



Greyhound
RACING SA

GREYHOUND RACING SOUTH AUSTRALIA GRADING REVIEW PANEL MEETING

Held at the offices of GRSA at
55 Cardigan St, Angle Park on
Friday 2nd June, 2023

Present:

Mr. S. Mathieson – Racing Manager (Chair/Minutes)
Mr. G. Barber – Chief Grader
Miss K. Johnstone – Industry Representative
Mr. B. Stamenkovic – Industry Representative
Mr. P. Jovanovic – Industry Representative
Mr. B. Rawlings – Industry Representative

Apologies:

Mr. R. Fewings – GRSA Board Industry Director
Mrs. B. Francis – GRSA CEO
Ms. S. Gray – Industry Representative
Mr. M. Wittholz – Industry Representative
Mr. D. Grgurovic – Industry Representative
Mr. T. Rasmussen – Industry Representative

Meeting commenced at 10.00am. Shaun Mathieson, Racing Manager, thanked those attending the meeting today. He also thanked those representatives who could not attend, providing feedback on the agenda.

1. Minutes From Previous Meeting

The panel approved the minutes from the previous GRP meeting held on 25/11/22.

2. Business Arising

The Racing Manager provided an update to the panel on those items introduced from the last meeting. The panel discussed a number of those items in detail.

Grade 6 – As a standing item the Grade 6 conditions continue to remain on the agenda for any new discussion.

The RM asked the panel with GRSA running 12 races on every Thursday night was there an option through Grade 6 conditions that could encourage more 500+m events. The panel discussed options to give another Grade 6 win on a Thursday, removing the condition if you win a Grade 5 event or higher you lose all Grade 6 events at other tracks, the possibility of two Grade 5 events or even Restricted win events like (1-5 win events).

The panel felt it was time to relax some conditions on a Thursday as over time the opportunities to win 500+ Grade 6 events at other tracks have reduced due to the advent of short course distances.

The panel felt the best way to retain and entice some of these greyhounds into our Thursday night program was to give one extra Grade 6 for any greyhound over another distance. This will bring Thursday night into line with ALL of the tracks in SA giving two Grade 6 wins at a City A meeting over different distances. They advised there would be no retrospectivity regarding this condition being implemented and recommended this start as soon as possible.

The panel felt this change should be supported by programming where a Grade 6 595m specific event should be programmed each Thursday where possible to help promote this change along with a Mixed or Open 595m distance. It is unlikely a 731m distance would be run however if there were all Grade 6 greyhounds then this would count as one Grade 6 win for the stayers.

The panel also supported the removal of the criteria that once you have won a Grade 5 or higher event on a City A meeting that you lose all Grade 6 events at all other tracks. This change could mean that a greyhound becomes a Grade 1 or 2 at City A meetings and then still has Grade 6 events to win. They believed this would help retain some of these greyhounds in the pool of Thursday night City A meetings. They advised there would be no retrospectivity regarding this condition being implemented and recommended this start as soon as possible.

Actions:

The RM to allow one extra Grade 6 over another distance for City A Thursday meetings and remove the condition where once a greyhound has won a Grade 5 or higher event on a City A meeting that you lose all Grade 6 events at all other tracks. No retrospectivity regarding these conditions being implemented and recommended this start as soon as possible

ANGLE PARK – Thursday night extra race –

The RM confirmed some changes discussed at the last meeting to assist Thursday night fields including field sizes, heats from other venues to Angle Park City A finals, Grade 5 selection for low grade greyhounds. The panel believed that for heats from another venue to a City A final the greyhound should take a penalty for the heat but not the final. The RM will advise this in programming the conditions of these events if required.

Actions:

The RM to advise winners of heats take a penalty but not the final when heats at other venues are drawn for a City A final where programmed.

The RM did advise the panel if there are not 12 races each Thursday at Angle Park GRSA will call for short course events at that time. The RM attached a prizemoney breakdown of 342m events for City A meetings if they are to be conducted. It would be an intention for preference to our best short course sprinters. GRSA took into account the Prov 1 prizemoney for short course and the CITY A sprint distance stake money.

The panel were supportive of 500+m racing on Thursday however understood that 12 races needed to be conducted on a Thursday night based on feedback from the RM.

The panel suggested that when nominations closed at 9am for City A meetings and there were insufficient nominations for 12 races they should be extended until 12.30pm. If at 12.30pm there are still not enough for 12 races the grader is to grade the 500m+ events he has and nominations for the 342m races (however many required) called for and close around 2.30pm. This will only be for the best greyhounds nominated and the grader is to take into account the grades of greyhounds that have raced at APM on Monday nights over 342m. All greyhounds on City A Thursday will be Maiden, Grade 6 and Grade 5 to start with and however many races are to be run they will be conducted at the end of the program.

Actions:

The RM to advise and implement the above changes to 342m City A events if they are to be conducted.

MIDDLE DISTANCE NOMINATIONS AND FIELDS –

The RM advised previously the panel discussed middle and staying distance generally about the integrity side of things and suggested that maybe to encourage more stayers that prizemoney should be tiered. The panel at the time suggested that if standard grading of a field of 5 to 8 is drawn then normal budgeted money should be paid. However if 4 runners then this should be \$1k less for City A prizemoney. It was also suggested maybe it should be at the 595m prizemoney however they felt reducing for 4 runners would encourage more nominations.

The RM recommended to continue programming 4 runners as a minimum for stayers over 730m at Angle Park, Mt Gambier and the 680m and Murray Bridge which the panel agreed with no further changes however if there were integrity issues this should be dealt with by the stewards.

TIME BANDS FOR TRACKS AND DISTANCES –

It was suggested from the last GRP meeting that possibly the 342m time ratings needed to be reviewed as the panel felt greyhounds were running quicker than their ratings. The panel also suggested that Gawler times particularly over the 400m need to be reviewed along with the Murray Bridge Straight track. The RM provided the panel with the Time Rating table and requested they review the times and liaise back to him with any changes in the next few weeks.

Members of the panel believed the conditions should be reviewed. Currently Time Rating is basically calculated with your 4 best runs in the last 6 starts. Some members felt that a more accurate reflection of a greyhounds performance was your last 4 starts or even 3 of your last 4 starts. The reason for this was over 6 starts it takes 1-2 months for a change to your rating to really take effect.

The RM will consider the panels thoughts regarding changing the formula for Time Grading.

Actions:

The RM to follow up with the GRP panel in the next few weeks regarding any possible adjustment to the Time Rating table.

The RM provided a verbal update to the panel regarding the 305m Maiden events at Mt Gambier being selected on form for Prov 1 meetings and he advised shortly there will be more information video's to be released through social media by GRSA.

SA Country Cup - The panel were supportive of the SA Country Cup remaining in its current format however felt the Prov 1 condition for Gawler and Grade 5 at Angle Park City A for the final could be reconsidered which the RM will do prior to conditions being released.

Gawler Feature Race Concept – The RM advised the group he was still working through the details for a possible new race series at Gawler with February the preferred date. Initial thoughts were for this to be some form of Match Race series over the 643m with participants having some input into each match up that may suit the lower ranked greyhounds. There would be prizemoney encouragement for taking on the high rated dogs etc. The RM advised there is nothing budgeted for this series and is still very much in the development stage. The RM advised that this type of race might suit handicap boxes if that was something that GRSA looked to implement.

The RM provided a verbal update to the panel on the North V South Challenge programmed for July with updated conditions. The panel felt that trainer bonuses would help encourage support for both clubs. The RM will consider this suggestion.

He also advised the group about a new series to be run in June and aligning with the Gawler Produce for Mixed Masters 3/4/5 greyhounds named after outgoing chairman Mike Wittholz.

The panel were supportive of these events and changes.

Nomination Numbers Online – The RM advised he has not been able to change the preferences online to make the numbers correct. He did advise that we are putting more feature events in Ozchase for trainers to see so they can nominate directly into these events.

Last Start Placegetter on the Order - The panel previously discussed that a last start placegetter for a Prov 2 meeting should be on the Order. The RM advised he has not actioned this mainly because of the pool of greyhounds and that this would be a fundamental change to the automated program which would need considerable testing. At this time he suggested not changing as most of these greyhounds were getting in the fields regardless.

The panel were comfortable with this response.

3. Agenda Items

ADDITIONAL TUESDAY NIGHT MEETING AT ANGLE PARK

The RM confirmed with the panel that we will be running an extra meeting per week at Angle Park on Tuesday nights. This extra meeting will be shown on Sky 2 and will be for Category 3 prizemoney. It will also be for short course greyhounds (342m) exclusively to not affect 530m+ at Angle Park meetings on Monday (Category 2) and Thursday (Category 1). These meetings will be graded events and as we haven't run this category with greyhounds taking a grade (Saturday mornings are Non Penalty) it will be like a new venue with most grades being Maiden, Grade 6 and Grade 5 to start with.

Nominations will close on the Friday before, the same time as Gawler Wednesday. This does avoid Angle Park Monday and Murray Bridge Tuesday which close on the Thursday. Trials at Angle Park will move from Tuesday night to Wednesday night and be run the same time as the Murray Bridge trials. The implementation date is scheduled for 1st August, 2023.

The panel were wary of the support for other meetings with the Murray Bridge Straight track on this day a concern. With nominations and participation at an even balance an extra meeting could result in short fields.

The panel believed the Tuesday night meeting should be G-SIX for all races and it should be announced to give some certainty for trainers. The RM will consider this feedback.

GRADING REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS

The RM advised since March of 2021 there has been no change to the Grading Review Panel with all members continuing in their roles which has been very much appreciated by Management. He advised the current panel members of a slight adjustment to each member to ensure the whole panel does not expire at the same time based on the 2021 list with each member a two year term-

GRP POSITIONS (AS FROM 15/03/2021)

<i>POSITION</i>	<i>MEMBER</i>
<i>Mature Professional TR</i>	<i>Tony Rasmussen (1.0 left)</i>
<i>Semi Professional TR</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Pathway/Hobbyist</i>	<i>Sharyn Gray (expired)</i>
<i>Breeding background</i>	<i>Bosco Stamenkovic (1.0 left)</i>
<i>Wagering Background</i>	<i>Petar Jovanovic (expired)</i>
<i>Ownership Background</i>	<i>Daniel Grgurovic (expired)</i>
<i>Young Professional TR</i>	<i>Ben Rawlings (1.0 left)</i>
<i>Semi Professional TR</i>	<i>Kim Johnstone (1.0 left)</i>
<i>Club Representative</i>	<i>Mike Wittholz (expired)</i>

Petar and Daniel were happy to continue with Mike deciding to step away as he is no longer a representative of the Gawler Club and Sharyn would be fine to continue however if there is another strong applicant, she would also be happy to step aside. All other members were happy to continue.

The RM advised once all members confirmed he will then look to advertise for those positions available.

TIME GRADING SUGGESTIONS

The RM requested some feedback from the panel regarding a few suggestions for Time Grading.

- He sought feedback from the panel about having a cut of for Time Grading. For example Mt Gambier currently has a restriction of 5.50 for 5+ win 400m events. The panel were comfortable with the current process and felt some of this should be addressed by programming and encouraging more nominations.

- The RM suggested that reserves for Time Graded events selected to gain a start should be based on rating. As it currently stands reserves for all time graded events are randomly selected meaning a greyhound that has a faster rating than the other reserve may gain a start ahead of this greyhound. It is the RM's understanding than in NSW they can select the reserve for specific events without it being a final. The panel were supportive of this change and would like the RM to obtain details and look to implement for these events where possible.

PREFERENTIAL BOX DRAWS

The RM gave a verbal update regarding Preferential Box Draws. Whilst this has been discussed previously by the Grading Review Panel recently there was a National meeting about implementation with NZ already using a PBD system and WA trialling over the 275m at Cannington. Victoria was to trial at Traralgon however this has been postponed. QLD have now advised a trial and the RM advised that it was likely some trial would take place in SA in the next 12 months however no conditions have been confirmed as yet.

4. Submissions

Alan McCulloch (edited)

1. Greyhounds winning a grade 5 masters event in faster time than the time standard are required to drop back to a normal grade 5 event and cannot compete in a masters grade five until they have had 2 unplaced runs. I would like to see the policy changed to allow them to have two runs back in a grade 5 but not necessarily unplaced before being eligible to nominate for a masters again. Masters greyhounds have a limited racing career and they don't need to be excluded from an age event that is in keeping with their age. The panel were supportive of this change to take effect asap.

<p>Actions:</p>

<p>The RM to make the above change to Masters events asap.</p>
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2. Could the panel discuss the possibility of increasing the age of Master's events to 4 years and over as we seem to have more greyhounds available for those events. This would reduce the age range which at present is anything up to a year and a half. The panel were comfortable with the current age structure of Masters events.
3. The first place I go to for information is the GRSA web site. Yet if one goes to the Grading section on the web site many decisions made by this panel are not written into the Grading rules and policies. The RM advised that a policy book and updating the information on the website is a priority for the Grading Department.

Raye Kelly (edited)

Regarding 4 dog staying events on the program ahead of other events which was confirmed and addressed earlier in the meeting.

Lachlan Mill (edited)

Time grading on the Straight track where normal graded events have had a prizemoney increase. The RM advised the panel that there is a balance between Time Graded and normal graded events programmed at the Straight track. The most important thing is to

ensure there is always a meeting programmed each week on the straight track that can accommodate our racing population.

Late Items –

N/A

Next Meeting – (days and dates TBD)