



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 25th November, 2022

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. T. Rasmussen – Industry Representative (via phone)
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

Meeting commenced at 10.32am. 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 4/04/22.

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 Non SA Bred Maximum of 12 Lifetime Wins – The RM advised as a standing item the Grade 6 conditions will remain on the agenda for any new discussion. The panel and management agreed that there were no clear issues at present and agreed no changes were necessary.

Mixing Of Races – The RM confirmed that the general mixing of races was done by race wins. He advised the Grader continues to receive queries from trainers regarding this process particularly for Grade 5 greyhounds being mixed. Some members suggested some possible options like not guarding at all, or only count the wins in the last 12 months rather than the career however for the most part they were comfortable that the fairest way to separate was on career race wins. No further action required.

Guarding of Owners – The panel reconfirmed their support in guarding trainers for normally graded events and Owners and Trainers for Heats and Finals. No further action required.

Performance Trials – The RM liaised with to Victoria, NSW, QLD and WA for their process and provide the panel with an update. QLD are like SA and do not have performance trials, WA require all greyhounds to compete in at least one qualifying trial before their Maiden, including a greyhound that is still a maiden that has been transferred to WA. NSW do not have any requirement at present however was a prerequisite some years ago. In Victoria there is no requirement. The RM advised there were still some staffing issues and also the progression of Isolynx that could assist in considering performance trials. The some of the members were still supportive of considering performance trials however based on the feedback from interstate and management were comfortable at present with the current process.

Isolynx Update – The RM advised the panel that they now will notice that the speeds of the greyhounds are being displayed at our race meetings. He advised that currently the data is not available and is just being stored. He advised Brooks Group who manages ISO Lynx are currently building an Interface which they presented at the August Nationals which may be available in December which would assist with this information being made available to Trainers, Owners, General Public, Corporates etc.

The panel were keen to see what information could be available as kph on our vision is ok visually but doesn't offer any real data. They were extremely keen to see what could be made available. The RM advised he would send the group some information about the interface. The RM advised that there is plenty of potential with the data for Blue Sky thinking however is taking time to be available advising that states interstate have been using Isolynx for a few years and they have not released any data. Some members asked if the Brooks presentation could be made available to them to assist with the understanding of what is possible.

Actions:

The RM to provide the presentation from Brooks at the Nationals to members of the GRP.

ANGLE PARK – Thursday night extra race – The RM confirmed with the panel that the extra race Thursday nights which comes from the Saturday heats is now an 8 dog field and has enabled 12 races to be run at Angle Park on a consistent basis which the panel supported.

The RM advised with breeding numbers increasing GRSA are looking at making some changes in the initial stage to the G-SIX / 8 – Dod Quad format bearing in mind the impact increasing some meetings could have on the weekly schedule. He advised that GRSA is looking at increasing City A Angle Park meetings to full 8 dog fields being our premier meeting with the most amount of prizemoney paid out. They are also looking at increasing ALL Time Graded meetings and events to 8 dog fields to give this pool of greyhounds (the most nominated) a racing opportunity (basically APD Saturday once a fortnight, Gawler Wednesday basically once a month, Mt Gambier Thursday once a week and split meetings at Murray Bridge straight and any other meeting this may occur at.)

The RM advised however that Maidens would be excluded from this and remain as 6 dog fields. He advised this would be a staggered process as not to affect the weekly schedule.

Members understood the request however would prefer if the programming was all 8 dog fields or all 6 dog fields as the mixed approach can be confusing. Members suggested was there any options for another race meeting which the RM advised GRSA is looking at all possibilities and what options could be available. It was suggested we could run more races like 13 due to kennel space. The RM took all this information as feedback. Members felt that Time Grading could go to once every 6 weeks at the straight track due to the increased numbers. The RM advised he would look at this in programming. The panel were supportive of the initial change requested to fields.

The RM to increase City A Angle Park meetings to full 8 dog fields, all Time Graded meetings and events to 8 dog fields. Maidens to remain as 6 dog fields. Everything else to remain under current programming. Effective immediately.

MIDDLE DISTANCE NOMINATIONS AND FIELDS – 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 suggested that if standard grading of a field of 5 to 8 is drawn then normal budgeted money will 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 advised that he will look at a possible tiered breakdown for staying events and advise the panel. Middle distance would stay at 5 runners with no change. Daniel Grgurovic provided a submission in support of staying events and that the minimum of 4 should not change in support of this pool of greyhounds.

The panel were asked if they supported GRSA putting all greyhounds in 730m events and 680m events at Murray Bridge regardless of class which is the current policy unless a trainer is specific on their nomination. The panel agreed to and supported this for all staying events.

The panel suggested that when considering any prizemoney changes that a FFA over 530m should be worth the same as 595m or 730m at Angle Park for example. The RM took their comments for future reference.

The RM to look at a tiered structure for staying events in regard to 4 or 5 starters for possible implementation.

TIME BANDS FOR TRACKS AND DISTANCES – The RM advised the panel that GRSA had been made aware of changes to tracks in other states which has affected their starting distances. Some have been racing for up to 12 months. He advised the Time Grading report accommodates this by disregarding the performance and using the next start (just like a race fall) however this could mean that some starts are not being considered and not being a true reflection on the greyhound's current performance. He advised he is going through the tracks and distances and will add in the likes of Grafton 350m and 450m and Casino 300m which were not there. The panel were comfortable that this was being addressed.

They suggested that possibly the 342m time ratings needed to be reviewed as they felt greyhounds were running quicker than their ratings. The RM to consider this during the updates.

MT GAMBIER 305M – The RM advised that recently the Mt Gambier GRC with the support of GRSA changed the selection of 305m events on Sundays. He advised where previously 305m races were on the all tracks calendar so the club were finding that the 400m distance nominations were being pushed out. The Clubs preference is for 400m and above races receive preference and then the 305m run in preference order of Young Star Maiden, Juvenile & Masters if required. This has meant that not many 305m events are being run on Sundays however the Club have advised and advertised that there will be a 305m Time Graded event on Thursday each meeting if trainers nominate. The panel were comfortable with this approach being mindful that the 305m distance still needs to be available.

The panel did suggest that Maidens run over 305m on Sundays should be graded on form and not youngest to oldest resulting in some trainers having a full litter in one event. The RM will advise the club of their recommendation.

Lachlan Mill submission previously – It would be great to get some videos on the Website or Facebook regarding the process of grading and the reasons why we might be delayed in releasing the fields. *The RM advised it would be his intention to implement some clips on social media to assist participants in understanding grading and the grading process better.* The RM advised that he has not actioned this as yet.

Late Items previously - Some members requested that Maidens for Feature races (ie Brian Johnstone and Howard Ashton) need to do a qualifying trial before being eligible for these series. The RM advised that at this time there is no requirement for trialling however did advise that the current Brian Johnstone series where we had 5 heats had no Maidens engaged. The panel were comfortable for no changes at present unless performance trials were to be introduced.

3. Agenda Items

SA Country Cup – The RM advised the panel that he had multiple feedback regarding the Country Cup series and whether or not it is still relevant. He questioned with the reduction in County venues over the last 10 years is the likes of Mt Gambier disadvantaged up against Gawler and Murray Bridge. Would there be more relevance for a Mt Gambier to Angle Park on Cup night. Should Gawler be restricted to Prov 2 greyhounds or open to Prov 1 greyhounds? He advised that the Grader generally has to leave a few greyhounds out as they don't meet the published criteria. He asked the panels thoughts of the series. Members suggested there was still relevance in the series and it really depends what kind of greyhounds you have in the kennel at the time. They were happy for the conditions to be reviewed however would like to see it continue.

Actions:

The RM to review conditions of the County Cup and provide any changes to the panel for consideration.

Gawler Feature Race Concept – The RM advised that he had received a new concept for a Feature series at Gawler. He advised whilst nothing is budgeted for, new race series are always worth considering. He provided the panel with the details that looked at match racing, wild card races, picking your own box and slot racing etc. The panel were happy for progression of a new series with the finer points to be detailed. The proposal to be sent to the panel for their thoughts.

Actions:

The RM to format the details for a new race series at Gawler and then seek some approval to implement if the members and club agree.

4. Submissions

The panel discussed submissions from Seamus McAuley 26/7/22 -

Several races listed in the racing calendar have recently failed to eventuate due to a lack of nominations. The 2022 Gawler Easter Sprint (530m) feature being one of the most prominent examples. Can consideration be given to implementing the changes below to help alleviate this situation :

- Advise trainers when low nomination counts occur for any calendar listed events.

The RM advised when nominations close that is when an extension occurs. He did advise when a feature series is coming up he will look to send a txt out advising the nominations for the meeting and what feature races are on the day or two before. The panel were comfortable with this process.

- Explore the possibility of the Online Nominations system being enhanced to provide trainers with a break-down of the nomination count for each distance/grade and any particular feature. The nomination count currently displayed is for each distance only and is not of much help.

The RM advised this does need to be addressed specifically about preferences. The nomination count adds up all preferences so there might be 100 nominations for a meeting online however it advises there are 130 nominations which is not correct. Her advised he will get this part fixed first. The RM advised that if the program was broken up into races like a grade 5 530m , a 342m Maiden etc then trainers could nominate straight into these races and it would be a truer reflection of what is nominated where however that would mean for every meeting a program would have to be done prior to nominations closing. This would be an extreme amount of work bearing in mind trainers will still nominate where they want to race not just because a race is in the calendar.

Actions:

The RM to change the preferences online so the numbers are correct. The RM to consider the possibility of programming all events in Ozchase so trainers can nominate directly into these races.

- Priority being given to putting on the races listed in the calendar versus alternatives.

The RM advised so long as there is enough nominations any specific events in the All Tracks calendar will be given preference where possible to normal graded events.

The panel discussed a submission from Kim Johnstone 16/11/22 -

I think a last start placing provincial 2 should be on the order of choice somewhere, perhaps 19 and then reserve 20?

The panel discussed this and agreed that a last start placegetter should be on the Order. The RM advised he will look at the program and see if it can fit at the end or with another preference.

Actions:

The RM to liaise with Ozchase and make the change to the Order of Choice program once a spot is determined for a last start placegetter Prov 2 meeting.

The RM asked the panel about a submission from the Grader regarding Maidens and their Order of Entry. Currently the order of entry for Maidens are if a dog is on the Order, then first starters then using the WPS. The grader identified that on occasions Maidens with placings in their last three starts who are not on the Order are being left out in preference to a first starter. The panel agreed to make a change where the entry criteria for Maidens will be Order of Preference, Maidens with a placing in their last two starts using WPS, First starts then other Maidens using WPS.

Actions:

The RM to change the way Maidens are included in events, as above effective immediately.

Late Items –

N/A

Next Meeting – (days and dates TBD)