



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 8th April, 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
Mr. B. Rawlings – Industry Representative
Mr. D. Grgurovic – Industry Representative
Mr. S. Wuchatsch – Strategic Projects Manager (Via Zoom)

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

Meeting commenced at 10.38am. Shaun Mathieson, Racing Manager, thanked those attending in person and via Zoom.

1. Minutes From Previous Meeting

The panel approved the minutes from the previous GRP meeting held on 16/08/21.

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 – This remains a standing item on the Agenda. From the last meeting the RM provided the panel some statistical information regarding the movement of Grade 6's to Grade 5's to see if greyhounds are not moving quickly enough through the classes to assist with higher grades. The RM advised greyhounds have a grade at each track and distance however establishing if they are a grade 6 or grade 5 is quite hard as at one track they are a grade 6 and then another track over another distance a grade 5.

The RM provided the panel with a table of greyhounds over the last 3 months to establish those greyhounds graded into events that were Maiden, Grade 6, Grade 5 and Open.

Grades	February 22	%	March 22	%	April 22	%
Maiden	222	9	252	9	245	9
Grade 6	1224	50	1329	49	1331	50
Grade 5	781	32	839	31	841	31
Open	206	8	250	9	234	8

The RM advised the pools of greyhounds are pretty consistent however changing total wins or interstate grade 6 wins doesn't necessarily mean the percentages will change above. The panel believed there needed to be more in depth detail regarding the pool of Grade 6 greyhounds to aid any decision. The panel discussed restricting the lifetime wins and also discussed a change to interstate greyhounds however still felt that while Grade 6 rules could be varied at this time there was no need to change as there were plenty of positives under the current conditions but will continue to review.

The RM suggested that some participants still did not understand the Grade 6 policy and advised one of the items that continue to be miss understood is about winning in order at a specific venue. The policy was listed below.

For the venues that allow two Grade 6 wins trainers need to win a Grade 6 over one distance and then a Grade 6 over the other distance. If a greyhound wins a Grade 6 and then a Grade 5 then they will lose their Grade 6 over the other distance at that venue.

The RM advised that we have not been able to manage a policy book as yet and have not had some kennel house meetings about Grading. Circumstances have not allowed for this to occur however it is still on the RM's agenda later this year.

The RM advised that he is trying to manage the programming so that there is a meeting for Prov 2 normal graded at Angel Park and not just Time Graded however the opportunity hasn't presented itself recently.

Mixing Of Races –In recent times we have noticed that Victoria have moved away from Aged Prizemoney for grading. The panel were advised that the RM will still look at ways to mix our races however the panel were comfortable that race wins is the main format of mixing.

Performance Trials – The panel discussed the possibility of performance trials in SA for unraced greyhounds. The RM advised that GRSA are currently investigating the ISO Lynx cameras and set up which could assist with this. He also advised there would need to be extensive resourcing at every trial session for these to occur. Some members were strongly for this to occur to provide information on these first starters. Some panel members were against this. If we did trial they could be half field trials to assist. The RM was requested by the panel to check with the other States and see how they manage performance trials.

Actions:

The RM to liaise with other states regarding Performance Trials and how they are managed. How will Iso-Lynx assist this.

The RM advised that two items that we consistently advertise in our publications are comments on nominations and re-grading opportunities however we continue to get some queries. The panel felt to continue to advertise items below -

COMMENTS ON NOMINATIONS MARKED “ONLY”

The panel previously resolved that “Only” would be disregarded over all distances and the grading left to the Grader. (Masters Only or Juvenile Only will be accepted as this is for a specific type of race)

If trainers put “Only or no start or leave me out” then the grader will grade as normal and if a greyhound would be graded into a mixed event based on race wins then he will leave them out based on the trainers request. The more information provided to the Grader allows for him to accommodate those requests.

RE-GRADING FOR ALL TRACKS AND DISTANCES

Re-grading will occur for all tracks and distances for Grade 3 or higher greyhounds.

A trainer can apply for a re-grade after two unsuccessful nominations over the corresponding distance. If having met this criteria the responsibility is on the trainer to apply for a re-grade prior to the close of nominations. Only one distance will be considered for a re-grade per meeting.

3. Agenda Items

ISOLYNX – Digital Transformation and Broadcast Enhancement (IsoLynx - greyhound tracking data)

The RM advised that this item was presented to the Industry Consultative Group last month for their reference, which could also provide data to assist grading with ratings etc. He advised in the next few months, GRSA will install infrastructure at all SA tracks as part of the digital transformation and broadcast enhancement project (IsoLynx real-time location system). He advised that the IsoLynx system records greyhounds around the track, using a small tags in race rugs to capture live in-race data including speed, acceleration and distance travelled. This technology is already in place in Victoria and NSW, with speed data appearing on the Sky Racing broadcast at some tracks. In addition to the substantial data that the system provides, robotic cameras will provide a unique broadcast for each race and even trials could be broadcast. The RM advised that this technology would open a world of possibilities from an analysis perspective for our industry. The panel were supportive of this implementation which could cost around \$1million for all 4 tracks. The RM advised that SA could be a leader in this space and it would be imperative that whatever data is available that it is the same for each state for uniformity.

ANGLE PARK – Thursday night extra race

The RM advised that GRSA recently looked at the opportunity to increase the number of races conducted on a Thursday night at Angle Park. Without affecting the greyhounds which are nominated regularly for Thursday night we looked at drawing from a different pool of greyhounds. He advised that we have now implemented the Saturday morning to Thursday night heats to finals. Once a fortnight we run Time Graded heats (1-4 wins or 5 + wins) over 530m on the Saturday (maximum 2 heats) into a final on the Thursday night (5 days later). The heats are normal Time Graded prizemoney however the final on the Thursday is budgeted Grade 6 or Grade 5 City A prizemoney. The heats and finals will be 6 dog fields and Non Penalty. The Final will be conducted as Race 1 on the Thursday night. The RM asked for suggestions from the panel for other options to increase Thursday nights program.

Members suggested Gawler or Murray Bridge Heats to an Angle Park final or restricted wins Grade 5 heats. The RM appreciated the feedback and will look to see how the programming of these events could fit into the monthly calendar.

GRADE 7 FOR SA –

The RM advised that it has been suggested by some members of industry that we should introduce a Grade 7 grade, much like Victoria where the Grade 7 comes after Maiden and before Grade 6 which would be more for 1 to 2 win greyhounds. The panel believed that at this stage it wouldn't be wise to introduce another grade in-between Maiden and Grade 6 when there are some concerns about the length of time it takes for the progression of greyhounds through the grades.

MIDDLE DISTANCE NOMINATIONS AND FIELDS

The RM advised that GRSA has a policy in support of Middle Distance races and Staying events where we will run with 5 nominations for the Middle Distance and 4 nominations for the Staying Event. He advised that we will support these races however if some nomination and racing behaviour was questioned then we may consider reviewing. He provided two examples for feedback.

- a) When there are 5 greyhounds over 595m and all trained by the same trainer and with all other nominations at the meeting accommodated should this be the 12th race. The panel advised they could be all different owners and we need to be running as many races as possible. They felt it was up to the stewards and integrity if there were concerns about this race.

- b) What would happen when a greyhound accepts for a 730m event that had only run over 400m recently. The panel felt there should be a flag to the grader if possible so he is aware as grading is now about numbers in accessing getting a start. They felt the grader could query this however it was still up to the trainer to ensure they are nominating genuinely. If this was not the case then they were comfortable that the stewards would deal with the trainer.

Actions:

The RM to provide this feedback to the integrity department and stewards along with following this guideline with grading.

TIME RATING FOR MASTERS AT ANGLE PARK AND 305M AT MT GAMBIER

The RM advised since Angle Park has been redeveloped with the new distances of 342m, 530, 595m and 730m we have not allocated any times for Masters Events. There has been sufficient racing at the venue for a Time Standard to be applied. The below Time ratings for Masters events was discussed and approved for implementation at a date advised to industry. Time Band (5) is –

342m – 19.72 – 19.81 (recommended 19.75)

530m – 30.66 – 30.80 (recommended 30.80)

595m – Unlikely

730m – Unlikely

Actions:

The RM to advise Masters time band as 19.75 for 342m and 30.80 for 530m for Angle Park programming with a date to be announced to industry for implementation.

Time Rating for Mt Gambier 305m for Masters-

The RM advised previously we have released the Masters conditions for the 277m however with the 305m distance now available this condition should be changed to accommodate the 305m along with a new Time Standard. The panel agreed to the same conditions and changed the time standard to 17.75. They advised the RM to release and set an implementation date. The new conditions are -

*305m Masters Policy for Mt Gambier – With Mt Gambier GRC conducting one 305m Grade 5 Masters race each meeting where possible, the Grading Department determined conditions for these races using some of the conditions of normal Grade 5 Masters events however factoring in the restricted nature of the 305m distance. If a dog wins and runs faster than 17.75, it can still remain eligible for the next week, if the dog then wins and runs faster than 17.75 again it will be **ineligible** for the race and distance the following week. The dog will either run over another distance or will miss that week's race. The following week it will then be eligible. If there is no 305m Masters race the greyhound has to miss the next time that race is conducted. This only refers to the greyhounds that win.*

Actions:

The RM to advise Masters time band as 17.75 for 305m for Mt Gambier programming with a date to be announced to industry for implementation.

BOOKING SATISFACTORY TRIALS ONLINE

The RM advised recently GRSA released advice to industry regarding nominating online for Satisfactory Trials which has been causing some confusion in regard to process. Then panel were comfortable with this released to industry.

NOMINATIONS FOR SATISFACTORY TRIALS

Recently we have had several trainers nominating online using the Qualifying Trial meeting for Satisfactory Trials. The online Qualifying Trial meetings are for trainers to nominate their greyhound which they wish to improve on the Order of Choice for the upcoming meeting only. Trainers, whom have a greyhound that is required to complete a Satisfactory Trial, are required to contact the offices of GRSA and provide the relevant details. By contacting the office, you will be advised of any further requirements that are needed for the Satisfactory Trial. (Contact the Club for Mt Gambier)

TIME GRADING –

The panel had a general discussion regarding Time Grading and also reviewed a submission from Kurt Donsberg and a couple of general queries for the Panel to consider.

General Queries –

- Can a last start winner at Angle Park City A be considered last for Time Grading? Whilst the panel had some reservations about a last start City A Angle Park winner being nominated they did feel that the ratings could be compromised if they agreed to pull greyhounds out of sequence. They were comfortable that if their rating warranted a start in a race then they should be considered.
- Time Rating First Starters – rating of 10 is this acceptable or should this be varied? When Time Ratings were introduced 10 was considered reasonable however based on the ratings of Maidens over a long period of time the panel felt this should be varied and reduced to 8 as a starting point.

Actions:

The RM to change Maidens in Time Rating from 10 to 8 in Ozchase. This to be advised to industry once the change has been made.

Submission from Kurt Donsberg and the RM responses at the time-

- *Time graded criteria - 1) consensus is there should be a lower limit. Too many dogs racing that aren't genuine time graded. It would seem these are 530m dogs which we only have 1 event so if nominated they could get in. We do have the rule that if their rating is slower than half the slowest dog they can get in. If we ran all short course Time Grading then would not be an issue due to numbers.*

The panel understood and appreciated Kurts point but believed no change was necessary.

- - 2) genuine TG dogs missing out via reserves. If races were treated as finals only two dogs per category would miss a run, whereas currently it can be up to 8. *Reserves are always an issue. We want reserves but don't want to compromise the ratings. Cascading reserves have been considered but every event would have to be drawn as a final which creates some issues. You would get significant change in the events for 1 scratching. If they are a reserve for a full Time Graded meeting and they miss out they will not be reserve next Full Time Graded meeting so long as they nominate and they are in the group to get a start. (Mt Gambier does sit separately from this pool)*

Again the panel understood and appreciated Kurts point about reserves but at this time the way it is being graded is the best outcome for then industry.

NO RACE AT COURSING –

The RM advised that last year there was a situation at a Coursing meeting where there was a lure breakdown for the final round of an event. At the time it was decided to not run the event and it was advised both greyhounds were the winners. With this being the case the RM advised that both greyhounds took a penalty and both split the prizemoney. The panel considered this and felt that Coursing should be considered differently as there are a couple of rounds of racing. They believed the prizemoney should be split in this case however neither greyhound should take a penalty due to the no race aspect. They believed the grades should be varied from last year and have this policy going forward. The RM to advise industry.

Actions:

The RM to ensure that when alure breakdown occurs resulting in a No Race at Coursing that no grades are applied and the prizemoney split.

4. Submissions

The panel discussed submissions from Lachlan Mill -

- 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.*

- Could GRSA please start scheduling as many 530m races at APK as possible. Currently 342m racing is placed outside of the quaddie in the g-six slot, and the 530m racing inside the quaddie. This needs to be swapped the other way round. 1. It will mean more 530m races = more turnover and a better look for our sport, 2. It rewards people for running their dogs over the 530m trip as it is easier to win races with less dogs.

The RM advised the mix between G Six and the 8 dog Quaddie is dependent upon how many nominations for each distance and grade. The intent is always to get as many races as possible and give as many greyhounds a start as possible when looking at the race programming. We will run heats with one of the those races in the quaddie with the others outside which means we can run 8 dog fields and have an 8 dog final. On occasions the RM advised we will place some feature events outside the quaddie to free up a few more 8 dog fields depending on nominations. He advised GRSA supports 6 dog racing and generally Maidens and the lower grades will be 8 dogs however this can vary.

Late Items –

Some panel members brought up about split kennelling and the possibility of 13 races. The RM advised at this time split kennelling was not an option due to managing the time frames and trainers and that 12 races are our maximum capacity at any venue.

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 with the discussion around Performance Trials this may be added to that topic for the next agenda. The panel were comfortable with that.

Next Meeting –August (days and dates TBD)