



IMPORTANT PROGRAMMING AND GRADING CHANGES

Tasracing has established a Grading and Programming Sub Committee which provides recommendations to the Greyhound Reference Group.

As a result of the recommendations of the Sub Committee, the GRG has recommended and Tasracing and the Office of Racing Integrity has adopted a change to the way in which races are programmed and graded.

Previously Trainers would nominate for races that suited their greyhound and the races would be framed according to the nominations received. Currently there are too many greyhounds to be able to provide sufficient races to cater for all the greyhounds over the various distances and grades.

As from 1 January 2017, the ten races to be conducted will be called for on each program.

If there are sufficient nominations received to conduct the 10 races for the events called for then no consideration will be given to any nominations for other events.

If there are insufficient nominations to run 10 races for the events called for, other races will then be programmed from the nominations received for other races with the sprint distance being first preferred.

The previously advertised programmes for January have been rescinded.

Other changes, which are equally significantly different from past procedures are as follows:

Non Penalty Reverse Order of Choice Races

- The Reverse Order of Choice races will be restricted to short sprint distances only.
- Greyhounds must be Order of Choice 9, 11 or 12 only. Choice 10 greyhounds are declared ineligible to contest the Reverse Order of Choice Races.
- The Reverse Order of Choice Races will be restricted to Mixed Maiden/6 and Mixed 4/5 grades.
- One race will be conducted at both Launceston and Hobart each week.
- In the unlikely event that nominations are insufficient to conduct the race, 9 races are scheduled and if there are unspent funds at the time a 10th race can be programmed.
- In the event where one of the clubs has a full program scheduled, then the other club will host both races that week.

Funding

The money set aside for additional races at Hobart through to the end of the financial year is being recalled and will be used to provide 10 races if the Non-penalty race is not programmed, ensuring 10 races on each program while funding permits. This will be implemented effective immediately.

Short Sprint Races

- These will continue to be conducted at Launceston and Hobart for Grade 6, Grade 5, Grade 4 and Free-to-All.
- Only 1 grade per meeting be conducted when scheduled.
- Up to 3 races for the grade called for will be conducted (subject to nominations).

Division of Races:

The Grading Schedule will be amended for the division of races from **1 February** to include the following clause:

ALLOCATION OF GREYHOUNDS TO DIVISIONS, HEATS AND SEMI FINALS

Unless otherwise stipulated in this schedule or the conditions of a series, the allocation of greyhounds to divisions, heats or semi finals shall be as follows:

- a) Heats and Semi finals – A blind draw subject to guarding provisions
- b) Divisions – For races for Grade 4 or Grade 5 greyhounds – Allocated in order of the number of races won. The eight greyhounds with the most number of wins (over all distances) will be in one division, the eight greyhounds with the next highest number of wins will be in the next division and so on. If two or more greyhounds are on the same number of wins, then the allocation to divisions shall be firstly on the number of wins and then Order of Choice. In these races guarding will not be applied.
- c) Divisions – for races for other than Grade 4 or Grade 5 greyhounds – A blind draw subject to guarding provisions.

In the case of Grade 4 and Grade 5 greyhounds, this system will enable greyhounds with a similar number of wins to be placed in races together. It will avoid the situation which can currently arise where a greyhound which has won one Grade 6 race is suddenly included in a Grade 5 race alongside a greyhound which has won six (or even more) races. This change will provide those greyhounds coming up through their grades with an opportunity to win their races, before meeting more seasoned greyhounds which are dropping back through their grades.

Qualifying Trials

- Qualifying Trials will be conducted at one track each week over the sprint distance and be restricted to Mixed 4/5 and Mixed 5/6 grades.
- Kennels will close 1 hour prior to the first race when Qualifying Trials are scheduled.
- The Chairman of the meeting shall review the video of the trials as soon as practical on the night.
- Trainers and greyhounds engaged in the Qualifying Trials are not permitted to leave the course until the Chairman of the meeting has reviewed the video replays and given approval to do so.
- A minimum of two and a maximum of four qualifying trials shall be conducted when scheduled.

Mid Distance and Distance Races

- 600m races be schedule for Mixed Maiden/6, Grade 5 and Grade 4 only (No Free-to-All races).
- During January, February and March a series be conducted consisting of free-to-all heats over 600m with a 700 final (Launceston January, Hobart February, Launceston March and Hobart April). It was suggested that these series incorporate any other 700 feature events already listed as the final.
- Apart from these races, no other 700 races be scheduled.
- The first of these new series is scheduled for 23 and 30 January at Launceston and Luxbet Racing Centre Series will now be conducted on 9 and 16 January to provide the opportunity for greyhounds to contest both series.

This schedule will provide a break in May before the Winter Distance Carnival commences.

Feature Events Policy

The Feature Events Policy will be amended with the following clause being deleted:

If Heats are not conducted then a Final only will be conducted on the date advertised for the Final provided there are at least 7 eligible nominations. In this case connections must re-nominate for the "Final Only" race. The selection process for the "Final Only" race shall be in accordance with the Grading Schedule but with the greyhounds which were nominated for the heats of the series and which are then nominated for the "Final Only" being the first considered for selection.

And being replaced with:

If Heats are not conducted then a Final only will be conducted on the date advertised for the Final. If there are 8 or more eligible nominations for the heats, then the field for the "Final Only" shall be selected from those greyhounds on the grading and order of choice at the time the fields for the day of the final are being finalised. If there are less than 8 eligible greyhounds nominated for the heats, then connections must re-nominate for the "Final Only" and the field shall be selected from the nominations received.

Feature Events

When heats of a feature event are called for and there are insufficient nominations to conduct the minimum number of heats as defined in the Feature Events policy, then nominations for the heats only (not the entire meeting) will be extended until 11am. This change will be implemented immediately.

These are all significant changes and will take some time to get used to, both from a participant and an official's point of view and fine tuning of the programming and scheduling of races may be needed to ensure the system is functional in providing opportunities for all greyhounds.

Acknowledging that it may not be perfect the first time, the programmes will be drafted and approved on a monthly basis initially to enable corrections to be made when issues are identified and/or the number of nominations change. The Grading Schedule and the Race Programming and Minimum Nominations policies referencing items which are detailed in the above changes are suspended at this time and the schedule and the policies will be amended and re-issued following the development period.

It is hoped these changes will provide racing opportunities for everyone over a period, rather than some greyhounds being catered for every week and others missing out.

This is seen as an important step in catering for all greyhounds and ultimately providing racing opportunities which is fundamental in extending their racing careers.

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