



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 30th August, 2024

Present: Mr. S. Mathieson – Racing Manager (Chair/Minutes)
Mr. G. Barber – Chief Grader
Mr. B Scott – GRSA CEO
Mr. B. Stamenkovic – Industry Representative
Mr. B. Rawlings – Industry Representative
Mr. J. Trengove – Industry Representative
Mr. C. Forshaw – Industry Representative

Apologies: Mr. G. Harris – GRSA Board Industry Director (newly appointed)

Meeting commenced at 10.04am. 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 23/02/24.

2. Business Arising

CEO Brenton Scott welcomed the new members to the panel and advised the panel about expectation and purpose for this group with any recommended changes to grading being tabled for approval. This may mean wider consultation with stakeholders with more significant proposed changes or just a change in wording of policy.

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. For this meeting there was increased discussion by the group regarding the number of wins a Grade 6 greyhound can win whether being SA bred or Non SA bred along with the 12 lifetime win conditions meaning they were no longer eligible for Grade 6 events once that was achieved. After an in-depth discussion no changes have been recommended.

Time bands for tracks and distances - The RM advised that the Time Graded 1-4 heats from Angle Park Saturday over 530m have been moved to Thursday City A Thursday night and changed to Time Graded 1-6 wins. The panel advised that they have been well received and added to the 530m+ pool on Thursday night however suggested changing to 1-4 wins to encourage a few more of the low wins greyhounds. It was agreed that Time Grading in SA had led the way with this sort of Grading on a national level to try and group greyhounds together of equal ability at any given time.

The panel did feel that at some tracks and venues that a slight time adjustment was warranted. This was discussed later in the agenda. The RM advised he would look to make some changes to

programmed events in the future to accommodate the pool of greyhounds and monitor the support and outcome.

Submission previously –The RM advised there has been a video posted on the Registered Participants Facebook page back in February showing the box draw process with an example meeting that all the OzChase states use. The group were comfortable that this was available however still discussed the Live Box draw option. The CEO advised that this was in place in QLD however had very little engagement once introduced. The RM advised that participants could come in and view the box draws being done if they arrange a time. The panel were comfortable with what has been released.

Nomination Numbers Online – The RM advised that he has been liaising with Ozchase about making some changes to the Online Nominations Numbers screen as the group had requested previously. He advised that the total nominations online tally includes the second preferences, so he was looking at getting this changed. He advised it could look something like 120 (20), the 20 is the second preferences so trainers know there are 100 individual nominations. He advised he was hoping to get the 100 nominations then broken down into groups for example Angle Park to 342m 60, 530m 20, 595m 10 and 730m 10 only going to count the nomination once. The panel were supportive of these changes and were happy to be implemented once approved and finalised.

TUESDAY NIGHT MEETINGS ON THE CALENDAR

Tuesday night meetings

The panel discussed the Tuesday nights that were introduced at Angle Park on May 14, 2024, the types of events and how this pool balanced out with the fortnightly Saturday morning. The panel were comfortable with the way these meetings were being graded however did suggest a change in time standards for tracks as well as maybe mixing up the pool to 1-4/5-7/8+ over the 400m. The RM did advise the smaller the groups the smaller the pool of eligible greyhounds, where he advised Time Grading works best when there are multiple races of one pool graded. Some issues have been with giving preference to greyhounds who don't have a run on the Tuesday night but have a run on Saturday. This can tend to mean that higher rated greyhounds (3.5/4 for example) are getting in Tuesday meetings as they need to be in before any greyhounds engaged on Saturday. Bearing in mind they only get in if they are with greyhounds that are more than 50% less than their time rating. This has meant that some "fast rated" greyhounds have secured a run on Tuesday nights due to their pool. The panel whilst mindful of this believed they would be grouped with similar greyhounds under the Time Graded conditions. The panel were comfortable with how they are progressing. The panel did suggest to moving to 3 out of last 4 starts for Time Ratings which the RM will consider and may need wider consultation.

GRADING REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS

The RM advised the panel that recently GRSA advertised for positions on the Grading Review Panel for upcoming meetings. It was extended for a few weeks to allow sufficient opportunity for applicants. He advised the panel that we had received two applicants which have been approved by the GRSA Board.

Both Jack Trengove and Cameron Forshaw joined the group as Industry representatives, Bosco Stamenkovic and Ben Rawlings agreed to continue in their current roles. The RM advised that all four members have been appointed for a two year term and welcomed the new and returning members.

GRP CURRENT 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>Jack Trengove (July 2026)</i>

<i>Breeding background</i>	<i>Bosco Stamenkovic (July 26)</i>
<i>Wagering Background</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Ownership Background</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Young Professional TR</i>	<i>Ben Rawlings (July 2026)</i>
<i>Semi Professional TR</i>	<i>Cameron Forshaw (July 2026)</i>
<i>Club Representative</i>	<i>Vacant</i>

GRSA Board and Management panel members are –
 GRSA Racing Manager - Shaun Mathieson
 GRSA Chief Grader - Greg Barber
 GRSA CEO - Brenton Scott
 GRSA Industry Board Member – Gavin Harris (will be invited next meeting as will be confirmed on Board)

The RM advised that he will re advertise for positions from industry leading up to the GRP next meeting.

RESERVES IN ORDER FOR TIME GRADING

The RM advised the group that he had been liaising with Ozchase regarding reserves for normal Time Graded events selected to gain a start being based on rating. This currently happens with cascading Time Graded events as they are drawn as finals. Because all greyhounds have a rating the panel were supportive of this process for Time Grading. They advised however, that they would keep the random option for normal graded events which the panel agreed to.

After the meeting, Ozchase advised that this option is available for NSW and QLD however if provided it would have to be for all events (Time graded and normal). The RM will now consider applying the preference reserve to Time Grading as the GRP preferred but calling them finals. This will be advised when implemented.

PREFERENTIAL BOX DRAWS AT MURRAY BRIDGE STRAIGHT TRACK IN AUGUST

The RM advised the group that Preferential Box Draws for selected events at the Murray Bridge Straight track started on 1st August meeting (Maidens and Feature Cup and Championship series will be excluded). Events have been specifically advertised, and trainers must advise if they want to compete in these events along with the racing trait of the respective greyhound at the time of nominating in the comments box.

If trainers do not provide this information when nominating, they will not be considered for advertised PBD events. He advised the conditions to the panel -

- PBD racing introduced for advertised race events at the Murray Bridge Straight track as from August 1, 2024
- Three racing traits – R = Rail, M = Middle, W = Wide
- The Trainer nominates the racing trait of the greyhound relating to box rise and 50m after the start
- This is reviewed by Stewards/Grading teams
- Box draws via OzChase which can now accommodate an automated process where greyhounds can be grouped by trait and then automatically box drawn
- Grading of each race event will be done under normal grading and programming guidelines
- There will be No Reserves for these events

The RM advised there have currently been 6 PBD events conducted with no incidents or changes to racing traits to report. The RM will continue to monitor with assistance from the race day stewards.

The panel asked who was checking the traits for the greyhounds which the RM advised the stewards on the day. They also suggested Isolynx could assist with tracking of greyhounds during the race. The panel felt this would provide cleaner racing however did suggest that the 530m distance would be suited to the PBD as it is around 5 seconds to the first turn and would assist potential interference on the first turn. The RM advised that the intent would be to look at other tracks where PBD may suit.

3. Agenda Items

BOX DRAW AUDIT

The RM advised the panel that the last Box Draw Audit was done in 2020 and before that in 2016 so the next Audit is due this year for all five Ozchase States. He advised that RWWA had reached out to the University of Western Australia back in May, as they have completed the audits in the past so had the study background and would also provide consistency to the report. The RM advised that the UWA team have not been available due to other commitments at this time, but expect that to change shortly and an audit be conducted.

The panel were comfortable that this would be done this year for all Ozchase states.

MASTER CONDITIONS

The RM requested a change in wording to one of the Masters conditions to address a specific issue. The change would be -

*if a greyhound wins a Grade 5 Masters race in a faster time than published and it will have to have 2 runs in normal **company (if in a Mixed Masters and wins and runs faster than the time standard then will NOT count)** at that class of meeting before being eligible at that class of meeting.*

The group were comfortable with this change.

TRAINERS NOMINATING ONLY OR NO START FOR 5-6 GREYHOUNDS OVER SAME DISTANCE

The RM advised the panel that as our greyhound nominations are low for most meetings having a single trainer nominate 5 or 6 greyhounds over the same distance and grade type and advising "only or no start" for all of the greyhounds is making it difficult for the grader to do his job effectively as they may be taking advantage of the small numbers and not allowing some other greyhounds to gain a start in an event that they are eligible for. The panel felt that advertising some of the restricted win's events over the middle distance and staying events may provide that opportunity for trainers with lesser class greyhounds. IE 0-6 wins, 0-8 wins or Grade 6 at provincial tracks. The panel did feel this nomination occurrence was more likely to happen over the middle and staying trips. The panel did understand that when nomination numbers are so low the grader needs to put on those races available however they had some integrity and welfare concerns. The panel felt that this sort of selective nominating should not be accepted at our main City A meeting for 595m and 730m events and those comments for multiple greyhounds over a selective distance restricting to just their grade should not be accepted. This will allow the very best greyhounds nominating at our best meeting the opportunity to gain a start if there are sufficient nominations under normal grading guidelines. The panel supported this policy change to be considered.

4. Submissions - Edited

Ben Rawlings

Time Grading - I think we should look to move to 3 of the last 4 over 4 of the last 6. Based on previous meetings the panel believed this should be considered and will give a better indication of the greyhounds current ability on Time Ratings and asked the RM to provide the outcomes of the change from 4 out of 6 starts to 3 out of 4 starts.

Gawler time bands need to move by .2 of a second and Murray Bridge by .1 of a second. The panel were supportive of this change. The group also advised that the Angle Park 342m needs to be wound

out due to the recent track records along with the Murray Bridge Straight track. The RM was requested to provide an updated Time Ratings sheet with the changes for review along with any other changes he saw fit to the group.

Races that are programmed as SA Owned, SA Bred, limited wins, exclusive by sex, should only have 1 race on with extra prizemoney. This is so no greyhounds are left out of the meeting. The Grader advised that it does all depend on how many nominations for each event and how they were broken up. He advised he will normally do just one race however he may do two or three races but this will not be at the expense of leaving other greyhounds out unnecessarily. The panel were comfortable with this explanation.

Kim Johnstone

Consideration to programme mix 5/6 over 530m at Angle Park and Gawler racing due to lack of a racing pool like 595m and longer distance. The panel agreed that Grade 5 in particular and Grade 6 over 530m can struggle at times for individual races at certain venues however to group those greyhounds together without being programmed will at times provide significant variance in performance and race wins. Middle Distance and Staying events tend to be more about the specific distance so they will be grouped. The RM advised he can consider programming some Grade 5/6 events over 530m the same as at Murray Bridge. The panel were comfortable that some of these events could be programmed and not just put together over the 530m.

David Peckham (edited)

Modifying time grade bottom to top with top to bottom at Mt Gambier on Thursday's. The RM advised that the Mt Gambier GRC had programmed in consultation with the RM a monthly Top to Bottom Time Grading Thursday meeting as the first Thursday of the month. This will be for a trial period to see the demand for this meeting.

Consideration could also be given to include PATHWAY races to fill any shortfall of fielding 12 races either Thursday Top to bottom or Sunday meetings. The RM advised that they consider a number of options if there are low nominations with Pathway being an option. Currently Mt Gambier nominations are reasonably strong.

5. Late Items

The panel requested that when a race meeting is extended could consideration be given to adding Time Graded events. The RM advised this is always an option and has been added numerous times however this will depend on how far away we are from having enough for a 10 race program (preferred) and the affect this could have on other meetings are around this meeting.

The panel considered reverting back to heats for 730m feature events rather than just a one of feature. As the nomination number of staying races fluctuate having heats may encourage a few more nominations. If there are not enough for heats then normal policy applies where a normal graded event is run with the feature conducted the week later. The RM will look at adjusting the program for future one of staying features in the calendar as required.

Next Meeting – (days and dates TBD)