/16 (D)	Sun 13/3/16 (D)	Sun 20/3/16 (D)	Sun 27/3/16 (D)
<b>Shepparton</b>	Mon 22/2/16 (N)	Mon 29/2/16 (N)		Mon 14/3/16 (N)	Mon 21/3/16 (N)	Mon 28/3/16 (N)

Timeslot: (D) - Day, (T) - Twilight, (N) - Night

Please check [fasttrack.grv.org.au](http://fasttrack.grv.org.au) for any changes to the above dates.

### **Upcoming Trials:**

All participants are encouraged to trial their greyhounds on the FOL prior to nominating for a meeting. FOL trials will be held at Sandown Park and Ballarat in the lead up to each club's first FOL meeting. Announcements will be made via the FASTTRACK dashboard in the coming weeks. Shepparton will continue to conduct FOL trials after the last race of a FOL meeting.

### **Grading Changes – effective Wednesday 6th January 2016.**

**Tier 3 250+ Ranking** – Tier 3 racing was originally introduced to 'provide greater opportunities for lower class Grade 5, 6, 7 and Maiden greyhounds'. In keeping with that objective, in addition to the time standards for each track, all greyhounds nominated will now be required to have a grading ranking of more than 250 to be eligible.

**Tier 3 Reserve Right** – Currently, a greyhound drawn as a Reserve in a Tier 3 Meeting has its unsuccessful nomination count reset to zero. By introducing a reserve right to Tier 3, greyhounds who are a last start reserve at any Victorian track, will now gain an order of entry ranking of '2' at Tier 3 Meetings.



**Removal of Grading Guideline 7.4** – The removal of this guideline will allow moderately ranked greyhounds who have earned more than \$25,000 in their career to be eligible to compete in Grade 5 Non-Penalty Races.

**FASTTRACK Changes – effective Wednesday 6th January 2016.**

**Ranking Advertised Events** – Trainers will no longer be able to nominate greyhounds for ranking (eg. 275+) races when the individual greyhound’s rank is less than the advertised ranking. Currently, all ranking race nominations are accepted, regardless of their grading ranking, and then withdrawn at the time of grading.

**GA R77A** was introduced on 1 December 2015 – This Rule provides that if a greyhound has not competed in an event, coursing event or satisfactory trial over the previous six months its nomination will be rejected. From 6 January 2016, a message will appear on Fasttrack when nominating greyhounds to which this Rule is applicable at the time of nomination which will advise the nominator that the nomination will not be accepted.

**Removal of ‘No Reserve’ Option – February 2016**

Over the past 12 months there has been a sustained decline in the number of races conducted which include 8 starters. This has an impact on many areas including maximising opportunities for greyhounds to race and wagering performance. Following detailed analysis the following concerning trends have been identified:

1. Before May 2013 18% of nominations received had the ‘no reserve’ option selected. This has increased to a current average of 47% of all nominations received.
2. A recent example saw 182 individual nominations received for a meeting and only one of the 12 races included a full field of eight starters and two reserves. Following scratching, this resulted in a further reduction of field sizes across the meeting.

**No Reserve removal** – In an endeavour to correct the declining trend, from 1 February 2016, when nominating for Victorian meetings, the ‘No Reserve’ option will be made inactive for all meetings.

Trainers can apply in writing for their nominated greyhounds to not be selected as a reserve at a particular meeting due to the length of travel time. Removal of the ‘No Reserve’ option will allow the grader to make better use of all nominations submitted for a meeting. This change will be implemented on a trial basis and will be further assessed after two months.

Feedback on all of the above changes is welcomed and can be sent to:

[racingdepartment@grv.org.au](mailto:racingdepartment@grv.org.au)

An updated version of the grading guidelines will be uploaded to FASTTRACK on 6 January 2016.