

GREYHOUND RULES INFORMATION

New Rules - Introduction May 1, 2022



New Greyhound Racing Rules will commence from May 1, 2022. These changes follow a comprehensive review of the rules by Greyhounds Australasia, with streamlined and updated Greyhound Rules to be introduced in all states and territories.

In conjunction, Racing Queensland (RQ) and the QRIC will introduce an updated version of the Local Rules, which will also take effect on May 1, 2022. You may notice that some Local Rules are not included in the new Rules, a number of former local rules have been incorporated into the national Rules, while others have been retired as they are no longer relevant.

New National Racing Rules - May 1, 2022

Sterilisation of Greyhounds Retired as Pets: GAR24

A greyhound that is being retired as a pet must be sterilised prior to leaving the care of the owner or registered person responsible. Unless, they are being accepted into an approved GAP program.

From May 1, 2022, RQ will provide a subsidy payment towards the cost of sterilisation of retiring greyhounds, through the introduction of the RQ Greyhound Retirement Readiness Scheme.

The Greyhound Retirement Readiness Scheme will also provide for dental cleaning and vaccination of greyhounds being retired as pets.

The QRIC will provide a moratorium period of 30 days to June 1, 2022, for participants to familiarise themselves with the scheme and its process.

Vaccination Requirements: GAR25

A greyhound must be fully vaccinated (that is, receive a C5 vaccination) throughout its racing life.

A greyhound must not race compete in a race or trial for seven days after being vaccinated.

The QRIC will provide a 12-month penalty free moratorium period to May 1, 2023, for participants to adapt to the new C5 vaccination requirements. During this period, participants will receive reminder notifications when their greyhounds are non-compliant with the vaccination requirements.

At the end of the 12-month moratorium period non-compliant greyhounds will be unable to nominate for events.

Barking Muzzles: GAR30

Under the new Rules, barking muzzles will be prohibited in most states.

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New Rules - Introduction May 1, 2022



The use of barking muzzles will be permitted in QLD under the *conditions prescribed within the QLD Local Rules of Racing*.

Reportable Diseases: GAR40

The new Rule GAR40 contains a clear list of which diseases need to be reported and the steps that are to be taken to minimise the spread of the disease.

“Reportable diseases” are contagious diseases that greyhounds may catch. Because contagious diseases pose a risk to the industry, the Rules have always required participants to advise the Controlling Body if one of their greyhounds is diagnosed with a reportable disease.

Prohibited Substances: GAR146 & GAR147

The new Rules specify **screening limits** for some therapeutic substances that are prohibited, such as dexamethasone. A screening limit refers to a level below which a prohibited substance cannot be reliably detected. No offence occurs if a substance is detected at a level below the screening limit.

In the new Rules, **residue limits** will also apply to some substances. Like a screening limit, a residue limit specifies an amount below which the substance is not prohibited if detected in a greyhound. This is because the amount is so low that it is likely to be a *residue*, usually from eating meat from animals that have been treated with the substance.

Residue limits will apply to ketamine, morphine and xylazine, because a greyhound may consume meat that is contaminated with these substances.

Prohibited Methods: GAR150

Prohibited methods are a new concept that has been introduced into the Rules. Prohibited methods are similar to prohibited substances in that they are methods of artificially altering a greyhound’s health or condition, such as through a blood transfusion that is not directed by a veterinarian as part of treatment for an illness.

Penalties for Marring and Failure to Pursue: GAR127

The penalty for a first offence will remain at 28 days. However, the penalty for a second offence has been reduced from three months to 28 days. The penalty for a third offence has been reduced from 12 months to three months.

Lay Betting: GAR166

Lay betting is betting against your own greyhound in a race.

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New Rules - Introduction May 1, 2022



A registered greyhound trainer must not place a bet on a race that their greyhound is participating in unless they are betting on their own greyhound to win.

Penalties for Baiting and Luring: GAR159

The Rules regarding use of lures have not changed. Only lures made of synthetic materials may be used in QLD.

The new Rules introduce a “three tier” approach to penalties for offences involving luring and baiting:

- A person who engages in or is involved in the use of a live animal as a lure or bait will be disqualified for life;
- A person who uses an animal carcass or part of an animal as a lure or bait will be liable for disqualification for 10 years; and
- a person who uses anything containing animal material as a lure or bait must be disqualified.

New Local Rules - May 1, 2022

LR12 (NP) Permitted Limited Use Barking Muzzle

The new local rule is to allow conditional use of barking muzzles within Queensland, in keeping with GAR30(2)(a). The muzzle must be approved by the QRIC and fitted by a licensed person, ensuring that it allows for reasonable jaw movement, is appropriately sized and does not cause pain, injury or distress.

The three permitted uses are:

- As part of an approved behavioural management program;
- Approved use at a race meeting; and
- Limited use in holding facilities at public training tracks.

LR6 & LR6A Usage of Training Track

The substantially revised local rule is to ensure that all public training tracks are registered with Racing Queensland and in turn are captured within the rules.

There are three defined categories of public training tracks:

- **Category 1 training track;**
- **Category 2 training track; and**
- **Category 3 training track.**

RQ will engage with relevant participants in the lead up to May 1, 2022, with information on the criteria for each Category and guidelines under which the venues must operate.

GREYHOUND RULES INFORMATION

New Rules - Introduction May 1, 2022



A three-month moratorium period will be applied until August 1, 2022, to allow for respective training track operators to complete the registration process. During this time notifications and directions may still be applied by the QRIC.