

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

2023 - 2024 GREYHOUND OF THE YEAR (GOTY)

CRITERIA GUIDELINES

1. Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) awards 'Greyhound of the Year' (GOTY Awards) in three categories (Sprinter, Stayer, and Greyhound of the Year) in recognition of outstanding performances by eligible greyhounds during the racing year (1 July to 30 June).
2. **Sprinter of the Year** - the Sprinter of the Year Award is given to the best eligible greyhound(s) based on performances in races conducted over less than 570 metres during the racing year.
3. **Stayer of the Year** – the Stayer of the Year Award is given to the best eligible greyhound(s) based on their performances in races conducted over 570 metres during the racing year.
4. **Greyhound of the Year** – the Greyhound of the Year Award is given to the best eligible greyhound based on their performances in races over all distances during the racing year.
5. The GOTY Awards are open to greyhounds, including International or interstate owned or bred greyhounds, that have been domiciled in the State of Victoria for a period of not less than four consecutive calendar months during the racing year of the award.
6. In selecting a greyhound for a GOTY Award, the GOTY voting panel will consider the greyhound's racing performances on Australian racetracks only.
7. A greyhound is not eligible for consideration for a GOTY Award and cannot be included in any voting by the GOTY voting panel, if the greyhound has:
 - a. at any time, returned a positive swab to a prohibited substance,
 - b. been kennelled during the racing year of the award with a trainer who has:
 - i. been found guilty of a serious offence during that racing year, or
 - ii. had a greyhound kennelled with them return a positive swab to a prohibited substance.
 - c. during the racing year of the award, been owned by any person who has been found guilty of a serious offence during that racing year.
8. GRV may, in its ultimate discretion, deem a greyhound ineligible to either be considered, or if already being considered, to receive a GOTY Award:
 - a. if the greyhound has been found guilty of marring or failing to pursue during the racing year of the award;

- b. if the greyhound has been kennelled with a trainer, or owned by a person who:
 - i. has been found guilty of an offence , or
 - ii. has been charged with a serious offence that may, in the opinion of GRV and if substantiated, bring the sport of greyhound racing into disrepute, or
 - iii. is the subject of a serious animal welfare related investigation (such as an investigation into cruelty, abuse, or death) that may, in the opinion of GRV and if the investigation results in a charge being laid, bring the sport of greyhound racing into disrepute.
9. Criteria 7 and 8 apply irrespective of whether an inquiry or appeal has been completed or is pending at the date on which a determination was made on eligibility, or a decision was made by GRV in relation to the GOTY Awards, the GOTY voting panel's decision on which greyhound should be awarded GOTY Award, or the announcement of the Victorian Greyhound of the Year Award event.

The GOTY Voting Panel

10. The GOTY voting panel will comprise up to seven people selected by GRV from the following sections of the greyhound industry:
 - Greyhound racing media representatives
 - A representative from the Victorian Greyhound Owner, Trainers, Breeders Association
 - A representative from each of the two Victorian metropolitan Greyhound Racing Clubs
 - A representative from the GRV racing and grading department.
11. The GOTY voting panel may also include a representative approved by the GRV Board and agreed on by the remaining GOTY voting panel members where there is a vacancy on the panel and a suitable representative from the listed sections of the greyhound industry cannot be agreed upon within a reasonable time.
12. If any member of the voting panel resigns or is unable to continue their role during the voting year, then GRV will select another person to fill such role.
13. Having a GOTY voting panel of less than seven members does not invalidate a decision of the voting panel. Subject to greyhound eligibility requirements being met, the decisions of the GOTY voting panel are final.
14. Voting will be conducted via a confidential online medium with back-end details available only to the Chair of the GOTY Committee and Executive Officer of the GOTY Committee.

15. Eligible voting committee members have three days to cast their vote from the time that the voting link is communicated.

If a member of the Committee has a greyhound nominated in any of the GOTY categories, the member will be excluded for the finalist voting portion of the GOTY Committee. In this instance the Chair of the GOTY Committee will take up the votes allocated to the excluded committee member and the Chair will cast a vote on finalists in each of the categories.

In the event that the Committee's vote is tied and is unable to come to a consensus, both nominations will be submitted for the GRV Board to make a final decision.

Selecting the winners of the GOTY Awards

16. Nominations for a GOTY Award go through a three-stage process with the GOTY voting panel:
 - a. Confirmation of nomination
 - b. Short listing
 - c. Voting by the individual GOTY voting panel members.

Confirmation of nomination

17. The voting panel will meet as required to propose nominees for a GOTY Award.
18. The GOTY voting panel will vote on each prospective nomination. A nomination for a GOTY Award will be confirmed if the nomination receives a positive vote of at least 66% of the votes cast by the voting panel members.

Short listing

19. After the end of the year, the GOTY voting panel will meet to shortlist the confirmed nominations for a GOTY Award.
20. The Panel will vote on the confirmed nominations until they have shortlisted three final contenders for each GOTY Award category.

Voting

21. The GOTY voting panel will meet to each cast a vote for one of the shortlisted nominations in each GOTY Award category:
 - a. Each voting member will select a Sprinter of the Year (based on performances in races over less than 570 metres);
 - b. Each voting member will select a Stayer of the Year (based on performances in races over 570 metres or more); and

- c. Each voting member will select a Greyhound of the Year from the shortlisted nominations based on performances over all distances.
- 22.** GOTY voting panel members will cast their votes by way of a secret ballot. Each member will cast a vote for one greyhound in each category and place each of their votes in a separate sealed envelope or secure online link
- 23.** For the avoidance of doubt, for the GOTY Awards, 'Year' means the racing calendar year (1 July to 30 June).

Presentation of Award

- 24.** The GOTY Award recipients will be announced, and the award will be presented at the Greyhound of the Year Award event.

Revocation

- 25.** The GOTY Awards are awarded at the complete discretion of the Greyhound Racing Victoria Board and may be revoked by the Board.
- 26.** The Board will automatically consider revocation of a GOTY Award if the Board forms the belief that a recipient has engaged in conduct that may bring discredit to the GOTY Award, Greyhound Racing Victoria, or the sport of Greyhound racing.
- 27.** The GOTY voting panel may also seek revocation of a GOTY Award by the Board, if the majority of the Panel believe that the recipient has engaged in conduct which may bring discredit to the GOTY Award. The GOTY voting panel will form its own view and make a recommendation to the Board as to whether the panel believes the GOTY Award should be revoked.
- 28.** Where the Board or GOTY voting panel is considering revocation, the Chief Executive Officer of Greyhound Racing Victoria will notify the recipient. That person will be offered an opportunity to make a written or oral presentation to the panel or Board, whichever is relevant, as to why the GOTY Award should not be revoked.
- 29.** In making its decision the Board may consider any information including recommendations of the GOTY voting panel, if any, and any information provided by the recipient. The decision of the Board is final.
- 30.** If the Board revokes an award of a GOTY Award, the recipient will be notified and must return the GOTY Award (including all components) as soon as practicable and not more than 30 days after receiving the notification.