



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 23rd February, 2024

Present: Mr. S. Mathieson – Racing Manager [Chair/Minutes]
Mr. G. Barber – Chief Grader
Miss K. Johnstone – Industry Representative
Mr. B. Stamenkovic – Industry Representative
Mr. B. Rawlings – Industry Representative
Mr. D. Grgurovic – Industry Representative

Apologies: Mr. R. Fewings – GRSA Board Industry Director
Ms. S. Gray – Industry Representative

Meeting commenced at 10.00am. Shaun Mathieson, Racing Manager, thanked those attending the meeting today.

1. Minutes From Previous Meeting

The panel approved the minutes from the previous GRP meeting held on 02/06/23.

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. No further proposed changes were made by the group.

ANGLE PARK – Thursday night extra race –

It was discussed that 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 advised currently these series are Non Penalty to encourage nominations however will consider how these races are programmed in the future.

342m Events at Angle Park -

The RM advised as a Board directive to have 12 races at Angle Park on a Thursday night that we have recently conducted a few 342m events. Trainers cannot nominate for these events until they are called for and only when it is clear we cannot get sufficient for a 12 race program with 530m+ greyhounds.

It was reconfirmed where possible the process below will be implemented, however, this may change due to nomination numbers, public holiday etc -

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.

It would be our 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 comfortable with the prizemoney allocating being more that Category 2, however, not over sufficient that it will transition the 530m greyhounds to 342m purely for prizemoney. Total prizemoney –

Maiden – \$1,945

Grade 6 – \$2,025

Grade 5 – \$2,225

Mixed 3/4/5 – \$2,430

Open – \$3,195

MIDDLE DISTANCE NOMINATIONS AND FIELDS –

The panel were comfortable with the recent change GRSA made for staying events to increase to 5 runners.

Subsequent to this meeting the RM did conduct a 4 runner 595m event as a lead up to the Easter heats over 595m which was in a weeks time, a unique circumstance, to provide those greyhounds the opportunity one week out from a feature series, bearing in mind this was not at the account of a full field at the meeting.

TIME BANDS FOR TRACKS AND DISTANCES –

The RM advised there has been no changes to Time Brands, however, there are some time changes that possibly need to be reviewed. He provided the group with a link to the Time Bands report for them to provide feedback in the coming weeks. He did advise there has also been no change to the 4 in 6 starts, however, will keep the 3 of your last 4 or 4 or your last 4 possible change as something to consider further.

The panel did suggest changing the 1-4 win grouping to 1-6 for 530m+ events and also consider moving these to Thursday night instead of Saturday morning. The suggestion was the 5 and 6 win greyhounds are now finding it hard to get a suitable event and also that the heats would be better served on a Thursday and free up Saturday for 342m events. The RM will look to implement this in programming and alter groupings where appropriate.

Actions:

The RM to move 1-4 heats from Saturday to Thursday where appropriate and change from 1-4 wins to 1-6 wins or other groupings where appropriate.

The RM advised the panel that there would be a video posted on the Registered Participants Facebook page showing the box draw process with an example meeting that all the OzChase states use. The panel were supportive of more of this occurring. The RM did advise the group that if any trainer/owner wanted to view the box draw of a particular event that affected them then Management can have a time available to do this box draw so long as they are given sufficient time to manage. This has been available for many years, however, hardly any participants take this option up. The panel were supportive of this.

SA Country Cup & Gawler Feature Race Concept –

The RM advised these races are still to be considered for implementation or alteration.

In reminding the panel that the GRSA Board increased the Anniversary Cup at Angle Park, run in April to \$50,000 for future years, he did suggest the way Easter fell next year that a creative option could be implemented. Next year the Anniversary Cup will fall on Easter with Anzac Day close, so the Match Race series will have to be a week before the Anniversary Cup. The RM advised it might be good to support the local trainers by having a similar condition for next year that we have for the Adelaide Cup where the winner of the Easter Match race gets direct entry into the \$50k Anniversary Cup. The group were supportive of this innovation based on how the dates fall next year. The RM to investigate and recommend this change to next year.

Nomination Numbers Online – The RM advised changing the preferences online to make the numbers correct will take a lot of work. He advised the numbers add up each preference, if it looks like 200 nominations its actually about 150, as 50 have second preferences. The panel were keen to get this accurate and if possible, flesh this out further to break it down into grades and distances. The RM to investigate further.

ADDITIONAL TUESDAY NIGHT MEETING AT ANGLE PARK

The RM advised the group that this item is back on the agenda with a potential Tuesday night to start in the coming months. He provided details from our last meeting about how this meeting might be graded. He advised his hesitation with the greyhound numbers and possible issues arising from an extra meeting for the weekly schedule.

The RM proposed grading both the fortnightly Saturday and Tuesday at the same time so effectively grading two meetings at once and whoever didn't get a run on Saturday would have to go to Tuesday. This would ensure a greyhound gets at least one start rather than having a greyhound get two and some none. The panel were not convinced fully doing two meetings three days apart was the right option.

The panel were supportive of different dogs from Saturday having the opportunity first for Tuesday. Possible preference for reserves from Saturday, maybe Best to Worst grading, maybe a different grouping of dogs. The RM advised all these things still

need to be confirmed, however, one of the intents of the extra meeting will be to try and assist some of the greyhounds who could be racing at this meeting rather than being in a kennel waiting to be rehomed.

GRADING REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS

The RM advised since the last GRP meeting in June 2023 there have been some changes and some members have expired. He advised the current panel bearing in mind each person is for a two year term.

GRP POSITIONS

<i>POSITION</i>	<i>MEMBER</i>
<i>Mature Professional TR</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Semi Professional TR</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Pathway/Hobbyist</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Breeding background</i>	<i>Bosco Stamenkovic (expired)</i>
<i>Wagering Background</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Ownership Background</i>	<i>Daniel Grgurovic (expired)</i>
<i>Young Professional TR</i>	<i>Ben Rawlings (expired)</i>
<i>Semi Professional TR</i>	<i>Kim Johnstone (expired)</i>
<i>Club Representative</i>	<i>Vacant</i>

Tony Rassmussen, Sharyn Gray and Mike Wittholz have all come off for various reasons. Petar Jovanovic has come off to remain on the Industry Consultative Group due to the new ICG selection process where participants can only represent on one panel. GRSA management appreciates the contribution these previous members have made.

Remaining members have confirmed their intent to remain on the group. The RM advised that he will now wait for the ICG panel to be confirmed and then will call for new members for the GRP.

Subsequent to the meeting Daniel Grgurovic advised that he no longer wished to be on the GRP. Management appreciates the contribution Daniel has made over the years.

RESERVES IN ORDER FOR TIME GRADING

The panel reconfirmed that reserves for Time Graded events selected to gain a start should be based on rating. The RM will follow up NSW who can select the reserve for specific events without it being a final and see how this could be implemented for SA through OzChase.

PREFERENTIAL BOX DRAWS

The RM advised as part of the independent review Preferential Box Draws are something that is to be considered for SA racing. Previously management has advised that it would be best managed using data from Isolynx, however, this technology isn't progressing sufficiently for any state in Australia, so it is being managed manually. The RM attached information from WA about implementation and also how each state in Australia is managing PBD'S.

The group were not convinced PBD were required, however, did suggest that if they were trialled in SA, it would be best over 530m at Angle Park due to the longer run to the first turn. They did not think bend starts would give a good indication if PBD worked. The RM suggested small pool of greyhounds like the 305m at Mt Gambier. The RM suggested could the new Tuesday night which is exclusively 342m events be trialled or maybe even the Straight track. The panel did not believe Maidens would provide a good indicator if PBD would work due to their limited racing. The panel were comfortable a trial may occur and would wait and see what outcomes come from this.

3. Agenda Items

No other agenda items submitted.

4. Submissions - Edited

Ben Rawlings –

6 dog fields over short course [342m and 400m]. The RM advised with the 8 dog quad and time grading there will be some short course races that are 8 dog fields purely because they have the most nominations. Where possible the longer journey will be 8 dogs as they are generally better wagering and higher profile dogs, however, when grading we want to give as many greyhounds a run at the meeting based on the current criteria.

Tuesday Nights – As advised earlier in meeting.

No advertised races in calendar with multiple trainers – As discussed later with guarding.

Performance trials – The RM advised until resourcing and a change in policy is introduced there will be no requirement as yet.

Daniel Grgurovic -

275metres [starting at the 730m boxes and racing to the finish line] for maidens, juveniles and veterans only on Tuesday night and flattened prizemoney. This could prolong the careers of the slower maidens/juveniles or masters greyhounds. The RM advised there is no intent for a shorter distance at Angle Park, however, appreciates this submission in an effort to give more options for trainers with their greyhounds.

Inconsistencies in grading – The RM advises that the grading for a meeting is published on the GRSA website based on the grading guidelines and policy. Any

queries can be answered by the Grader in relation to a specific reason why something happened. Daniel advised his appreciation of the Box Draw video being published on the Facebook page to assist with transparency to participants and would like to see more ways this can be done.

The value of guarding and if it's worthwhile and fair in the current climate – A strong discussion was held amongst the group about the positives and negatives of guarding especially if a race is not advertised and a trainer is quite restrictive about the way they nominate. The Grader advised that he gets the most negative queries about guarding when greyhound trainers are in the same race rather than separating. He advised he will go off of trainer's comments even if they are quite restrictive and whether a race is selected will be based on how many races for the meeting and the types of events which is normal practice.

After much discussion the RM advised his intent to program much more feature races in the All Tracks calendar to provide all trainers the chance to nominate for a specific event. He is mindful that guarding affects all types of events whether it be City class or Country class and depending on the greyhounds in your kennel may determine what side of the debate you sit. He also feels that if in the grading process there was any integrity issues with events this would be referred to the stewards.

Subsequent to the meeting for clarity the RM advises that in SA we guard [separate trainers] in all racing except Time Grading [time grading is done based on time rating so we don't guard as that compromises the field as its done on a dogs rating at the time]. Guarding means when there are two grade 5 events over 342m, and a trainer has two grade 5 dogs they will be separated. They will be separated on race wins. However, for example, if a trainer puts Masters only, or SA bred only or Juvenile only and there's only one race but there could be another race they could go in we will put both dogs in the race they asked for. i.e. both in a Masters event even though there is another grade 5 on the program if eligible.

For heats and semi finals we will guard not only trainers but owners as well. SA has guarded for over 20 years and used to guard owners and trainers but about 6-8 years ago it was just trainers as basic grading.

Tony Nobes -

Vison of nomination numbers to cease – Some concerns raised by Tony regarding when the nomination numbers are visible trainers may manipulate to get an event on the program and then scratch. The panel are mindful of this, however, would prefer there be more information available that is a true reflection on what's nominated. They believed that if there was manipulation then the stewards should deal with these participants strongly.

5. Late Items

Next Meeting – [days and dates TBD]