

APPENDIX A – GRADING SCHEDULE

GPOLAPPENDIX A

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1) DEFINITIONS

AGE	the age of a greyhound shall be reckoned from the last day of the month of its whelping.
COMPULSORY CONSOLATION	is a race which greyhounds that do not qualify for the Final are required to contest.
CONSOLATION	is a race for greyhounds which contested Heats (in a Heats and Final Series) or Semi Finals of a Series, but which failed to qualify to contest the Final of such series.
DISTANCE RACE	is any race of 680 metres or more.
FREE-TO-ALL	is a race open to all greyhounds, including maidens.
INVITATION	is a combination of grades 1, 2 and 3.
MAIDEN	is a greyhound that has not won or been awarded first place in a penalty bearing race.
MAIDEN RACE	is a race restricted to greyhounds that are over the age of two (2) years and that have not won or been awarded first place in a penalty bearing race on any track at any distance unless the conditions of the race specifically permit greyhounds under the age of 2 years that have not won or been awarded first place in a penalty bearing race on any track at any distance to participate (e.g. Hobart Maiden Thousand).
MID DISTANCE RACE	is any race of 570 metres or more but less than 680 metres.
MIXED	is a combination of any 2 adjoining grades. e.g. 1 and 2 2 and 3 3 and 4 4 and 5 5 and 6 6 and Maiden
NON-PENALTY RACE	is a race where the stake money to the winner is less than \$451 and the winner will not receive a grading penalty.
OPEN BEST	is a race or series open to all greyhounds except maidens.
RESTRICTED BEST	is a race or series open to all greyhounds eligible under the restrictions of the race or series, in which maidens are eligible to compete.
SHORT SPRINT	is any race of less than 400 metres.
SPECIAL EVENT	is a feature race or series approved by the Board.
SPRINT RACE	is any race of 400 metres or more but less than 570 metres.
STEPGRADING	means a greyhound can win on a track over a distance and such win does not affect the greyhound's grade on any other track or the grade at the other distances on that track.
TASMANIAN BRED	is a greyhound whelped in Tasmania.

2) **NOMINATIONS**

- 2.1 Nomination forms must be lodged under the following circumstances:
A greyhound's first start or first start in Tasmania.
A greyhound's last race start was not in Tasmania.
- 2.2 If a greyhound's last start was interstate nomination forms must be received by the Office of Racing Integrity at least 24 hours prior to the close of nominations. The Office of Racing Integrity shall refuse any nomination form not received prior to 10am on the last working day prior to the close of nominations. If the greyhound is a first starter nomination forms must be received prior to 10am on the day nominations close.
- 2.3 Nominations may be made online or via fax to the Office of Racing Integrity provided the following information has been provided:
- (a) Name of greyhound.
 - (b) The greyhound's earbrand.
 - (c) The trainer's name and licence number.
 - (d) Club and date of meeting.
 - (e) Grade and distance of the race preferred.
 - (f) Second choices or 'No Higher' / 'No Reserve' comments.

Please Note: A nomination may be refused if incorrect or incomplete information is given.

3) **RESERVES**

- 3.1 Greyhounds named as reserves in the second round of heats of a series, semi-finals, finals (including Qualifying Finals), consolations or compulsory consolations are eligible to be graded into another race on the same programme, however in such circumstances a greyhound will be required to contest such heat, semi-final, final, consolation or compulsory consolation should the greyhound obtain a start in that heat, semi-final, final, consolation or compulsory consolation and shall be withdrawn from the other race.
- 3.2 Except as provided for in Clause 3.1, under no other circumstances shall a reserve be eligible to be graded into another race in the same programme except as a reserve.

4) **DEAD HEAT**

- 4.1 Where the Stewards and/or Judges declare a dead-heat for first place, all greyhounds dead-heating shall incur the normal grading penalty applicable to such race.

5) **GRADES - SHORT SPRINT; SPRINT; MID DISTANCE AND DISTANCE RACES**

- 5.1 **GRADE SIX (6)** **restricted to greyhounds under two (2) years of age at the time of the race**, providing the greyhound has not won or been awarded first place in a penalty bearing race at the distance on that track.
- 5.2 **GRADE FIVE (5)** for winners Grade six (6) races on that track, winners of Maiden events and greyhounds over the age of two (2) years that have not won or been awarded first place in a penalty bearing race over the distance at that track.

- 5.3 GRADE FOUR (4)** for winners of Grade five (5) races and greyhounds dropping from Grade three (3).
- 5.4 GRADE THREE (3)** for winners of Grade four (4) races and greyhounds dropping from Grade two (2).
- 5.5 GRADE TWO (2)** for winners of Grade three (3) races and greyhounds dropping from Grade one (1).
- 5.6 GRADE ONE (1)** for winners of Grade two (2) races.
- 5.7** Wins in 'Non-Penalty' races run in Tasmania will not incur a grading penalty, including Maidens.
- 5.8** Wins on interstate tracks with first prize money of \$450.00 or less will be treated as 'Non-Penalty' and not be included when assessing the grade of a greyhound in Tasmania.
- 5.9** Wins on Interstate tracks with first prize money of \$451.00 or more shall be classified as a win and be penalised as if those wins were on Tasmanian tracks as per the following examples:
- A. A greyhound that has won 1 race while under and is still under the age of 2 years shall be assessed Grade 5 on one track and Grade 6 on the other 2 tracks.
 - B. A greyhound that has won 1 race since turning 2 years of age shall be assessed Grade 5 all tracks.
 - C. A greyhound that has won 2 races since turning 2 years of age shall be assessed Grade 4 on 1 track and Grade 5 on the remaining 2 tracks.
 - D. A greyhound that has won 3 races since turning 2 years of age shall be assessed Grade 4 on 2 tracks and Grade 5 on the remaining 1 track.
 - E. Any Distance wins shall firstly be applied to tracks at which distance racing is conducted.
- 5.10** A trainer at the time of nominating shall stipulate in writing which track a greyhound will be classified the higher grade/s (if applicable). Should the trainer fail to provide such advice at the time of nominating, the Office of Racing Integrity shall apply the highest grades to the track/s furthest from the trainer's normal place of residence.
- 5.11** The allocation of grades in accordance with Clause 5.1.10 shall not be amended for any reason whatsoever once nominated by the Trainer or defined by the Office of Racing Integrity at the time of nomination, unless to correct an error in the original calculation of the grade of the greyhound (not the application of the grades to the various tracks).
- 5.12** Any greyhound which is Grade 1, 2, 3 or grade 4 on any track will drop 1 grade for that distance on that track after 3 consecutive unplaced runs at that distance on that track.
- 5.13** A greyhound cannot contest a race for a grade above or below that greyhound's grade unless in a best event, mixed grade, invitation or free-to-all.

6) **FIELD SELECTION**

6.1.1 The Office of Racing Integrity shall adopt an order of choice upon which the selection of greyhounds for all graded races (except invitations, best races and free-to-all races) shall be made.

6.1.2 The selection of greyhounds to contest an event may be made by reverse Order of Choice and/or grade, by age and/or a combination of conditions as defined in the programme.

6.1.3 In Invitation races the greyhounds shall be selected first on their grade and then on their Order of Choice.

6.1.4 The selection of greyhounds for free-to-all races shall be as follows:

1. Maidens shall be first excluded.
2. Greyhounds shall be selected first on their grade and then on their Order of Choice.
3. If Maidens are to be included in the field, then this shall be done on the Order of Choice except that Order of Choice '5' shall not apply to any greyhound.

6.1.5 Except for the Hobart Thousand, Launceston Cup and Devonport Cup, the selection of greyhounds for all best races shall be in accordance with the following order:

6.1.5.1 Restricted Best Races

A. Where the race/series is restricted by Grade as one of the conditions:

- (i) Maidens shall be first excluded.
- (ii) Order of Choice '5' shall not apply to any greyhound.
- (iii) The selection of other greyhounds shall be made on the Order Of Choice, irrespective of Grade.
- (iv) Should it be necessary to include maidens in the field then this shall be done on the Order of Choice.

B. Where the race/series is not restricted by Grade as one of the conditions:

- (i) Maidens shall be first excluded.
- (ii) Order of Choice '5' shall not apply to any greyhound
- (iii) Other greyhounds shall be selected first on their grade and then on their Order of Choice.
- (iv) Should it be necessary to include maidens in the field then this shall be done on the Order of Choice.

6.1.5.2 Open Best Races

A. In Open Best Races:

- (i) Maidens are not eligible to contest.
- (ii) Order of Choice '5' shall not apply to any greyhound.

- B.** The Field for any Open Best Race/series shall be selected in accordance with the following order:
- (i) Order 1 - Grade 1 greyhounds.
 - (ii) Order 2 - Grade 2 greyhounds with an Order of Choice between 1 & 9 (inclusive).
 - (iii) Order 3 - Grade 3 greyhounds with an Order of Choice between 1 & 9 (inclusive)
 - (iv) Order 4 - Grade 2 greyhounds with an Order of Choice between 10 & 12 (inclusive).
 - (v) Order 5 - Grade 3 greyhounds with an Order of Choice between 10 & 12 (inclusive).
 - (vi) Order 6 - Other greyhounds on the Order of Choice, irrespective of grade.

6.1.6 The selection of greyhounds for the heats of the Hobart Thousand, Launceston Cup and Devonport Cup shall be as follows:

Maidens are not eligible.

Greyhounds winning the final of the last conducted following races shall be first included.

- A.** Hobart Thousand.
- B.** Maiden Thousand.
- C.** Tasmania Gold Cup.
- D.** Hobart Breeders Classic.
- E.** Devonport Breeders Classic.
- F.** Devonport Cup.
- G.** Tasmanian Oaks.
- H.** Tasmanian Derby.
- I.** Gold Collar.
- J.** Launceston Cup.
- K.** Illingworth Classic.
- L.** Launceston Breeders Classic.
- M.** State National Sprint Championship.
- N.** State National Distance Championship.

Grade 1 greyhounds.

Grade 2 greyhounds with an Order of Choice between 1 & 9 (inclusive)

Grade 3 greyhounds with an Order of Choice between 1 & 9 (inclusive)

Grade 2 greyhounds with an Order of Choice between 10 & 12 (inclusive)

Grade 3 greyhounds with an Order of Choice between 10 & 12 (inclusive)

All other greyhounds shall be included on the Order of Choice, irrespective of grade except that Choice '5' on the Order of Choice shall not apply to any greyhound.

Please refer to Section (18) 'Major Feature Race Selection' for more information in relation to the selection process of the Hobart Thousand, Launceston Cup, and Devonport Cup heats.

6.2) PENALTIES

- 6.2.1** Unless otherwise stipulated a greyhound will be penalised one grade for each penalty bearing win on each track at the respective distance (short sprint, sprint, mid distance and distance).
- 6.2.2** A Maiden may win one penalty bearing race on any track before being assessed as Grade 5 on all tracks.
- 6.2.3** A Maiden may contest any Maiden or Grade 5 race unless the conditions of the race otherwise exclude the greyhound.
- 6.2.4** One grading penalty only will be imposed for one or more wins in a series.

e.g.

HEAT	SEMI	FINAL / COMPULSORY CONSULATION	PENALTY
1st	3rd	5th	1 penalty
1st	1st	1st	1 penalty
2nd	4th	1st	1 penalty

- 6.2.5** A greyhound will not incur a grade penalty for winning a non-penalty race (Maidens included).

6.3) QUALIFYING TRIALS OVER 400 METRES OR MORE

- 6.3.1** Qualifying Trials shall be conducted on race nights as programmed by Clubs.
- 6.3.2** A nomination fee of \$5.00 shall be charged for qualifying trials.
- 6.3.3** The maximum number of trials that will be conducted on any one night shall be:
If there are 10 or less races programmed - 6 trials
If there are more than 10 races programmed - 4 trials.
- 6.3.4** A minimum of 10 nominations are required before qualifying trials will be conducted.
- 6.3.5** If there are 10 or 11 nominations then a Final will be conducted at the Club's next meeting.
- 6.3.6** If there are 12 or more nominations then heats shall be conducted with a Final at the Club's next meeting.
- 6.3.7** Subject to Clauses 6.3.3, 6.3.4 and 6.4.5 all eligible greyhounds nominated shall be catered for in the heats.
- 6.3.8** Qualifying trials shall be conducted for Juvenile / Graduation and Graduation / Trial grades only with the final carrying normal graded stakes for the class of the race.

- 6.3.9** Qualifying trials are for greyhounds Choice 9 or worse on the Order of Choice or greyhounds balloted from the race meeting at which the trials are scheduled.
- 6.3.10** Balloted from the race meeting includes reserves for races over the same distances as the qualifying trials, but does not include reserves or greyhounds balloted from races over other distances unless the greyhound was nominated for a race over the same distance as the qualifying trial (excluding Maiden races unless a Maiden race is scheduled and programmed).
- 6.3.11** Should it be necessary to reduce the number of greyhounds to participate in the trials (or Final if a Final only is conducted) then the selection of greyhounds to participate shall be made in accordance with the Order of Choice on the following order:
a) Greyhounds balloted from the race meeting
b) Greyhounds not balloted from the race meeting.
- 6.3.12** Nominations close at 10.00am, two (2) working days prior to the day on which the trials are scheduled.
- 6.3.13** Greyhounds are required to be at the kennels at the following times:
If 4 trials are scheduled - 50 minutes prior to the first race on the night
If more than 4 trials are scheduled - 1 hour prior to the first race on the night.
- 6.3.14** Greyhounds participating in qualifying trials will not be kennelled and it is the responsibility of the trainer to be at the kennels and present their greyhound in qualifying race order.

6.4) QUALIFYING TRIALS OVER LESS THAN 400 METRES

- 6.4.1** Qualifying Trials shall be conducted on race nights as programmed by Clubs.
- 6.4.2** A nomination fee of \$5.00 shall be charged for qualifying trials.
- 6.4.3** The maximum number of trials that will be conducted on any one night shall be:
If there are 10 or less races programmed - 6 trials
If there are more than 10 races programmed - 4 trials.
- 6.4.4** A minimum of 10 nominations are required before qualifying trials will be conducted.
- 6.4.5** If there are 10 or 11 nominations then a Final will be conducted at the Club's next meeting.
- 6.4.6** If there are 12 or more nominations then heats shall be conducted with a Final at the Club's next meeting.
- 6.4.7** Subject to Clauses 6.4.3, 6.4.4 and 6.4.5 all eligible greyhounds nominated shall be catered for in the heats.
- 6.4.8** Qualifying trials shall be conducted for Maiden/Juvenile, Graduation/Trial and Trial/Progressive grades only with the final carrying normal graded stakes for the class of the race.
- 6.4.9** Should it be necessary to reduce the number of greyhounds to participate in the trials (or Final if a Final only is conducted) then the selection of

greyhounds to participate shall be made in accordance with the Order of Choice.

6.4.10 Nominations close at 10.00am. Two working days prior to the day on which the trials are scheduled.

6.4.11 Greyhounds are required to be at the kennels at the following times:
If 4 trials are scheduled - 50 minutes prior to the first race on the night.
If more than 4 trials are scheduled - 1 hour prior to the first race on the night.

6.4.12 Greyhounds participating in qualifying trials will not be kennelled and it is the responsibility of the Trainer to be at the kennels and present their greyhound in qualifying race order.

7) ORDER OF CHOICE

CHOICE 1: Last start winner this distance or any greyhound dropping down in grade to a Grade 3 or lower grade.

CHOICE 2: Placed at their last start at distance on the track of nomination.

CHOICE 3: Placed last start at distance on any other track.

CHOICE 4: Won at last start at another distance (short sprint/sprint/mid-distance/distance) on any track.

CHOICE 5: The greyhound's first race start or first start on a track if it has had less than 3 race starts. **Last start winner of a 'Non-Penalty' race at distance in Tasmania.**

CHOICE 6: Placed at its second last start at distance on the track of nomination.

CHOICE 7: Placed at its second last start at distance on any other track.

CHOICE 8: Placed at its third last start at distance on the track of nomination.

CHOICE 9: Placed at its third last start at distance on any other track.

CHOICE 10: First start this track and distance over the flat.

CHOICE 11: Reserve greyhound at previous nomination at distance on track of nomination.

CHOICE 12: Any greyhound that does not meet the criteria listed above.

8) ORDER OF CHOICE POLICIES

8.1 Form over any other distance category does not count in assessing the (Order of Choice). Only form over the distance of the race being graded will count in assessing the Order of Choice (Except with the provision provided for in Choice 4).

8.2 (a) A greyhound which finishes unplaced in any Final (other than a qualifying final) shall have that start disregarded for the purpose of both Order of Choice and drop down.

(b) A greyhound that finishes second or third in any Final (other than a qualifying final) shall have that start disregarded if the greyhound's last start over the same distance prior to that Final was a win. **(This refers to Order of Choice Only)**

- 8.3 For the purpose of both 'Order of Choice' and drop down, a fall will be disregarded.
- 8.4 Any greyhound which is penalised in the Order of Choice by way of interference from another greyhound which is suspended for such interference shall have that start disregarded for the purpose of both Order of Choice and drop down.
- 8.5 Unplaced runs in non-penalty races will not count towards drop down.
- 8.6 The Order of Choice of greyhounds winning non-penalty races will be elevated to Choice 5 at the next start at the same distance, unless their Order of Choice prior to winning the non-penalty event was higher than Choice 5.
- 8.7 The Order of Choice 1 for greyhounds dropping in grade only applies to the greyhound's next start on that track and distance, but does not apply and is forfeited if the greyhound's next start on the track after dropping in grade is in an Invitation race, Best race, Free-to-All race, Claiming Race, Mixed 1/2 race, Mixed 2/3 race, a Semi Final or a Final.
- 8.8 In selecting a field, where two or more greyhounds are on the same Order of Choice the following order of preference will prevail:
- (a) For Choices 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9, the finishing position of the performance which made the greyhound this Order of Choice. **Preference will be given to winners as opposed to placegetters.**
 - (b) For Grade 6 Races (except in best races), the month of whelping, with greyhounds closest to turning 2 years of age given preference.
 - (c) Previous performances.
 - (d) For Order of Choice 10 preferences will be given to greyhounds that have never had a start at the distance.
 - (e) For Order of Choice 11 and 12 greyhounds will be selected on their form at the distance on the track at which nominated, with the following order:
 - (i) Highest placing at the last start at track and distance.
 - (ii) If equal, the greyhound that has had only one start at the track and distance, followed by the greyhound that has had two starts at the track and distance, noting that if equal and if necessary, a random ballot will be conducted.
 - (iii) If the last start placing at track and distance is the same and the greyhounds have had at least three starts at the track and distance, add the finishing placing in the last three events at the track and distance with the lowest total gaining the start. For example, a greyhound finishing 6th, 8th and 4th will have a total of 18, whilst a greyhound finishing 6th, 5th and 8th will have a total of 19. In this case the greyhound with 18 points will be selected.
 - (iv) If totals are the same, a random manual ballot is applied.

9) GRADING POLICIES

- 9.1 Races to be drawn for a meeting will be determined by the programming, the nominations received, Policies for Minimum Nominations - Normal Graded Events and Feature Race Conditions.
- 9.2 Maiden greyhounds (two (2) years and older) nominated for a Maiden race and not selected in a Maiden race will be considered for selection in a grade five (5) race unless the comment 'NO HIGHER' has been stipulated at the time of nomination.

10) GRADING - HIGHER GRADES

Persons when nominating must stipulate on each and every occasion should they not wish their greyhound to be included in any graded race above the greyhound's grade.

A greyhound will not be included in any best race/series or free-to-all race/series unless specifically nominated for such race (grade 1 and 2 greyhounds excepted).

11) GRADING - MIXED RACES

A greyhound must take its place in a race as is determined by its order of choice.

By adding the comment '**NO HIGHER GRADE**' when nominating, you will ensure that your greyhound will not be placed in a race with greyhounds from higher grades should a mixed grade race be programmed.

Listed below are several possible scenarios:

1. When there is to be (for example) a Grade 4 and a mixed Grade 3 and 4 on the programme, the single grade (Grade 4) race shall be first selected. The greyhounds not selected will then be combined with the Grade 3 greyhounds for selection of the field for the higher (3/4) grade race. After that race has been selected the reserves for the single grade race (Grade 4) shall be selected and then the reserves for the higher (3/4) grade race shall be selected.

e.g. If a Grade 4 greyhound is not selected for the Grade 4, but will be selected for the 3/4 on its Order of Choice, however the connections have nominated '**No Higher Grade**', then such greyhound shall be deleted from the field and shall not be included for either race unless there are fewer than the maximum number of starters (including reserves) in the Grade 4 race.
2. If a greyhound is nominated for a Grade (3) race with the comment '**No Higher Grade**' and an Invitation or a Mixed Grade 2/3 race is programmed, but there is no Grade (3) race on the programme, the greyhound will be deleted from the field and will not be considered for the Invitation or Mixed 2/3 race.
3. If an Invitation or Mixed 2/3 race and a Grade (3) race are programmed, the Grade 3 race will be the first race selected. If a greyhound with the comment '**No Higher Grade**' is NOT selected for the Grade (3) race it will be deleted from the field, and will **ONLY** be considered as a reserve in the Grade (3) race in the event that there are insufficient nominations to fill the reserve positions without that greyhound.
4. If an Invitation or Mixed 2/3 and a Mixed 3/4 race are programmed and there is no Grade (3) race programmed, the Invitation or Mixed 2/3 race will be selected first. If your greyhound would have been selected in the Invitation or Mixed 2/3 race on its order of choice but has been nominated with the comment '**No Higher Grade**', it will be deleted from the field and will **ONLY** be considered as a reserve for the Mixed 3/4 race should there be insufficient nominations to fill the reserves positions without your greyhound (*it will not be considered for selection in the Mixed 3/4 race as a starter*). If the greyhound would not have been selected in the higher-grade race due to its order of choice it will then be considered for selection in the Mixed 3/4 race.

It is important to remember that in scenarios similar to this, the reserves are not selected until after all the starters for both races have been selected.

12) DUAL ENGAGEMENTS

A greyhound which has been drawn as a reserve for a meeting may be nominated for a meeting on the same or the following day/night, however the greyhound must fulfil its engagement at the first meeting conducted if it is drawn in.

When both meetings are to be held at the same time on the same day/night (i.e. afternoon, twilight or night) the order of engagement shall be Hobart then, Launceston, then Devonport; otherwise the order of engagement shall be afternoon then twilight then night.

In the case of a nomination on consecutive days, after having competed at the first meeting the greyhound may be withdrawn from the second meeting 'penalty free' provided the scratching has been lodged by scratching time for the second meeting. This applies to consecutive days only and to greyhounds engaged in a Qualifying Final on the second day (having qualified for the Final after the closing of nominations for the first day), but does not apply to greyhounds nominated for and drawn in to compete at both venues.

Should a greyhound qualify for a Semi Final of a Series after having been drawn into a meeting to be held within 3 days prior to or following the Semi Final, then the greyhound may be scratched without penalty and take its place in the Semi Final, providing application is made by scratching time for the meeting.

Should a greyhound qualify for a Semi Final or a Final to be conducted on the same day as any other race for which the greyhound has already been drawn into, then the greyhound shall be withdrawn from such other race.

Should a greyhound qualify for a Final as a starter or a reserve (other than a Qualifying Final) after having been drawn into a meeting to be held within 3 days prior to or following the Final, then the greyhound may be scratched without penalty and take its place in the Final providing application is made by scratching time for of the meeting.

13) EARLY RACE REQUEST POLICY

A strict criteria is to be applied to those greyhounds for which an early race has been requested. This can only be requested when a greyhound is engaged in an event later than race six on the programme:

- The Official Track Veterinarian (OTV) to have confirmed profuse salivation covering the floor of the kennel occupied by the greyhound in question when engaged in a race later than Race Six on the programme. - AND -
- The OTV to have confirmed clinical dehydration (using the customary 'skin pinch test' along the dorsum of the trunk) in the greyhound when taken from the kennel later than Race Six on the programme. This may, if required be further confirmed by the greyhound being reweighed. - AND -
- The OTV to have confirmed hyperthermia in the greyhound when removed from their kennel, revealing a body temperature at or above 39.5°C. - AND -
- A clinical assessment of the greyhound by the OTV confirms a state of distress and agitation in the greyhound. - AND -
- These examinations are to be witnessed by the Steward in charge of the meeting. - AND -
- Appropriate certification is supplied in writing signed by the OTV, Steward in charge and the trainer of the greyhound.

Once all these criteria have been met the Steward in charge shall grant an 'Early Race' request.

Should a greyhound that has been flagged as an 'Early Race' greyhound be drawn into a final or feature event (where the winners stakes are more than \$5000) that is programmed later than Race Six then the following will apply. The trainer/owner may, with permission of the Chairman of Stewards, either withdraw the greyhound from the event prior to the official scratching time (receiving a 10 day penalty), or proceed with nomination into that event. In the latter situation, the Steward in charge of the meeting accompanied by the OTV will conduct an examination of the greyhound prior to competing in the event using the above criteria.

Providing the greyhound is passed fit to compete, the greyhound will then no longer be flagged as an 'Early Race' greyhound. If the greyhound is passed unfit to run and becomes a late scratching this greyhound will be unable to nominate for heats of feature events (where the winners stakes are more than \$5000.) where the final will be conducted after Race Six for a period of six months. Following this six-month period the Trainer with the permission of the Chairman of Stewards may apply in writing to have his/her greyhound re-assessed.

14) EXTENDED NOMINATIONS

Nominations will only be extended until 11.30am on the day scheduled for the closing of nominations. The Club may contact trainers, or trainers may contact the Club or the Office of Racing Integrity to lodge nominations prior to the closing of the extension.

15) NOMINATION COMMENTS

When nominating greyhounds the only comments that will be accepted by the Office of Racing Integrity are the comments 'NO HIGHER' and 'NO RESERVE'. No other comments will be accepted.

16) REDRAWS

No redraw shall be granted by the Office of Racing Integrity for any race after final information has been sent to the printer for publication of the Form guide.

17) GUARDING

Where guarding of greyhounds (e.g. same grade and distance at a meeting, heats etc), is to be undertaken, the following order will apply:

- (a) Greyhounds with same trainer AND same exact owners
- (b) Greyhounds with the same trainer.
- (c) Greyhounds with same exact owners.
- (d) In Breeders Classic races, greyhounds with the same Breeder.

It should be noted that Guarding will occur when it is reasonable to do so. A failure to guard greyhounds will not result in a redraw or any approval to withdraw greyhounds.

18) MAJOR FEATURE RACE SELECTION

A Grading Panel, comprising the Director of Racing, Chairman of Stewards, and the person appointed to do the grading by the Office of Racing Integrity will select the top four seeds from the nominations received for the heats. In determining the seeds the panel will consult with the conducting club and interstate controlling bodies.

The seeds will be published and guarded in the heats. The selection of the remainder of the greyhounds will be a blind draw, subject to the usual guarding provisions.

The selection process for the above feature races will include 'Grading Panel Discretion'. Such discretion should only be utilised in the following circumstances.

- a) A greyhound that has been placed in a group race in the preceding three months prior to the close of nominations.
- b) A greyhound with superior form.
- c) The panel will only utilise (b) above in exceptional circumstances and will be required to provide written reasons for its decision to include a greyhound using this clause.

19) SERIES QUALIFICATION

The qualification of any greyhound to further contest or be named as a reserve for a series

- i.e. Semi final after heats
Final after semi finals
Final after heats

shall be determined by the placing of the greyhounds in each heat/semi final.

Should it be necessary to reduce the number of greyhounds to further contest a series or be named as a reserve for a series, then the greyhounds with the lowest placing shall be first excluded.

Should it be necessary to exclude/include greyhounds with the same placing, then the greyhound with the slowest time for that placing shall be first excluded.

This shall be repeated until there remains the required number of greyhounds to further contest the series and/or named as reserves.

The time for each greyhound shall be calculated by the photo finish equipment, however in the case of a breakdown or failure the times shall be taken from any other means of electronic timing and if that is not available or fails, then the race shall be hand timed and the time for each greyhound manually calculated using the beaten margins of each placing declared by the judge utilising the Time Conversion Chart adopted by the Office of Racing Integrity.