



RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NEW GREYHOUND RULES APPLICABLE 31 JANUARY 2022

A copy of the new RWWA Rules of Greyhound Racing, which are applicable from 31 January 2022, can be viewed in the integrity section of the RWWA website.

A summary of key changes are as follows with further detail within:

- **Changes to vaccination rules** which require as a minimum that all greyhounds receive a C5 vaccination or are certified as being protected to a C5 level by a veterinarian every 12 months and cannot compete in an event within 7 days of vaccination.
- **Changes to Marring and Failing to Pursue Lure** – see details below.
- **Greyhounds to be weighed when completing a Satisfactory trial** and required to be within 1kg of that weight.
- **Change to Approved lures** – as of 1 August 2022 only 100% artificial/synthetic lures permitted.
- **Adoption of amended national rules regarding 'live baiting'**.
- **No treatments to be administered within "One Clear Day" of competing in an event.**

Licensed persons, particularly trainers should read the following in detail to ensure compliance with the new rules and requirements.

RULE 23 NOTIFICATION OF GREYHOUND TO BE USED FOR BREEDING

This new stand alone rule deals with notification in relation to the situations where a *greyhound* is to become involved in breeding, and also when it ceases to be used for breeding purposes. The obligations in this rule are on "the *owner*".

RULE 25 VACCINATION RULES

Requirements at different stages of a greyhounds life are detailed in 25 (3) as;

- (a) *C3 Vaccination between six and eight weeks of age and prior to registration of a litter;*
- (b) *C5 Vaccination between 10 and 16 weeks of age and prior to registration of a litter;*
- (c) *C5 Vaccination at between 12 and 16 months of age and prior to naming; and*
- (d) *once in every further 12-month period a C5 Vaccination unless a veterinarian certifies the greyhound is protected to a C5 level.*

An important change detailed in sub-rule (d) is that as a minimum requirement **all greyhounds must receive a C5 vaccination** or are certified as being protected to a C5 level by a veterinarian **every 12 months. More information is available on the RWWA website;**

<https://www.rwwa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/RWWA-Greyhound-vaccination-guidelines-31-Jan-2022.pdf>

Under new sub-rule 25 (6) **a greyhound cannot compete in an event within 7 days of a vaccination.**

Participants are advised to prepare for the introduction of this rule and ensure that all registered greyhounds have received a C5 Vaccination or are certified as being protected to a C5 level by a veterinarian **within the last 12 months, and that no greyhound competes in an event within 7 days of receiving a vaccination.**

Evidence of the administration of a Vaccination by Veterinary Surgeon can be lodged with RWWA by email to licreginfo@rwwa.com.au or by texting a photo to the RWWA Registration department on 0418 104 309.

Given the likely disruptions due to the Festive season and to assist industry to attain compliance with this rule, Stewards will apply a moratorium and issue reminders up to 1 March 2022 however after that time a greyhound will be unable to be nominated for a race unless it is compliant with this rule.

RULE 34 REQUIREMENTS IN RELATION TO NOTIFICATION OF CONTROL AND LOCATION OF A GREYHOUND

This rule contains important information of responsibilities in relation to advising RWWA of locations of greyhounds.

The “3 working days” previously allowed to a person to give notice of a greyhound coming into or leaving a person’s care has been changed to “as soon as possible”. This change has been made to underpin the continued integrity of racing, ensuring that Controlling Bodies know where greyhounds are located at all times. Changes in locations of greyhound must be notified as soon as they occur.

Rule 34(4) also provides that it is an offence to train a greyhound without a licence to do so. New Local Rule 46G further clarifies that a person cannot carry on any activity regulated by a licence if they are not licensed to do so.

RULES 123 – 128 MARRING AND FAILING TO PURSUE THE LURE

Rule 127 is a new rule that deals with the period of suspension to be imposed for marring or failing to pursue.

Marring and failing to pursue penalties are no longer dealt with separately, they are now combined. A greyhound’s first penalty may be for failing to pursue, its second for marring, and third for failing to pursue, or any combination of the two.

The rule reads: “Subject to rule 125 [previous rule 69B], where, in the opinion of the Stewards, a greyhound is found to have marred or failed to pursue the lure during an Event the Stewards must impose a period of suspension in respect of the greyhound, which is to be recorded as part of the identification record as follows:

(a) in the case of a first offence, 28 days at the track where the offence occurred and until the completion of a satisfactory trial; or

(b) subject to rule 128, in the case of a second offence, 28 days at all tracks and until completion of a satisfactory trial; or

(c) in the case of a third or subsequent offence, three months at all tracks and until the completion of two satisfactory trials.”

The rationale behind this amendment is to enable greyhounds a better opportunity to continue racing.

This is a substantial change to the marring and failing to pursue penalty structure. Previously, a first offence was a suspension for 28 days (at the track where the offence occurred) and the completion of a satisfactory trial, a second offence a suspension for three months (at all tracks) and the completion of a satisfactory trial, and a third or subsequent offence was 12 months suspension (at all tracks) and until the completion of a satisfactory trial.

Failing to pursue by reason of injury (Rule 125 [previous rule 69B]) will still apply if applicable for the first failing to pursue offence only.

The term ‘suspension’ (in Rule 125 [previous rule 69B]) has been replaced with the term ‘standdown’.

RULE 158 AND LOCAL RULE 158 APPROVED TYPES OF LURES

The new national rule now sets a standard of synthetic or artificial materials only unless otherwise approved by the Controlling Body in the following terms.

158 Approved types of lures

(1) Only lures approved by a Controlling Body are permitted to be used or kept in the possession of a person at any place where greyhounds are, or greyhound racing activities occur.

(2) A lure must:

- (a) be made of synthetic or artificial materials only; and*
- (b) not contain any part of an animal,*

unless otherwise approved by a Controlling Body.

(3) This is an absolute liability offence in that anyone who uses or has in their possession a lure that is not approved by a Controlling Body, is guilty of an offence.

Previously Western Australia, Tasmania and South Australia had introduced local rules which allowed for certain exemptions to what was an approved lure i.e. Western Australia allowed the use or possession of tanned and professionally processed dry skins.

Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria have applied the requirement for synthetic or artificial materials that do not contain any part of an animal for several years.

Tasmania and South Australia have now confirmed that they will be adopting the national standard of artificial/synthetic only as set out by the new national rules.

A circular was forward to members of the Greyhound Racing Consultative Group affording opportunity for submissions prior to consideration by the RWWA Integrity Assurance Committee and Animal Welfare Committee. A number of written submissions were received.

After consideration, both the IAC and AWC resolved to transition to the national standard that the lure must be made of synthetic or artificial materials only and not contain any part of an animal.

In considering the matter it was recognised that for WA to maintain its status as a leading State in all matters relating to greyhound welfare and public confidence, WA could not be the only State in Australia that permitted the use of animal products as lures in greyhound racing. Particularly when considering the expert advice of animal behaviouralists and the experience of the major States which had been applying this standard for several years and thus demonstrated the appropriateness of moving away from animal products as lures.

Consequently, via the below Local Rule 158, WA will transition to the national standard (within 6 months) of the new rule taking effect.

L158 Approved types of Lure

Notwithstanding any other provisions of Rules 157, 158, 159 and 162 it shall be permissible until 31 July 2022 to use or possess a tanned and professionally processed dry skin for purposes of trialling or educating greyhounds.

Taking into account expert opinion, this will afford sufficient time for trainers to transition current training methods to alternative synthetic/artificial lure types without compromising the education of greyhounds currently being educated.

RULE 42 RESTRICTIONS ON GREYHOUNDS COMPETING DUE TO CENTRAL OR PERIPHERAL NERVOUS SYSTEM OR VISION CONDITION

In order to protect the safety and wellbeing of Greyhounds there are new stand down periods for greyhounds found to have severe post exercise distress syndrome (PEDS) or suffered a seizure.

Rules 42 (1), (2) and (3) state;

42 Restrictions on greyhounds competing due to central or peripheral nervous system or vision condition

- (1) *A greyhound must be prohibited by the Stewards from competing in an Event if the greyhound is examined by the officiating veterinarian at a meeting and it is found, or otherwise information comes to light which reveals, that the greyhound is:*
 - (a) *suffering from an illness or condition which affects or may affect any part of its central or peripheral nervous system;*
 - (b) *suffering an illness or condition which in the opinion of the veterinarian may cause erratic behaviour or an unsatisfactory performance of the greyhound in, or otherwise affect the true running of, an Event; or*
 - (c) *in the opinion of the veterinarian or other authorised person, severely distressed, severely ataxic, collapsed (or would collapse if not supported by a handler), or has suffered a seizure.*

- (2) *Where a greyhound is prohibited from competing in an Event pursuant to subrule (1), the greyhound must not compete in an Event until the greyhound has passed a veterinary examination and satisfactory trial in the presence of an officiating veterinarian. If the veterinary examination indicates that the greyhound is in good health and is suitable to compete in an Event and the satisfactory trial is passed, the veterinarian will issue a certificate to that effect, and a prohibition pursuant to subrule (1) of this rule will immediately cease to have effect.*
- (3) *In addition to subrule (2), where a greyhound is prohibited from competing in an Event pursuant to subrule (1)(c), the Stewards must impose a period of suspension in respect of the greyhound, which is to be recorded by them as part of the identification record. The period of suspension imposed is to be:*
- (a) in the case of a first occurrence, 28 days at all tracks; or*
 - (b) in the case of a second occurrence, three months at all tracks; or*
 - (c) in the case of a third or subsequent occurrence, 12 months at all tracks.*

RULE 101 (1) AND LOCAL RULE 101 WEIGHING OF GREYHOUNDS AT SATISFACTORY TRIALS.

In line with National requirements, as from 31 January 2022 all greyhounds competing in a satisfactory trial will be weighed and that weight will be recorded and become the greyhound's last start weight.

The greyhound must be then presented to race at its next start in accordance with the provisions of Rule 101.

Similar to that which is applicable for a Qualifying Trial the weight of a greyhound in a Satisfactory Trial does not have to be within 1.0 kilogram of its last start prior to the trial.

101 Weight variation

- (1) *If the weight of a greyhound varies by more than 1.0 kilogram from the weight recorded in an Event or satisfactory trial in which it last performed, the greyhound must not compete in the Event unless the Stewards grant permission for it to do so pursuant to subrule (2) of this rule.*

L101 Weights for qualifying trials and satisfactory trials

The provisions of Rule 101 shall not apply to a greyhound competing in a qualifying trial or satisfactory trial.

RULES 159 – 162 LURING AND BAITING

The new National Rules now separate breaches of the rules for a "live animal" (Rule 159(1), an "animal carcass" Rule 159(3) or "part of an animal" Rule 159 (5) and mandates the following;

- Disqualification for life for breaches of **159(1)** (Live animal), plus a possible fine and ineligibility to make any future applications for licence or to be an owner of any greyhound. No provision for a "Special Circumstance" to be considered.
- Disqualification for not less than 10 years for breaches of **159(3)** (Animal carcass or Part of an animal - i.e. contains animal bone, blood, faeces, urine or flesh) and a possible fine. Adds the provision for consideration of a "Special Circumstance" and defines what that may constitute. There is no provision of ineligibility to make any future applications for licence or to be an owner of any greyhound.

- Must be disqualified (period not defined) for breaches of **159(5)** (Animal material - means any processed and/or tanned and/or cured skin or hide of an animal and does not include anything that contains animal bone, blood, faeces, urine or flesh) and a possible fine. Also adds the provision for consideration of a “Special Circumstance”.

With respect to the “Special Circumstance” provisions set out at 159 (4), a new local rule 159 has been added to define how a “Special Circumstance” may be considered in Western Australia.

Further minor variances between current and new rules are;

- 159(1)(d) [86B(1)(d)] The word “all” has been added before “reasonable endeavours”, so as to make the requirement tougher – the provision now contains an offence where a *person*, in the opinion of a *Controlling Body* or the *Stewards*:

“fails to use **all** reasonable endeavours to prevent a *greyhound* pursuing or attacking any live animal, animal carcass or any part of an animal”.

- 159(1)(e) This is a new subrule which contains a new offence - it makes it an offence for someone to advertise, promote, or organise live baiting.

- 159(5) This new provision, provides that the baiting offences contained in subrules 159(1)(a) to (1)(e) are “absolute liability” offences, such that the references to “live animal”, “animal carcass”, or “any part of an animal” refer to the fact of the existence of each of those conditions, whether or not the charged person knew or believed of the applicable condition. Absolute liability offences do not permit a defence of “honest and reasonable mistake of fact” being relied on. The offence in rule 159(1)(h) is also now expressed to be an absolute liability offence, such that it is the fact of the relevant conviction, without anything more, which constitutes the offence.

Absolute liability for these offences is consistent with a stronger regulatory approach for these extremely serious matters that have the ability to significantly damage the reputation and ongoing longevity of *greyhound racing*.

- **Other amendments to note**

- 162(a) This is a new provision which makes it an offence if a *person* (including an *official*): “pleads guilty or is found guilty of any offence provided for by legislation directed at the prevention of cruelty to animals”.

- 162(b) [old rule 86(ad)] The offence set out in 162(b) [86(ad)] has now been expressly made an absolute liability offence – that means the offence will be committed if the relevant animal is alive, whether or not a charged person knew or believed that it was alive

- 162(d) [old rule 86(ae)(i)] The word “undue” has been removed from the subrule before “suffering”, so that the rule now reads:

“An offence is committed if a *person* (including an *official*): by use of any *gear*, equipment, device, substance or by any other means inflicts suffering on a *greyhound*”.

- 162(e) [old rule 86(ae)(ii)]The word “undue” has been removed from the subrule before “suffering” so that the rule now reads:

“An offence is committed if a *person* (including an *official*): has in their *possession* any *gear*, equipment, device, substance or any other thing capable of inflicting pain or suffering on a *greyhound*”.

- 162(e) old rule 86(af)] The coverage of old rule 86(af) is expanded by the insertion of “or is involved in the use of”; also, the words “in the opinion of the *Stewards*” are new. The rule now reads:

“An offence is committed if a *person* (including an *official*): uses or is involved in the use of an animal for any purpose connected with *greyhound racing* or training in a manner which, in the opinion of the *Stewards*, amounts to maltreatment of an animal, or which is improper or illegal.”

RULE 145(3) TREATMENT PRIOR TO AN EVENT “ONE CLEAR DAY”

Rule 145(3) uses the terminology used in other racing codes of “*clear day*” (which the relevant definition in rule 9 defines as “a 24 hour period from 12.00am to 11.59pm”) as opposed to “day prior to the day of an Event” (see old rule 83A(3)), so that rule 145(3) reads:

“*No person without the permission of the Stewards may administer or cause to be administered any injectable substance to a greyhound at any time during the one clear day prior to 12.00am on the day of an Event that it is nominated to compete in.*”