

Greyhound Racing Victoria

Grading Guidelines



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1. GRADING PROCESS

This document informs the process under which all Victorian race fields are produced, in accordance with the following statements.

- (a) GRV will always attempt, where possible to:
 - a. provide full race meetings, and full fields of eight (8) greyhounds, plus up to two (2) reserve greyhounds from the final list of nominations received, and
 - b. create a meeting from the top down, (excluding bottom-up meetings) in the following order of preference:
 - i. advertised events (excluding hybrid events at provincial meetings),
 - ii. distance events,
 - iii. by grade, where Grade 1 is the highest priority and Maiden the lowest.
- (b) GRV have the discretion to:
 - a. program any event when fewer than eight (8) nominations have been received, and
 - b. create any restricted win event, based on the nominations received, to ensure a competitive event.
- (c) The intention of the Grading process is to ensure that greyhounds with the most appropriate form gain starts and are allocated to races with greyhounds of similar ranking.

2. LOCAL RULES

There are Local Rules of Racing applicable to the grading of Victorian race meetings. They include:

- (a) GRV Local Rule 27.3 – Any greyhound in respect of which a nomination is withdrawn after closure of nominations but prior to box draw for any reason shall be prohibited from competing in any other Events for a period of ten (10) days from the date of the meeting.
- (b) GRV Local Rule 28.2 - All nominations submitted in respect of a Meeting shall be considered by the Board Grader who shall select, in the Board Grader’s absolute discretion, the greyhounds that shall comprise the field to compete in an Event, plus up to two (2) Reserve Greyhounds.
- (c) GRV Local Rule 28.5 - The Board Grader may, in his/her absolute discretion, deem that a greyhound is not suitable for an Event for which it has been nominated and may refuse the nomination.
- (d) GRV Local Rule 29.2 – Consecutive Day. A greyhound shall not be eligible to compete in more than one (1) Event over any two (2) day period, save that a greyhound may be permitted to compete in more than one (1) Event at a Coursing meeting.

3. GRADING DEPARTMENT CONTACT

All enquiries regarding greyhound eligibility and/or the grading of race fields are to be made in writing to the Grading Department and should be sent via email to graders@grv.org.au. GRV aims to provide a written response by return email within 2 business days.

4. COMMON TERMS

In the interpretation of these guidelines, definitions in the Rules of Racing have the same meaning in these guidelines unless the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires.

Advertised Event – An Event which has been defined and advertised in the racing program prior to nominations opening.

City Class Win - Win worth \$3,000 or more to the winner at the following tracks - The Meadows, Sandown Park, Wentworth Park, Albion Park, Cannington, Angle Park, Hobart, and Launceston (excluding Maiden Events).

Connections –The participants connected to a greyhound as an owner and/or trainer.

Debutant – Greyhound has not previously started in an Event.

Event - The competitive pursuit by one or more greyhounds of a mechanical lure.

Field - An Event that shall comprise a maximum of eight (8) greyhounds, plus up to two (2) Reserve Greyhounds.

Free For All – Event comprising Grade 4, Grade 3, Grade 2 or Grade 1 greyhounds.

Guarding - Guarding is the allocation of greyhounds owned and or trained by the same person into separate Events without compromising the grading of an Event.

Grade 7 – Greyhound has won one (1) Event.

Grade 6 - Greyhound has won two (2) Events.

Grade 5 – Greyhound has won a minimum of three (3) Events.

Maiden – At the time of competing, Greyhound has not won an Event.

Maiden Event – An Event open to greyhounds who have not won an Event.

Mixed Event – Event contains two (2) consecutive grades of greyhounds.

Multi-Stage Series - An Event comprised of heats and final or an Event comprised of heats, semi-finals and final.

Nomination – Submission of an entry into an Event in accordance with the rules of racing.

Non-Penalty Event – Grade 5 or Higher Event that results in no penalty to the winning greyhound.

Novice – An Event open to Maiden and Grade 7 greyhounds.

Order Of Entry – Conditions associated with the order in which greyhounds will be selected into the field for a defined Event.

Ranking – Individual ranking of a greyhound calculated from the weighted points table.

Recent - For the purposes of Order of Entry, shall be defined as 28 days.

Restricted Win - means an Event restricted to greyhounds that have only won the prescribed number of Events in their career.

Reserve – A greyhound that has not made the final field of eight (8) greyhounds and will only be permitted to run following a scratching of another greyhound from the Event.

Scratching - Withdrawal of a greyhound from an Event allowing a reserve to be allocated into the field.

Time Standard - A series of times for each track and distance that determine a greyhounds Tier 3 eligibility.

Weighted Points Score Table - The points allocated for each resulted Event.

Veterans – Greyhound is four (4) years old or older on the date of the race meeting. All Veteran's Events are Non-Penalty.

Vic Bred - Greyhound whelped in Victoria, whose ear brand begins with a "V".

Vic Greys – Bonuses payable to the owner(s) and breeder(s) of eligible Vic Bred greyhounds applicable to selected Events.

5. MEETING LEVELS

In Victoria, there are three (3) different levels of race meetings, each attracting different prizemoney and allocating different ranking points according to a greyhound's finishing position.

(a) Level 1 - Metropolitan Meeting

(b) Level 2 - Provincial Meeting

(c) Level 3 Stakes Meetings which include:

- a. **Level 3 Stakes** – Provincial graded meeting for level 3 prizemoney.
- b. **Tier 3 Meeting** – Greyhounds must have a ranking of 250+ and must not have run faster than the Time Standard in any of their past four (4) starts.
- c. **Rank Limit Meeting** – At the time of grading, greyhound must not be ranked lower than the published rank limit (excludes Debutants).
- d. **Bottom-Up Meeting** – A Rank Limit meeting with greyhounds ordered by their individual rank in descending order from highest to lowest. No order of entry rights will be applied. Grade 4 or higher greyhounds will only be considered if nominations are low.

6. GENERAL GRADING & INFORMATION

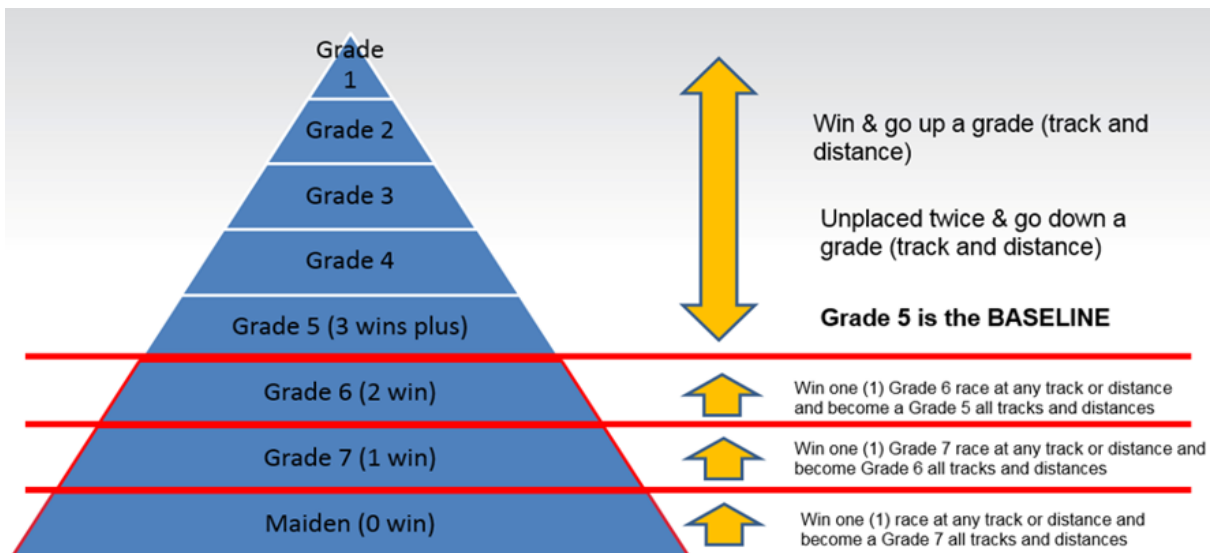
The following information and grading principles apply when compiling Victorian race fields:

- (a) Where a meeting receives insufficient nominations, GRV may extend the nomination closing time.
- (b) When grading Events with a prizemoney clause, all bonus prizemoney earned (e.g. Vic Greys) will be ignored for the purposes of establishing eligibility.
- (c) If an advertised Multi-Stage Event receives insufficient nominations, GRV shall reduce it to a single stage Event, apply the advertised final prizemoney and any bonuses to the Event, and conduct it on the original first stage meeting date unless otherwise agreed by GRV and the Club.
- (d) Box draws will be conducted to the nearest 15-minute mark of the hour once a meeting has been graded. The box draw can be observed at the scheduled time, via Fast Track.
- (e) If a greyhound holds a reserve position in its first preference nomination but gains a start in a second preference (or subsequent nomination), the greyhound is excluded from its first preference reserve position, except if a Group Race, Special Event Heat or Special Event.
- (f) All Order of Entry, grade changes and ranking updates will occur 40 minutes after a race meeting has been finalised.
- (g) Only times recorded in an Event (excluding any exhibition or satisfactory trials) will be considered for the declaration of a track record.
- (h) Where a greyhound has been drawn as a reserve and then competed in the Event due to a scratching, the trainer may apply to the Stewards to withdraw the greyhound from any other meetings to be held within three (3) calendar days, without a stand down penalty, that the greyhound is drawn in, notwithstanding the provisions of GAR21A (consecutive day rule). The application for withdrawal must be made to the Stewards before the official scratching time for that meeting.
- (i) A trainer can apply to withdraw a greyhound without penalty if it has qualified for or has been graded into a Group or Listed race final as listed in the GCA Group Race Calendar.

- (j) Should a greyhound qualify or be drawn into two (2) Events or finals to be conducted on the same day, preference will be given to the Event which the greyhound qualified for or was drawn in first.
- (k) For multi-stage series that are conducted at multiple venues, greyhounds must not be under any order that will prohibit the greyhound from progressing through the series. Greyhounds that are prohibited from progressing through the series will not be drawn in the heats.
- (l) When a Mixed 4/5 Event is programmed, preference will be given to Grade 4 greyhounds.
- (m) For all Mixed 6/7, Restricted Win and single stage Advertised Events, ranking based selection will be used to compile fields.
- (n) A Level 2 or Level 3 meeting can be advertised as a Preference to Maiden, Grade 7 & Grade 6 Meeting, where priority will be given to Maiden, Grade 7 & Grade 6 races, in that order. For Level 3 meetings, in the event that Grade 5 or higher races are required, Bottom-Up Grading will apply.

7. ADVANCING GRADES

Greyhounds commence their racing career as a Maiden greyhound and progress through the grades.



- (a) A Maiden greyhound that wins an Event will advance to Grade 7 at all tracks and distances.
- (b) A Grade 7 greyhound that wins an Event will advance to Grade 6 at all tracks and distances.
- (c) A Grade 6 greyhound that wins an Event will advance to Grade 5 at all tracks and distances.
- (d) Once Grade 5 at all tracks and distances, a greyhound will only advance one (1) grade each time it wins, but only at the specific track and distance it won at.
- (e) If a Grade 5 or higher-grade Event is restricted to greyhounds with a ranking of 200 or more, or the Event is at Level 3 Stakes prizemoney, the Event will be non-penalty and the winner will not advance in grade.
- (f) If an Event is conducted by way of heat, semi-final and/or final, a greyhound shall advance by one (1) grade for each win.
- (g) When a greyhound is a Grade 4 or higher for a track and distance and is unplaced two (2) times without a win at that track and distance, the greyhound will drop one (1) grade for that track and distance.

- (h) If a greyhound is adjudged to have dead-heated for first place, the greyhound shall be deemed to have won the Event.
- (i) Where a Grade 6 greyhound is drawn into two (2) Grade 6 Events (or equivalent) and subsequently wins both Events, the greyhound will be reverted to Grade 5 at that track and distance.

8. ELIGIBILITY

- (a) Maiden greyhounds will be eligible for an Event at the time of competing.
- (b) Eligibility for an Event for all other greyhounds will be based on its grade for the track and distance and ranking at the time of grading.

9. TIER 3

- (a) Tier 3 is a type of Level 3 Stakes meeting aimed at providing greater opportunities for lower class Grade 5, Grade 6, Grade 7 and Maiden greyhounds.
- (b) Eligibility for Grade 5, Grade 6 & Grade 7 Tier 3 Events is restricted to greyhounds:
 - a. with a ranking of 250 or higher, and
 - b. that have not recorded an official time faster than the Time Standard in accordance with the Time Standard Eligibility Table, and
 - c. have competed in Victoria or at Broken Hill, Cowra, Goulburn, Mt. Gambier, Temora, Wagga or Young in all their past four (4) starts.
- (c) To be eligible for Tier 3 Maiden Events, greyhounds that commence their career at a track:
 - a. with a Tier 3 Time Standard, must have had a minimum of two (2) starts, or
 - b. without a Tier 3 Time Standard, must have had a minimum of four (4) starts.

10. TIME STANDARD ELIGIBILITY TABLE

Based on the official time recorded by the greyhound, determines how many runs outside the Time Standard is required before a greyhound becomes Tier 3 eligible again, provided they meet the ranking criteria.

Official time faster than Time Standard (secs)	Number of runs slower than time standard required
0.001 < 0.100	1 run
0.101 < 0.200	2 runs
0.201 < 0.300	3 runs
0.301 +	4 runs

11.VICTORIAN TIER 3 TIME STANDARDS TABLE

Track	Dist.	Time	Track	Dist.	Time
Ballarat (BAL)	390	22.50	Sandown (SAN & SAP)	515	29.90
	450	25.80		595	34.73
	545	31.50		715	42.87
	660	38.70			
Bendigo (BEN)	425	24.30	Shepparton (SHP)	385	22.30
	500	28.60		450	25.80
	660	38.75		650	38.20
Cranbourne (CRN)	311	18.05	The Meadows (MEA & MEP)	525	30.55
	520	30.80		600	35.00
	699	42.45		725	43.09
Geelong (GEL)	400	22.90	Traralgon (TRA)	350	TBC
	460	26.20		395	TBC
	520	30.50		450	TBC
	596	34.90		500	TBC
	680	39.70			
Healesville (HVL)	300	16.90	Warragul (WGL)	400	23.10
	350	19.50		460	26.35
				680	39.96
Horsham (HOR)	410	23.80	Warrnambool (WBL)	390	22.50
	485	27.75		450	25.80
				650	38.11
Sale (SLE)	440	25.40			
	520	30.10			
	650	37.95			

NOTE

- Handicap Event results will not be used in Tier 3 eligibility assessment.
- A start where a greyhound has failed to record a time for an Event will not be used in Tier 3 assessment.

Time standards for Broken Hill, Cowra, Goulburn, Mt. Gambier, Temora, Wagga or Young can be found via the *Interstate Grades and Times Document*.

12.ORDER OF ENTRY RIGHTS

- Greyhounds that satisfy an order of entry requirement at a specific race meeting will be afforded an order of entry right. Remaining greyhounds that do not satisfy an order of entry requirement will be ordered in ascending order by the greyhounds individual ranking.
- If two (2) or more greyhounds have the same Order of Entry Right or individual Ranking, the greyhound with the highest Total Aged Prizemoney will be ordered above the other.

- (c) The Standard Order of Entry applies to all Victorian Events except Special Events, Maiden Events, Bottom-Up Meetings and Tier 3 Meetings. Preferential selection criteria are listed at the beginning of the Standard Order of Entry, in order of priority.

13. STANDARD ORDER OF ENTRY

1. Recent Last start winner at the track and distance at the same meeting level.
2. Recent Last start placegetter at the track and distance at the same meeting level.
3. Last start winner at the same or higher meeting level.
4. Last start placegetter at the same or higher meeting level.
5. Recent Last start reserve greyhound that did not obtain a start, at a previously finalised meeting, at the same meeting level.
6. Greyhound competed in a level 3 event at its last start and broke the Tier 3 time standard (excludes metropolitan meetings).
7. Remainder of nominations ordered by individual Ranking in ascending order.

14. SPECIAL EVENTS ORDER OF ENTRY

1. Greyhounds that are a Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3 at that track and distance with greyhounds ordered by individual Ranking in ascending order.
2. Remainder of nominations ordered by individual Ranking in ascending order.

15. BOTTOM-UP GRADED MEETINGS ORDER OF ENTRY

1. Order of Entry Rights do not apply for Events in Bottom-Up Meetings.
2. Greyhounds will be ordered by their individual Ranking in descending order from highest to lowest. If two (2) or more greyhounds have the same individual Ranking, the greyhound with the lowest Aged Prizemoney value will be included in the field.
3. To ensure the highest ranked greyhound is afforded a start, no reserves will be selected for Bottom-Up Graded Meetings.

16. TIER 3 ORDER OF ENTRY

1. Last start winners and placegetters at their most recent last start (regardless of track and distance).
2. Last start reserve greyhound that did not obtain a start, at a previously finalised meeting.
3. Greyhounds who have had 4 or more unsuccessful nominations since their last start.
4. Greyhounds who have had 3 unsuccessful nominations since their last start.
5. Greyhounds who have had 2 unsuccessful nominations since their last start.
6. Greyhounds who have had 1 unsuccessful nomination since their last start.
7. The remaining greyhounds will be drawn into the meeting randomly.

17. MAIDEN EVENTS ORDER OF ENTRY

1. Last start placegetter at that track and distance.
2. Last start placegetter at any track and distance.
3. Recent last start reserve greyhound that did not obtain a start (meeting must have been finalised), at the same meeting level, track and distance.
4. Greyhounds with one (1) start only.
5. Greyhounds with two (2) starts only.
6. Debutant with three (3) or more unsuccessful nominations.
7. Debutant with two (2) unsuccessful nominations.
8. Debutant with one (1) unsuccessful nomination.
9. Debutant at first nomination.
10. Greyhound competed in Tier 3 Event at last start and broke the Tier 3 time standard.
11. Remainder of nominations ordered by individual rank in ascending order.

18. COMPOSITION OF FIELDS

Fields for all Victorian greyhound Events will be composed using one (1) of three (3) following methods, unless the Event has special conditions which override the below:

- **Banded** - applies to all standard Events and single stage Advertised Events (excluding Maiden Events)
- **Seeded/Guarded** – applies to all heats
- **Random/Guarded** – applied to all Maiden Events

19. GUARDING

This is the principle of greyhounds with the same connections not competing against each other, which means in practice, greyhounds owned and/or trained by the same participant are placed into separate Events without compromising the grading of any Event.

20. BANDED

- (a) This method allocates greyhounds into races so that within the grade, greyhounds of a similar ranking race against each other.
- (b) When multiple races are conducted for the same grade and distance, greyhounds are ordered by their ranking, and allocated to the available races in rank order.
- (c) Reserve greyhounds (if required) will be allocated to races based on their ranking.
- (d) After greyhounds have been allocated, GRV will review the races to identify any greyhounds that could be considered for Guarding. Guarding will only be considered if:
 - a. an owner and/or trainer has three (3) or more greyhounds engaged in an Event, and
 - b. two (2) or more Events are being conducted over the same distance and grade.
- (e) Guarding will only be applied if re-allocating greyhounds will not compromise the grading of an Event and the other greyhound is within ten (10) ranking points and deemed both suitable, and not disadvantaged.

21. SEEDED/GUARDED

- (a) This method orders greyhounds by their individual ranking and then allocates them into races so that greyhounds of a similar ranking are evenly distributed amongst the available races.
- (b) After greyhounds have been allocated, the GRV Grader will review the races to identify any greyhounds that could be considered for Guarding, which includes Reserves. If so, the GRV Grader will attempt to minimise the need for Guarding for any single greyhound by re-allocating greyhounds between the available races ensuring seeding is maintained.

22. RANDOM/GUARDED

Greyhounds are randomly allocated when more two (2) or more Events over the same grade and distance are conducted whilst ensuring guarding is applied.

23. RANKING POINTS

- (a) Ranking points are allocated to a greyhound for each place value (1st to 8th) result. The value of the points allocated is detailed in the Weighted Points Score Table, with versions developed for both Victorian and Interstate/New Zealand tracks.
- (b) The weighted points score table details the points allocated for a place value based on the Track Category and Race Type/Event Grades. For Victorian racing, Track Category equals Meeting Level, e.g. Track Category 1 = Level 1 Metropolitan.

24. VICTORIAN MEETING TYPE AND CATEGORY TABLE

Meeting Type	Track Category
Metropolitan	Track Category 1
Provincial Full Stakes	Track Category 2
Level 3 Stakes, Rank Limit, Tier 3, Bottom-Up	Track Category 3

- (a) Weighting is given to results achieved at a higher Track Category and higher Race Type/Event Grade in the form of low point values, while high point values are given to the lowest Track Category and lowest Race Type/Event Grade.
- (b) Due to the variety of Race Type/Event Grades across the different Track Categories, the Weighted Points Score Table has ten (10) different levels of points.

25.VICTORIAN WEIGHTED POINTS SCORE TABLE

Level & Weight.	Track Categ.	Grade of Race	1st	2nd	3rd	Place 4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Level 1	1, 2, 3	GRP1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Level 2	1, 2, 3	GRP2	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32
Level 3	1, 2, 3	GL, GRP3	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48
Level 4	1	1, 2, 3, 4, FFA, HCP, S, SF, SH, SSF, X12, X23, X34, X45F, X45, X45H	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
	2	n/a								
	3	n/a								
Level 5	1	5, 5H, 5F, VET, RWF,	25	50	75	100	125	150	175	200
	2	1, 2, 3, 4, S, SH, SSF, SF, FFA, HCP, RWF, X12, X23, X34, X45, X45H, X45F 5F								
	3	n/a								
Level 6	1	NF, RW, RWH, 6, 6H, 6F, 7, 7H, 7F, X67, X67H, X67F	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	350
	2	5, 5H, NF, VET,								
	3	1, 2, 3, 4, S, SH, SSF, SF, FFA, HCP, RWF, X12, X23, X34, X45F								
Level 7	1	MSF, MF, N, NH	60	120	180	240	300	350	350	350
	2	RW, RWH, 6, 6H, 6F, 7, 7H, 7F, X67, X67H, X67F, 5NP, 5NPH								
	3	5, 5H, 5F, NF, X45, X45H, VET								
Level 8	1	n/a	70	140	210	280	350	350	350	350
	2	MF, MSF, N, NH								
	3	RW, RWH, 6, 6H, 6F, 7, 7H, 7F, X67, X67H, X67F								
Level 9	1	n/a	80	160	240	320	400	400	400	400
	2	M, MH								
	3	5NP, 5NPH, MF, N, NH, T3-5, T3-6, T3-7, T3-RW, MSF								
Level 10	1	n/a	100	200	300	400	500	500	500	500
	2	n/a								
	3	M, MH, T3-M								

Interstate and/or New Zealand tracks and points, can be found via the *Interstate Grades and Times Document*.

26.RANKING CALCULATION

- Rankings are used to differentiate between greyhounds during the grading process and are calculated from a greyhound's recent race form. Individual rankings based on performance range from 101 to 600. Debutants are allocated a ranking of 1000 until they commence their racing career.
- After being awarded a place value (1st to 8th) for an Event, a greyhound is allocated the relevant points from the Weighted Points Score Table, based on finishing position, Track Category, and Race Type/Grade, resulting in their current ranking being re-calculated and updated. Note that for Victorian racing, Track Category equals Meeting Level as described in section 5 of these grading guidelines.
- To ensure a ranking reflects a greyhound's most recent performance/results, the points from no more than the best six (6) out of the last eight (8) starts are added together, with the two (2) worst results ignored. The average of the best starts is then calculated, with 100 base points added.
- To preserve fairness for inexperienced greyhounds, a proportionate scale is used for greyhounds with less than eight (8) starts as per the table below.

Total Race Starts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
Less Starts to Ignore	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2
Starts Used	1	2	3	3	4	5	5	6

Example – calculating a greyhound's ranking with four starts. As the greyhound in this example only has four (4) starts, the worst one (1) can be ignored, being start # 4.

Start Number	Race Type / Event Grade	Track Category	Level	Place	Points Allocated
1	MH	2	9	4th	320
2	MF	2	8	2nd	140
3	M	2	9	1st	80
4	Grade 7	2	7	7th	350

540

← ignore

- To find the average, divide the total by the number of starts: $540 \div 3 = 180$
- Add 100 base points to find the calculated ranking for this greyhound: $180 + 100 = 280$ ranking.

27.ALPHA RESULTS

A greyhound will be awarded a placing value (1st to 8th) in a race except for the following alpha results:

- (a) **B** - Dog Stays or Turns in Boxes – When Stewards determine that greyhound stayed or turned in boxes, runs last & takes no competitive part in the race. If the greyhound beats another runner home, it will be awarded that numerical placing, irrespective of other factors.
- (b) **F** - Dog Falls in the Race – When a greyhound falls because of a racing incident and fails to finish the race or is more than 16 lengths off the second last dog after falling in the run. Greyhounds that fall as they pass the winning post will be awarded the placing value. If the fallen greyhound beats home another runner home that has not fallen, it will be awarded that numerical placing, irrespective of having fell.
- (c) **T** - Dog Tails off in the Race – When a greyhound finishes 16 lengths or more behind the second last dog.
- (d) **P** – Pulled Up in the Race - Where a greyhound remains upright but fails to finish the race for any other reason than a fall.

28.AGED PRIZEMONEY CALCULATION

- (a) If two or more greyhounds have the same order of entry or individual ranking, the greyhounds Aged Prizemoney figure will be used as the secondary method to split the greyhounds.
- (b) The Total Aged Prizemoney value for a greyhound is determined by calculating the percentage of prizemoney earned for each past Time Period as per the table below and adding the values together.

Time Period	0 - 30 days ago	31 - 60 days ago	61 - 120 days ago	121 - 180 days ago	181 - 360 days ago	361 - 540 days ago	541+ days ago
% of Prizemoney Included	100%	80%	60%	40%	20%	2%	1%

29.UP-GRADING

- (a) For the purposes of up-grading high-class greyhounds at Provincial tracks, greyhounds that satisfy all three (3) of following criteria will be up-graded to Grade 4 at all Provincial venues:
 - a. greyhounds who have won ten (10) or more Full Stakes Events, and
 - b. greyhounds who have won four (4) or more City Class Events, and
 - c. greyhounds who have won \$35,000 or more in prizemoney.
- (b) Greyhounds that fulfil two of the three criteria and have competed in Group 1 & Group 2 finals will be upgraded to Grade 4 at all Victorian Provincial tracks.
- (c) Notwithstanding the above, the Board Grader has the discretion to upgrade a greyhound based on the meeting and nominations received.

30.UP-GRADING OF GROUP RACE WINNERS

- (a) To support the up-grading of Group Race winners at Provincial Full Stakes meetings, Event distances are grouped into three (3) categories:
 - a. Short – Up to 423m
 - b. Sprint – 424m to 569m
 - c. Distance – 570m and over
- (b) Greyhounds that have won:
 - a. a Group 1 Event of the same distance category will be upgraded to Grade 3.
 - b. a Group 2 Event of the same distance category will be upgraded to Grade 4.
 - c. two (2) Group Events of the same distance category will be upgraded to Grade 3.

31.DOWNGRADING

- (a) Trainers of up-graded greyhounds may apply to the GRV Grader for a down grade to Grade 5, at up to four (4) tracks, if one (1) or more of the following occurs:
- (b) the form of the greyhound is poor enough to warrant it returning to Grade 5, or
- (c) the greyhound is a veteran greyhound, or
- (d) the greyhound has not broken the Tier 3 Time Standard in its previous four (4) starts.
- (e) Trainers of up-graded Group winning greyhounds may apply to GRV for a down grade, once 180 days has elapsed since the greyhounds’ most recent Group Event win.

32.HANDICAP MARKS

- (a) Only Clubs with approved Handicap starting boxes may advertise or conduct a Handicap Event.
- (b) GRV may select greyhounds to compete in a handicap event at the Club, should nominations be received of three (3) grades of greyhounds at the track and distance.
- (c) Grade 5, Grade 6 and Grade 7 greyhounds will be selected by their current ranking and will start from the 10 metre mark, with the rest of the field starting from the mark that corresponds to their current grade at the track and distance (see table below).

Greyhound Grade	Handicap Mark
Grade 1	6 Metres
Grade 2	7 Metres
Grade 3	8 Metres
Grade 4	9 Metres
Grade 5, 6, or 7	10 Metres

33.SAME DAY ENGAGEMENTS

- (a) If a greyhound is drawn as a reserve in a final, group race, Special Event or single stage advertised event, it will be allowed to nominate and be drawn at another meeting on the same day if the scratching deadline for both meetings are the same time.
- (b) A reserve greyhound already selected at a meeting cannot be accepted for another meeting on the same day that is yet to be graded.

34.SCRATCHINGS, FINALS & RESERVE ALLOCATION

- (a) For Morning and Day meetings, scratchings are finalised at 4:00pm the day prior to the meeting.
- (b) For Twilight and Night meetings, scratchings are finalised at 8:30am on the day of the meeting.
- (c) For all standard Events, where two reserve greyhounds are included in an Event and only one (1) is required to compete in the Event, the selection shall be made by random ballot.
- (d) For all finals, reserve greyhounds will be allocated in order of qualifying (excluding multi-venue).
- (e) Semi Final and final fields are calculated in accordance with their finishing order (placing) so there is an even distribution of greyhounds from each heat, with no guarding of the Owner or Trainer applied. Remaining places will be filled by the best time greyhounds that finished next in the placings in the heats.
- (f) The following table specifies the number of semi finals that will be conducted based on the total number of heats:

Heats	Semi Finals
5 Heats or less	2 Semi Finals
6 or 7 Heats	3 Semi Finals
8 or more Heats	4 Semi Finals

35.RACE PROGRAMMING

- (a) The scheduling of individual Events in any meeting generally follows the same race order program.
- (b) Maidens and/or the lowest win/grade Events are usually conducted in the first four (4) races, or as early as possible, given the runners often lack racing and race kennelling experience.
- (c) The best four (4) races (subject to the number of starters) on the program are then selected for Race 5, 6, 7, and 8 (Quaddie legs), while the remaining four (4) races complete the race meeting, with Events for the less experienced greyhounds programmed first.
- (d) The race program for any meeting can be affected by ‘Early Race’ greyhounds which can only compete in Races 1 to 6, multiple advertised Events of the same grade or the size of a field.

36.EARLY RACE REQUESTS

Early race requests will only be granted for those greyhounds already endorsed as an ‘Early Race’ greyhound by Stewards. Applications for Early Race endorsement can only be made to Stewards at a

race meeting, in conjunction with the on track veterinarian (OTV), following a veterinary inspection. 'Early Race' endorsed greyhounds will be placed in an Event no later than Race 6.

37.REDRAW

- (a) If a greyhound:
 - a. has been omitted from a field and should have been drawn, and
 - b. the omission is reported by no later than 10:00am the next day (including Saturday for fields drawn on a Friday), the Racing Operations Manager, in conjunction with the Chief Steward (or representative), may order that the greyhound be included in the field and a drawn greyhound omitted.
- (b) If so ordered, the original Box Draw will be voided, and a new Box Draw will be conducted by manual process, overseen by the Chief Steward (or representative).
- (c) A Redraw will not be applicable if:
 - a. the greyhound is deemed ineligible for an Event following the Box Draw and withdrawn by order of the Stewards, or
 - b. the greyhound not included in the Event would only have obtained a reserve position, or
 - c. the greyhound not included in the Event is engaged in an alternative preference at the same meeting, or
 - d. an Owner or Trainer has been Guarded incorrectly.

38.CONFLICT OF INTEREST

If a Grader believes he or she may have a conflict of interest in grading any race meeting, he or she must do the following:

- (a) fully disclose the nature of the conflict of interest to the Racing Operations Manager, or in his or her absence, the General Manger of Racing, as soon as they become aware of a potential conflict of interest, and
- (b) stand down from grading duties for the particular race meeting and reassign the race meeting to another Grader.

39.AMENDMENT SUMMARY

An updated version of Greyhound Racing Victoria guidelines were first published on Friday 4th February 2022.