



Grading Procedures

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QUEENSLAND GRADING PROCEDURES

DEFINITIONS

Open – means an event open to any greyhound and requiring the owner or trainer to nominate for the event.

Best 8 – means an event restricted to greyhounds 3rd Grade or higher. Any greyhound 3rd Grade or higher may, at the discretion of the grader, be included in the event.

Free For All – means an event restricted to greyhounds 5th Grade or higher. Any greyhound 5th Grade or higher may, at the discretion of the grader, be included in the event.

Graded event – means an event restricted to greyhounds of a specified grade and for which the winner will be penalised under the Grading scale.

Maiden – in relation to a flat race means a greyhound that has not won, or been awarded first place in a flat race.

Novice – means a greyhound, as at the date of the proposed meeting, which has not won, other than a maiden and/or, maiden heat and final, and/or maiden heat, semi-final and final.

Masters event – means an event restricted to greyhounds 42 months or older.

Pathways event – means an event for which the field is graded in reverse as per the Order of Entry for Pathways Racing.

Restricted Wins race – means an event restricted to greyhounds that have only won the prescribed number of races in their career.

No Metropolitan Wins race – means an event restricted to greyhounds that have not won a Class 1 event.

Non-penalty event – means any event declared by the Governing Body to be an age restricted non- penalty event.

For example: Usually an event for which eligible starters are restricted by a particular age limit i.e. Futurity, Derby, Young Guns etc.

Penalty bearing event – means any event not declared by the Governing Body to be a non-penalty event.

For example: Usually a graded event.

DISTANCE CATEGORIES

- Short Course – (0m – 440m)
- Sprint (441m – 530m)
- Middle Distance (531m – 650m)
- Staying Events (651m+)

TRACK CLASS

The classification of a track shall be as prescribed by the Control Body.

As of 1st July 2011, tracks are classified as:

- **Class 1 (City class)**

- Brisbane – Thursday
- Ipswich - Thursday
- Interstate – as prescribed

- **Class 2**

- Brisbane – Monday
- Ipswich – Saturday
- Brisbane - Wednesday
- Interstate – as prescribed

- **Class 3**

- Ipswich - Tuesday
- Ipswich – Friday
- Brisbane - Sunday
- Interstate – as prescribed

- **Class 4**

- Bundaberg
- Cairns
- Interstate – as prescribed

- **Class 5**

- Capalaba
- Interstate – straight tracks

- **Class 6**

- Townsville
- Rockhampton
- Interstate – as prescribed

- **Interstate Tracks**

New South Wales (including ACT)

- ❑ All A1 and A2 meetings to be graded as QLD Class 1
- ❑ All Class B meetings to be graded as QLD Class 2
- ❑ All Class C meetings to be graded as QLD Class 3
- ❑ All Class M meetings to be graded as QLD Class 3
- ❑ All Class D meetings to be graded as QLD Class 4

Victoria

- ❑ City Class Meetings (Sandown Thursday and Meadows Saturday) to be graded as QLD Class 1
- ❑ All Provincial meetings to be graded as QLD Class 2 (except Healesville)
- ❑ Healesville to be graded as QLD Class 5

South Australia

- ❑ City A (Angle Park) meetings to be graded as QLD Class 1
- ❑ City B (Angle Park) meetings to be graded as QLD Class 2
- ❑ Provincial (Angle Park) meetings to be graded as QLD Class 3
- ❑ Provincial 1 meetings to be graded as QLD Class 3
- ❑ Provincial 2 meetings to be graded as QLD Class 6
- ❑ Country meetings to be graded as QLD Class 4

Western Australia

- ❑ C Class (Cannington) meetings to be graded as QLD Class 1
- ❑ P Class (Cannington) meetings to be graded as QLD Class 2
- ❑ Y Class (Cannington) meetings to be graded as QLD Class 3
- ❑ P Class meetings to be graded as QLD Class 3
- ❑ Y Class meetings to be graded as QLD Class 6

Tasmania

- ❑ All meetings to be graded as QLD Class 2

Northern Territory

- ❑ Darwin to be graded as QLD Class 6

International Tracks

- ❑ All to be graded as QLD Class 2

ELIGIBILITY

- A greyhound cannot be nominated for an event before it attains the age of sixteen (16) months.

GRADE OF GREYHOUND

The classification of the scale of grading of a greyhound shall be as prescribed by the Control Body.

As of 1st April 2011, the scale of Grade within Class and Distance is:

- Maiden
- 5th Grade
- 4th Grade
- 3rd Grade
- 2nd Grade
- 1st Grade

GRADING PENALTIES

Subject to any prescribed Grading Concessions, a greyhound shall be penalised for each win in a penalty bearing event (including a walkover) for the class and distance category.

MAIDEN WIN

A greyhound winning an event for the first time, whether it is a Maiden event or a non-penalty event, other than a Qualifying Trial, shall be deemed to have won a Maiden for every Class and Distance.

NOVICE

An eligible greyhound shall be permitted to win one Novice only at any class of track.

DEAD HEAT

Where two or more greyhounds Dead Heat for first place, all shall be deemed to have been placed first and shall be penalised in the same manner as any other winner in accordance with the Queensland Grading System.

WALKOVER

A greyhound deemed the winner of a Walkover, shall be penalised in the same manner as any other winner in accordance with the Queensland Grading System.

DISQUALIFICATION – AFTER “ALL CLEAR”

Any grading penalty will be revoked and original grade reinstated if a greyhound is subsequently disqualified after the “all clear” signal has been notified.

GRADING CONCESSIONS

The following grading concessions will be permitted:

- a greyhound shall be permitted to win, within a Class and Distance category, **two** 5th Grade penalty bearing events at Class 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 tracks.
- a greyhound shall be permitted to win, within a Class and Distance category, **two** 5th Grade and **two** 4th Grade penalty bearing events at Class 6 tracks.
- A greyhound shall be permitted to win, **one** 5th grade event on a class 1 track without affecting grades on classes 2, 3, 4 & 6 tracks
- Subject to any Upgrading Rules, a greyhound shall be permitted to win graded events on class 2, 3, 4 & 6 tracks in any order without receiving a penalty on a lower class of track
- For the purposes of Upgrading Rules, heat wins and final wins will be considered as separate wins, and all race wins will be taken into consideration including non-penalty races.
- Any greyhound having competed in an GCA approved group event at their last race start will be considered for a preference at the grader's discretion.
- After dropping a Grade, a greyhound shall not be eligible for the benefits of the above Grading Concessions and shall be penalised one Grade, within a class and Distance category, for each win in a penalty bearing event.
- A greyhound winning a heat and/ or a semi-final and/or final of any grade will be penalised a total of **one** win.

DROPPING A GRADE

Following three consecutive unplaced performances within a Class and Distance category, the Grade of a greyhound shall be lowered by one Grade only, within the Class and Distance category.

A greyhound, having its Grade lowered to 5th Grade, shall after one win in 5th Grade, be penalised one Grade.

ABSENCE FROM RACING

On returning to racing, the Grade of a greyhound, **not having started for six months or longer, as at the date of the proposed meeting**, shall be lowered by one Grade at only the Class of track at which the greyhound is nominated for its return.

In accordance with GAR Rule 77A, a greyhound which has not competed in an event for a period in excess of 6 months will be ineligible to be nominated for an event until it passes an approved veterinary examination and completes a Satisfactory Trial in the presence of an official of the Controlling Body.

UPGRADING RULES

Upgrading rules will come into effect with regard to race performances from November 1, 2013 onwards.

UPGRADING CLASS 3

- any greyhound that has won a total **(6-10)** races on a class 1, 2 or 3 track in a particular distance category will be elevated to 4th grade when next nominated for an event in this distance category
- any greyhound that has won a total of **11 or more** races on a class 1, 2 or 3 track in a particular distance category will be elevated to 3rd grade when next nominated for an event of this distance category
- a greyhound will be lowered from Grade 3 to Grade 4 if its 11th win in the distance category was in a Class 3 Grade 5 event.

UPGRADING CLASS 4 & 6

- any greyhound that has won a total of **(6-10)** races on a class 1, 2, 3, 4 or 6 track in a particular distance category will be elevated to 4th grade when next nominated for an event in this distance category
- any greyhound that has won a total of **11 or more** races on a class 1, 2, 3, 4 or 6 track in a particular distance category will be elevated to 3rd grade when next nominated for an event of this distance category
- a greyhound will be lowered from Grade 3 to Grade 4 if its 11th win in the distance category was in a Class 4 Grade 5 event, or a Class 6 Grade 5 event.

UPGRADING CLASS 5

- Greyhounds having their first start on a Class 5 track will be upgraded to 4th Grade if they have won **(6-10)** races on Class 1, 2, or 3 tracks, provided they have won at least one Class 1 race.
- Greyhounds having their first start on a Class 5 track will be upgraded to 3rd Grade if they have won **11 or more** races Class 1, 2, or 3 tracks, provided they have won at least one Class 1 race.
- Subject to “Upgrading Short Course Category”, a greyhound having established a grade for a Class 5 track shall not thereafter be penalised for a win on any other Class of track.

UPGRADING SHORT COURSE CATEGORY

- any greyhound that has won a total of 4 or more races on a Class 1 track in the sprint distance category, will be elevated to 4th grade when next nominated on class 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 tracks in the short course distance category.

Note: Once upgraded, any greyhound winning an event will be penalised in accordance with the grading penalties clause.

RACE FIELD SELECTION PROCEDURE

DEFINITIONS

Selection Order of Choice – means the order of choice prescribed by the Governing Body to be applied to the selection of greyhounds for an event.

Series – means a race conducted that consists of Qualifying Trials, Heats, Semi-finals and Final. The nomination of a greyhound for a Series does not include a Consolation.

Event – means races consisting of graded races, maidens and heats and finals.

Feature Event – means an event prescribed by Racing Queensland as a Feature Event.

GENERAL

Maiden winning away from Series / Event

A maiden greyhound competing in a series, which consists of at least heats and a final, during the time of the series being conducted, wins an event other than as part of the series, shall not be eligible to compete further in the series.

Eligibility – Brisbane/Ipswich – Class 1

To be eligible to nominate in a Sprint / Distance event at Brisbane – Class 1, a greyhound must have won an event at a Class 2, 3, 4 or Class 6 track. (Excluding Class 1 maiden events).

Eligibility – Series / Event

To be eligible to contest a series/event a greyhound must be eligible to race at all of the tracks at which the greyhound may be required to race during the series/event at the time of the Box Draw of the first race of the series/event in which the selection of the greyhound is being considered.

COMPOSITION OF FIELDS

Open / Best 8 - Feature Event

A person intending to nominate a greyhound for an Open/Best 8 Feature Event must specify the name of the event when lodging the nomination.

For example: A trainer wishing to nominate a 5th or 4th Grade greyhound, must nominate for the name of the event.

For an Open/Best 8 Feature Event the Selection Order of Choice will not apply – the greyhounds included for the event shall be at the discretion of the Grader.

Best 8

Where a Best 8 is graded, any greyhound 3rd Grade or higher may, at the discretion of the Grader, be included for the event.

For example: A “no Best 8” specification on a nomination is not acceptable.

Mixed Graded Events

In an event in which two Grades are combined, greyhounds of the higher of the Grade will be included first followed by the lower Grade regardless of form.

In the event of composing a mixed grade event and single grade event on the same program, the greyhounds elevated to a mixed grade event will be at the sole discretion of the grading panel.

For example: a “5th grade only” specification on a nomination is not acceptable unless a single grade event is advertised for a particular race meeting.

Heats and Final Selection Scale

Unless, in special circumstances, approved otherwise by the Governing Body and advertised as a condition of a Series/Event, the following shall apply when establishing which greyhounds from Qualifying Trials- Heats-Semi-finals shall progress further in a Series.

No of QTs-

Heats-Semi- finals

Field x 8

Reserves x 2

2	1 – 2 – 3 - 4	fastest 5 - 5
3	1 - 2 - fastest 3 - 3	other 3 – fastest 4
4	1 - 2	fastest 3 - 3
5	1 - fastest 2 – 2 - 2	next fastest 2 – 2
6	1 - fastest 2 - 2	next fastest 2 - 2
7	1 – fastest 2	next fastest 2 – 2
8	1	fastest 2 – 2
9	fastest 1	other 1 – fastest 2
10	fastest 1	other fastest 1 – 1

The principles of the scale shall apply if a greater number of Heats / Semi-finals.

In the case of a Dead-Heat, thereby creating a situation where more than the permitted number of greyhounds is to be considered to progress further in a Series/Event, the greyhound to be selected shall be selected by lot from the greyhounds that comprised the Dead-Heat. The greyhound unsuccessful in the ballot shall be afforded a preference when being further assessed in accordance with the principles of the scale.

For the purpose of this scale, “fastest” shall mean the actual time of a greyhound in the Event. Should it not be possible to establish the time for a greyhound in the Event, the progress of a greyhound in a Series/Event shall be at the discretion of the Grading Panel.

Should a circumstance arise in which the principle of this scale would not be appropriate, the progress of a greyhound in the Series/Event shall be at the discretion of the Grading Panel.

Consolation Events

To be eligible for selection in a Consolation a greyhound must be nominated for the Consolation.

Greyhounds included in a Consolation shall be included in accordance with their placing in the Event that qualifies greyhounds for a final.

Guarding

If on a program there are two or more greyhounds owned and/or trained by the same person, they shall be allotted to as many separate events as possible.

Reserve Rights

Where a greyhound is listed as a reserve and does not gain a start, the greyhound shall be included in the original draw of the next event of the same grade, distance and day as the previous meeting at a particular race club, provided that a fresh nomination is submitted for the event.

If a mixed grade or restricted wins event is advertised, greyhounds with reserve rights will have preference over greyhounds of the same grade **only**.

A greyhound listed as a reserve that does gain, or would have been eligible to gain a start, that is withdrawn from the event for any reason whatsoever, shall forfeit any reserve rights.

Correction of Selection Error

If a greyhound that should not have been included in the Box Draw is so included, it shall be withdrawn by order of the stewards.

If a greyhound that should have been included in the Box Draw is not included and the omission is discovered by not later than 9.00am the next business day, the Grader, Chairman of Stewards or Greyhound Manager may order that the greyhound be included in the field and a drawn greyhound deleted from the field. If so ordered, the original Box Draw shall be cancelled and a new Box Draw conducted.

SELECTION ORDER OF CHOICE

NOTE: Other than as mentioned in (3) below, the Grader shall not give any consideration to a performance in a Qualifying Trial other than if the performance qualified a greyhound to compete further in a Series

MAIDEN EVENTS

All Classes

- (1) Greyhounds with Reserve Rights.
- (2) Last start place getter.
- (3) Greyhound having first race start. A greyhound having its first race start in a Qualifying Trial and failing to qualify, shall be deemed to be a first starter when next nominated.
- (4) (a) Place getter 2 of last 3 starts.
(b) Place getter 1 of last 3 starts.
- (5) Greyhounds not having had 3 starts.
- (6) Greyhounds not having had a start for 30 days.
- (7) Apply unplaced runners table on last 3 starts.
- (8) A greyhound drawn in a race as a first starter will not be eligible to be pre-graded unless there are insufficient nominations for that particular event.

NOTE: Preference will be given to placed performances on a circle track when selecting greyhounds for circle track races, and straight track placed performances when selecting greyhounds for straight track races.

CLASS 1

Graded Events

- (1) Greyhounds with Reserve Rights
- (2) Last start winners - Class 1 track (excepting maiden winners).
- (3) Last start place getter - Class 1 track.
- (4) Last start winners - Class 2 track (excepting maiden winners).
- (5) Last start winners – Class 3 track (excepting maiden winners).
- (6) Other winners/place getters last 3 starts in the following sequence:
 - Winner 2 of last 3 - Class 1
 - Winner 2 of last 3 - Class 2
 - Winner 2 of last 3 – Class 3
 - Place getter 2 of last 3 - Class 1
 - Winner 1 of last 3 - Class 1
 - Last start winner – Class 6 (excepting maiden winners).
 - Last start winner - Class 4 (excepting maiden winners).
 - Place getter 2 of last 3 - Class 2
 - Place getter 2 of last 3 – Class 3
 - Place getter 1 of last 3 - Class 1
 - Last start place getter - Class 2
 - Last start place getter – Class 3
 - Greyhounds dropping Class 1 grade
 - Winner 1 of last 3 - Class 2 (excepting maiden winners)
 - Winner 1 of last 3 – Class 3 (excepting maiden winners)
 - Winner 2 of last 3 – Class 6
 - Winner 2 of last 3 - Class 4
 - Place getter 1 of last 3 - Class 2
 - Place getter 1 of last 3 – Class 3
 - Place getter 2 of last 3 – Class 6
 - Place getter 2 of last 3 - Class 4
 - Winner 1 of last 3 – Class 6 (excepting maiden winners)
 - Winner 1 of last 3 - Class 4 (excepting maiden winners).
 - Last Start place getter – Class 6
 - Last start place getter - Class 4
 - Place getter 1 of last 3 – Class 6
 - Place getter 1 of last 3 - Class 4
 - Last start maiden winners
- (7) Greyhound not having started for 30 days.
- (8) Apply unplaced runners table on last 3 starts.

Novice Events Class 1

- (1) Greyhounds with Reserve Rights
- (2) Last start winners Class 1
- (3) Last start place getters Class 1
- (4) Last start winners Class 2
- (5) Last start winners Class 3
- (6) Last start winner Class 6
- (7) Last start winners Class 4
- (8) Other winners / placegetters last 3 starts
 - Winner 2 of last 3 Class 1
 - Placegetter 2 of last 3 Class 1
 - Winner 1 of last 3 Class 1
 - Winner 2 of last 3 Class 2
 - Winner 2 of last 3 Class 3
 - Winner 2 of last 3 Class 6
 - Winner 2 of last 3 Class 4
 - Place getter 2 of last 3 Class 2
 - Place getter 2 of last 3 Class 3
 - Place getter 2 of last 3 Class 6
 - Place getter 2 of last 3 Class 4
 - Winner 1 of 3 last 3 Class 2
 - Winner 1 of 3 last 3 Class 3
 - Winner 1 of Last 3 Class 6
 - Winner 1 of 3 last 3 Class 4
 - Last start place getter Class 2
 - Last start place getter Class 3
 - Last start place getter Class 6
 - Last start place getter Class 4
 - Place getter 1 of last 3 Class 1
 - Place getter 1 of last 3 Class 2
 - Place getter 1 of last 3 Class 3
 - Place getter 1 of last 3 Class 6
 - Place getter 1 of last 3 Class 4
 - Apply unplaced runners table on last 3 starts

NOTE: Straight track performances will NOT be considered when selecting races for Class 1 events.

CLASS 2, 3, 4 & 6 –

Novice & Graded Events

- (1) Reserve greyhound having Reserve Rights.
- (2) Last start winners - Class 1
- (3) Last start winners - Class 2
- (4) Last start winners - Class 3
- (5) Last start winners - Class 6
- (6) Last start winners - Class 4
- (7) Last start place getter - Class 1
- (8) Last start place getter - Class 2, 3, 6 & 4
- (9) Greyhound dropping a grade at Class 2, 3, 6 & 4.
- (10) Greyhound upgraded at Class 2, 3, 6 & 4.
- (11) Last start winners - Class 5
- (12) Other winners/place getters last 3 starts in the following sequence:
 - Winner 2 of last 3 - Class 1, 2, 3, 6 & 4
 - Winner 1 of last 3 - Class 1, 2, 3, 6 & 4
 - Place getter 2 of last 3 - Class 1, 2, 3, 6 & 4
 - Last start place getter Class 5
 - Winner 2 of last 3 - Class 5
 - Place getter 2 of last 3 - Class 5
 - Winner 1 of last 3 Class 5
 - Place getter 1 of last 3 - Class 1, 2, 3, 6, 4 & 5
 - Greyhound not having started for 30 days.
- (13) Apply unplaced runners table on last 3 starts (not including qualifying trials).

CLASS 5 – Straight Track.

Graded Events

- (1) Greyhound having Reserve Rights.
- (2) Last start winners - Class 5
- (3) Last start place getter - Class 5
- (4) Greyhound dropping Class 5 Grade.
- (5) Greyhound upgraded at Class 5.
- (6) Last start winner - Class 1, 2, 3, 6 & 4
- (7) Last start place getter – Class 1, 2, 3, 6 & 4.
- (8) Other winners/place getters last 3 starts in the following sequence:
 - Winner 2 of last 3 - Class 5
 - Winner 2 of last 3 - Class 1, 2, 3, 6 & 4
 - Winner 1 of last 3 - Class 5
 - Winner 1 of last 3 - Class 1, 2, 3, 6 & 4
 - Place getter 2 of last 3 - Class 5
 - Place getter 2 of last 3 - Class 1, 2, 3, 6 & 4
 - Place getter 1 of last 3 - Class 5
 - Place getter 1 of last 3 - Class 1, 2, 3, 6 & 4
 - Greyhounds not having started for 30 days.
- (9) Apply unplaced runners table on last 3 starts.

PATHWAYS RACING

Novice / Grade 5 Events

- Non-penalty unless:
 - Breaking Time Standard (as per Time Standards Table)
 - Upgrading Rules Apply
- Grade 4, Grade 3, Grade 2, Grade 1 ineligible
- Class 1 winners in the last 12 months ineligible
- Winners in the last 3 starts will not be eligible
- Last start place getters or place getters twice in the last 3 starts will not be eligible
- Greyhounds dropping a grade will not be eligible
- Class 1 place getters in the last 3 starts will not be eligible
- Unplaced Class 1 performances will NOT be considered when selecting fields for Pathways Events.

Order of Entry

- (1) Unplaced last 3 starts by Runners Table highest (24) to lowest (12)
- (2) Place getter 1 of last 3 starts Class 5, 4, 6, 3, 2.

Maiden Events

- 1st starters ineligible
- Last start place getters or place getters twice in the last 3 starts will not be eligible

Order of Entry

- (1) Unplaced last 3 starts by Runners Table highest (24) to lowest (12).
- (2) Greyhounds not having had 3 starts.
- (3) Place getter 1 of last 3 starts Class 5, 4, 6, 3, 2.

Reserve Rights

- (1) There will be no reserve rights for Pathways Races.
- (2) Greyhounds with reserve rights will only be drawn into a Pathways race if form warrants.
- (3) Greyhounds drawn as a reserve in a Pathways race will have reserve rights for the corresponding race meeting one week later.

Guarding

No guarding – races divided by wins and form at the grader's discretion. Grader's will guard where the intent of Pathways racing is not compromised.

MASTERS RACING

- 42 months or older
- Grade 5 Only
- Non-penalty unless:
 - Breaking Time Standard (as per Time Standards Table)
 - Upgrading Rules Apply
- Class 1 Masters - Selection Order as per Graded Events Class 1
- Class 2, 3, 4 & 6 Masters - Selection Order as per Graded Events Class 2, 3, 4 & 6
- Class 5 Masters - Selection Order as per Class 5 – Straight Tracks

*Race clubs can program an Open Masters race as a special event.

Masters Age Re-Grade

- 42 months or older
- Have not won any race in the last 6 months (at the date of the race meeting)
- Eligible for a total of three (3) separate class/distance re-grades
- Greyhound will be lowered by one grade at the class/distance of nomination
- The re-grade will only be applied once per class/distance

RUNNERS TABLE

Last 3 Starts				Score
			888	24
			788	23
		688	787	22
	588	678	777	21
488	578	677	686	20
478	568	577	676	19
468	477	558	567	18
458	467	557	566	17
448	457	466	556	16
	447	456	555	15
		446	455	14
			445	13
			444	12

TIME STANDARDS

DISTANCE	TRACK RECORD	TIME STANDARD
BRISBANE		
331M	18.69	19.37
395M	22.30	23.04
520M (CLASS 2 & 3)	29.41	30.46
520M (CLASS 1)	29.41	30.33
IPSWICH		
431M	24.59	25.56
520M	30.01	31.04
ROCKHAMPTON		
407M	23.04	24.10
510M	28.94	30.09
TOWNSVILLE		
380M	21.53	22.38
498M	28.33	29.34
BUNDABERG		
460M	26.01	27.26
550M	31.21	32.16
CAPALABA		
366M	19.23	20.34
CAIRNS		
410M	23.43	24.67
544M	31.17	32.49

POWERS OF GRADER

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Selection Order of Choice, the Grader may exercise discretion in any matter relating to the inclusion of a greyhound in an event.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Racing Queensland will accept nominations by the following methods:

1. Telephone – 1800 851 155 – between 8.30am and 9.30am every morning.
2. Online – via Ozchase <https://noms.ozchase.com.au/Login>

GUIDELINES

The following guidelines have been developed to assist trainers when nominating for race meetings in Queensland.

Specifically, the guidelines set out where and when comments will be considered by the graders when selecting fields.

In most instances comments are not essential, however some trainers find them useful to elaborate on the preferences of a nomination.

Trainers are advised to keep the comments simple and to follow the guidelines below. Writing ambiguous comments on a nomination form could result in the grading department misinterpreting the message.

1. No comments allowed

Normal Graded Races

- 1st Grade
- 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade
- 4th Grade
- 5th Grade
- Maiden

Mixed Grade Races

- Best 8
- 2nd/3rd Grade
- 3rd/4th Grade
- 4th/5th Grade
- Maiden/5th Grade

For normal graded races and mixed grade races, including heats of these races, all comments for specific races eg “5th grade only”, “no Best 8” etc. will be disregarded by the grading department.

2. Comments optional

Non-penalty races/Time Standard races

- Novice
- Masters
- Pathways

Special Condition races

- Restricted wins race
- Restricted conditions races
- Free For All events
- No metro wins races
- Bitches races

Trainers may choose whether or not to nominate for non-penalty races and special condition races. This can be done online by selecting the specific race event, or by leaving a comment in the comments section. Similarly, trainers can make these comments over the phone. Acceptable comments include novice, masters, pathways, restricted wins, not masters, no Free For All, etc. The use of the word 'only' is optional and carries no significance, for example the graders will interpret comments of 'novice' and 'novice only' as the same thing.

Trainers should be aware that leaving a comment will mean that the greyhound won't be considered for any other races if the greyhound doesn't gain entry into the requested race. Therefore, a trainer leaving comments will need to state all preferences in order for the graders to consider the greyhound for more than one race. Eg novice/5th, novice/pathways/masters, restricted wins/novice, bitches/other, etc.

3. Comments essential

- Open grade Feature Events

Open grade Feature Events are the only races which require a specific nomination. This can be done online by selecting the specific race event, or by leaving a comment in the comments section. Similarly trainers can nominate for open class feature races over the phone. Eg Derby heats, Futurity heats, Young Guns heats, group race heats, cup races etc.

4. Blank nomination

If there are no comments on the nomination the grading department will consider the greyhound for all eligible races. In these instances, the graders will consider the greyhound for events in the following order: 1) Non-penalty races, 2) Special condition races, 3) Normal graded races/mixed grade races.

PREFERENCE NOMINATIONS

A greyhound nominated for two or more race meetings will be considered in order of preference for the nomination received (with regard to grading procedures). Once a greyhound has been drawn in an event, all further preferences will be disregarded.

NOMINATION EXTENSION CLAUSE

Unless otherwise prescribed by the governing body, all greyhounds entered for an event prior to a nomination extension will be granted 1st preference when grading fields.

Policy Revision History

Date	Version	Changes
1 November 2013	1	Original Document
29 July 2015	2	Update to definition of Maiden Eligibility
20 October 2015	3	Update to Upgrading Rules & Grading - Class 5 Tracks
18 December 2015	4	Insert Upgrading Short Course Category and update Absence From Racing
1 December 2016	5	Pathways Racing and Masters Racing
22 March 2017	6	Update Reserve Rights and Time Standards
25 January 2018	7	Interstate Track Classifications, Order of entry – Upgrading, Masters
16 February 2018	8	Masters Age Re-Grade
1 October 2018	9	Definitions, Guarding, Time Standards, How to Nominate
5 December 2018	10	Upgrading Class 5