

The new Greyhounds Australasia National Rules have now been endorsed by the GA Board. The updated rules will come into effect on Monday 31st January 2022.

Below are some of the rule changes that would be of particular importance to industry in the opinion of the Chief Steward. We ask all participants to read the below and please also read the full rule changes at: [Greyhounds Australasia \(GA\) Rules Rework Project - \(galtd.org.au\)](http://galtd.org.au)

<p>30 [NP] Similar to WA LR105A</p>	<p>Barking Muzzles prohibited</p>	<p>This is a new provision which, except for a <i>veterinarian</i> using a Barking Muzzle for the sole purpose of examination or treatment, and except in circumstances approved by a <i>Controlling Body</i>, makes it an offence for a <i>person</i> to use a Barking Muzzle on a <i>greyhound</i>.</p>
<p>127 [69, 69A]</p>	<p>Period of suspension to be imposed for <i>marring or failing to pursue</i></p>	<p>Rule 127 is a new rule that deals with the period of <i>suspension</i> to be imposed for <i>marring or failing to pursue</i>. The rule reads: “Subject to rule 125 [69B], where, in the opinion of the <i>Stewards</i>, a <i>greyhound</i> is found to have <i>marred</i> or <i>failed to pursue the lure</i> during an <i>Event</i> the <i>Stewards</i> must impose a period of <i>suspension</i> in respect of the <i>greyhound</i>, which is to be recorded as part of the identification record as follows: (a) in the case of a first offence, 28 days at the <i>track</i> where the offence occurred and until the completion of a <i>satisfactory trial</i>; or (b) subject to rule 128[70], in the case of a second offence, 28 days at all <i>tracks</i> and until completion of a <i>satisfactory trial</i>; or (c) in the case of a third or subsequent offence, three months at all <i>tracks</i> and until the completion of two <i>satisfactory trials</i>.”</p> <p>This is a substantial change to the <i>marring</i> and <i>failing to pursue</i> penalty structure. Previously, a first offence was a suspension for 28 days (at the <i>track</i> where the offence occurred) and the completion of a <i>satisfactory trial</i>, a second offence a suspension for three months (at all <i>tracks</i>) and the completion of a <i>satisfactory trial</i>, and a third or subsequent offence was 12 months suspension (at all <i>tracks</i>) and until the completion of a <i>satisfactory trial</i>. The new rule proposes that the first offence be a <i>suspension</i> of 28 days at the <i>track</i> where the offence occurred and the completion of a <i>satisfactory trial</i>. A second offence is a <i>suspension</i> of 28 days at all <i>tracks</i> and the completion of a <i>satisfactory trial</i>. The third or subsequent offence is a three months <i>suspension</i> at all <i>tracks</i> and the completion of <i>two satisfactory trials</i>.</p> <p>The rationale behind this amendment is to enable <i>greyhounds</i> a better opportunity to continue racing should the <i>greyhound</i> be a repeat offender under these rules.</p>

		<p>Failing to pursue by reason of injury (Rule 125 [rule 69B]) will still apply if applicable for the first <i>failing to pursue</i> offence only. The term 'suspension' (in Rule 125 [rule 69B]) has been replaced with the term 'stand-down'.</p> <p><i>Marring</i> and <i>failing to pursue</i> penalties are no longer dealt with separately, they are now combined. A <i>greyhound's</i> first penalty may be for <i>failing to pursue</i>, its second for <i>marring</i>, and third for <i>failing to pursue</i>, or any combination of the two.</p>
145(3) [83A(3)]	Treatment prior to an <i>Event</i>	<p>Rule 145(3) uses the terminology used in other racing codes of "<i>clear day</i>" (which the relevant definition in rule 9 defines as "a 24 hour period from 12.00am to 11.59pm") as opposed to "day prior to the day of an <i>Event</i>" (see existing 83A(3)), so that rule 145(3) reads:</p> <p>"No <i>person</i> without the permission of the <i>Stewards</i> may <i>administer</i> or cause to be <i>administered</i> any injectable substance to a <i>greyhound</i> at any time during the one <i>clear day</i> prior to 12.00am on the day of an <i>Event</i> that it is <i>nominated</i> to compete in."</p>
159 [Compare with rule 86B, NP, 86C(4) and 86C(5)]	Offences relating to <i>luring</i> and baiting	<p>There is significant change that has been made to the way in which <i>luring</i> and baiting offences are dealt with in new rule 159 (the main new provision dealing with <i>luring</i> and baiting) compared to existing rule 86B. In relation to that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all offending under existing rule 86B (1) involving either a live animal, animal carcass or part of animal require a mandatory minimum 10 years <i>disqualification</i>, which <i>penalty</i> can be reduced if there is a finding of a "special circumstance" being in existence. • there are now in the new rules to be three tiers of seriousness of offending (respectively dealt with at subrules (1), (3) and (5) of rule 159), which have differing potential consequences in terms of <i>penalty</i>. These are, simplified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ subrule (1) - relevant offences involving a "<u>live animal</u>": minimum life <i>disqualification</i> (DQ), and that <i>penalty</i> is unable to be reduced; ○ subrule (3) - relevant offences involving an "<u>animal carcass or part of an animal</u>": starting point minimum 10 years DQ; that minimum DQ period can be reduced to a lesser DQ period if one or more special circumstances are found to exist at the time of the offence; ○ subrule (5) - relevant offences involving anything containing "<u>animal material</u>" – starting point minimum <i>penalty</i> of a DQ (but for no required specific period), and the starting point minimum <i>penalty</i> of a DQ can be reduced to a lesser <i>penalty</i> totally within the decision maker's discretion if one or more special circumstances are found to exist at the time of the offence. • there are explanatory "Notes" after subrules (3) and (5) which respectively inform the reader that "part of an animal" includes "skin, hair, bone, blood, faeces, urine or flesh", and that "animal material" means "any processed and/or tanned and/or cured skin or hide of an animal and does not include anything that contains animal bone, blood, faeces, urine or flesh";

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in subrule (4) there is now explanation in relation to what “special circumstances” can and cannot include – the matters that may be special circumstances (for the purpose of subrules (3) and (5)) are those that exist at the time of the offending and relate to the objective nature of the offending, and it is also made clear that they do not include subjective matters like the contribution that a <i>person</i> may have made to the <i>greyhound racing</i> industry, or the impact of a DQ on a <i>person’s</i> livelihood.
159(7) [NP]	Offences relating to <i>luring</i> and baiting	This new provision provides that the <i>luring</i> and baiting offences contained in subrules 159(1), (3) and (5) are “absolute liability” offences, such that the references to “live animal”, “animal carcass”, “part of an animal” and “animal material” refer to the fact of the existence of each of those conditions, whether or not the charged person knew or believed of the applicable condition. Absolute liability offences <u>do not</u> permit a defence of “honest and reasonable mistake of fact” being relied on. Absolute liability for these offences is consistent with a stronger regulatory approach for these extremely serious matters that have the ability to significantly damage the reputation and ongoing longevity of <i>greyhound racing</i> .
174 [NP and 95]	<i>Penalties</i>	This rule specifically provides that a “reprimand (sometimes known as a warning or caution)” is a specific type of <i>penalty</i> which can be imposed by a <i>Controlling Body</i> or the <i>Stewards</i> .