

Purpose

To describe the pre-conditions establishing hot weather and its effects on greyhound road transport, racing and other events conducted by Greyhound Racing SA Limited (GRSA) and member clubs.

To describe when GRSA will treat a racecourse, other premises, or journey as hot weather affected.

To prescribe requirements for racing and training at racecourses declared as hot weather affected.

To prescribe requirements for other greyhound events at premises declared as hot weather affected.

To prescribe requirements for road transporting greyhounds during hot weather affected journeys.

Scope

All registered persons, clubs and officers of GRSA are bound by this policy (R156(w), *Greyhounds Australasia Rules*).

Related Policies

Animal Welfare Policy

Policy Principles

Greyhound welfare is a pillar within GRSA's Strategic Plan and the welfare of greyhounds during road transport, racing and other events is paramount. Following this policy minimises exposure to, and associated risk from, heat stress in greyhounds that are road transported, raced, or involved in other events for GRSA, during hot weather affected periods.

Definitions

In this policy –

Appointed scratching time has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

Ambient temperature refers to the temperature of the surrounding environment or the immediate surroundings.

BoM means Bureau of Meteorology, <http://www.bom.gov.au/>.

Club has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

Controlling body has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR), and includes Greyhound Racing SA Limited (GRSA).

Coursing has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

Day has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

Duration of the event includes the period from 2-hours *before* the scheduled opening of kennels (or other commencement time of the event) on a day and to 2-hours *after* the scheduled start time of the last race (or other finish time of the event).

Event has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR) and, where relevant, includes any greyhound appearance or exhibition conducted by GRSA (and GAP SA) and its member clubs.

Forecast maximum temperature refers to the highest predicted or projected temperature expected to occur on a day for a specific location or region of the event.

Journey includes the entire period from the time a greyhound is placed within a vehicle (including a trailer) to the time the greyhound is removed from the vehicle and includes all times where the vehicle is stationary and moving for the period.

GAP SA means Greyhounds As Pets SA.

Greyhound has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

Greyhound racing has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

Kennel includes kennels, under GRSA control at the time of the event, at a racetrack or premises of a club.

Meeting has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

Officer of the Controlling Body has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

Parade area has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

Penalty has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

Premises of a club has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

Qualifying trial has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

Race has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR) and includes a qualifying and satisfactory trial.

Racecourse has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR) and includes the track, kennel and parade area.

Registered person has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

Satisfactory trial has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

Scratching has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

Track has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR) and includes any parade area.

Train or training has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

Veterinarian has the same meaning as defined in R9, *Greyhounds Australasia Rules* (GAR).

When is an event hot weather affected?

An event includes coursing, a meeting, a satisfactory trial or any other event relating to greyhounds or greyhound racing conducted at racecourse, premises of a club or any other location used by GRSA from time to time.

An event is *hot weather affected* when –

The forecast maximum temperature, no less than 1-day before the event is 35°C or higher (as published by the BoM at the closest observation station in the location or region) for the duration of the event.

Options for hot weather affected events at 35°C to 37.9°C

Where the event is hot weather affected from 35°C to 37.9°C, GRSA may –

- Continue with the meeting or other event, consistent with the requirements set out in this policy; or
- Re-schedule the meeting or other event to another period within the same day; or
- Re-schedule the meeting or other event to another day; or
- Change the location of the meeting or other event; or
- Cancel the meeting or other event.

Options for hot weather affected' events at 38°C or higher

Where the event is hot weather affected from 38, GRSA will –

- Re-schedule the meeting or other event to another period within the day; or
- Re-schedule the meeting or other event to another day; or
- Change the location of the meeting or other event; or
- Cancel the meeting or other event.

Road Transport

From 1st December 2025, any vehicle (including any trailer) that is not fitted with operational air-conditioning, cannot be used to transport greyhounds during hot weather affected journeys.

Registered persons must always transport greyhounds according to the Animal Welfare Policy.

When is a journey hot weather affected?

A *hot weather affected journey* occurs when any period of the journey happens while the BOM forecast maximum temperature is 32°C or higher.

What registered persons must do during hot weather affected journeys

- Cooling provisions must be used.
- Cooling provisions are air-conditioning or cool vests.
- If cool vests are used, they are to be used according to the manufacturer's recommendations instructions.
- Barking muzzles (if otherwise approved) are not to be used.
- Veterinary advice and/or treatment is to be sought if a greyhound shows signs of heat stress, or other abnormalities. Signs of heat stress and dehydration can include panting, skin feeling warm, fast heart rate and pulse, drooling, red gums, muscle tremors and seizures.

Scratching without penalty for hot weather affected events

Trainers with greyhounds nominated for racing on hot weather affected events may apply to scratch their greyhounds without penalty. The following conditions apply:

Applications to scratch without penalty must be made prior to the appointed scratching time. If a greyhound is withdrawn after that time, the normal 10-day penalty will apply.

Trainers cannot scratch their greyhounds selectively – all nominations for that trainer must be withdrawn.

For clarity, the maximum forecast temperature for the racetrack is the BoM forecast at appointed scratching time at the following locations –

Racetrack	BoM Observation Station
Angle Park	Adelaide
Gawler	Roseworthy
Murray Bridge	Murray Bridge
Mount Gambier	Mount Gambier
Virginia	Edinburgh

Any application for withdrawal without penalty must be made prior to the appointed scratching time of the meeting; however, officers of GRSA may consider late requests.

Club Requirements

A club must –

- Fit and maintain all kennels at the premises of the club with temperature measuring devices.
- Activate the air conditioning system in the kennels as early as possible on the days that are hot weather affected.
- Aim to keep the temperature in the kennels between 18°C to 24°C. Stewards must abandon or postpone the meeting if the ambient temperature in the kennel area reaches 26°C or higher and, in the opinion of Stewards, cannot be reduced in a reasonable time by air conditioning.
- Ensure adequate hosing bays are available to facilitate post-race cooling.
- Have cool vests available pre and post-race for the cooling of greyhounds where necessary.

Stewards' Decisions

Stewards will, in consultation with the On-Track Veterinarian (OTV), abandon the meeting if the ambient temperature at the racetrack reaches 38°C or higher.

The OTV will monitor all greyhounds. At any time, the OTV may recommend to Stewards that the meeting be abandoned if, in their opinion, the welfare of greyhounds competing are likely to be adversely affected the heat.

Where the temperature observations by the BoM at or after the kennelling start time on the day of the event is significantly lower than 35°C, the Steward in Charge may at their discretion, relax or dispense with any of the additional race meeting requirements for hot weather affected events set out in this policy.

Stewards may minimise the time that greyhounds are paraded.

Training on hot weather affected days

Training (not including qualifying or satisfactory trials) must not occur at any time when the BoM temperature at the location or region of the racecourse or premises of a club is 38°C or higher at the time of the training.

A club must -

- Cancel or postpone training when the forecast maximum temperature, observed up to 3.00pm on the day before the training and up until the start of the training, for the racecourse is 38°C or higher.
- Abandon all training sessions if the temperature in the kennel area reaches 26°C and cannot be reduced promptly.