

CONSULTATION NOTICE – RULES OF RACING

Code of Racing	Greyhound
Rule/Description	1. Draft Amendment GAR 38 Age at which a Greyhound can compete in an Event; 2. Draft New Rule GAR 41A Stand Down after falling during an Event or satisfactory trial; 3. Draft Amendment GAR 56 Registration of Sires and Breeding Females.
Authorised for Consultation	September 7, 2026
Consultation Closes	October 5, 2026
Submissions to	policies@racingqueensland.com.au

Racing Queensland (**RQ**) has received notice from Greyhounds Australasia (**GA**) that the GA Board has endorsed for external consultation multiple draft amendments to the GA Rules, as outlined below:

1. Draft Amendment GAR 38 Age at which a Greyhound can compete in an Event;
2. Draft New Rule GAR 41A Stand Down after falling during an Event or satisfactory trial;
3. Draft Amendment GAR 56 Registration of Sires and Breeding Females.

Additionally, following the cessation of greyhound racing in New Zealand, consequential changes to various GA Rules are proposed to remove references to New Zealand, as appropriate.

Details and background to the draft rule amendments listed above are provided in the attached documentation issued by GA.

Stakeholders and interested parties are invited to provide feedback on the draft rule amendments as per the details at the top of this document.

Following the closure of the consultation period, RQ will compile any feedback/submissions received and provide them to GA.



DRAFT NEW RULE TO GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES

Draft Amended Rule: GAR 38 Age at which a *Greyhound* can compete in an *Event*

Summary:

In December 2025, following extensive discussion and consideration, the Greyhounds Australasia Veterinary, Analysts and Welfare Committee (VAC) proposed a national rule that would increase the minimum age at which a greyhound may nominate to compete in an Event, while also introducing a maximum age restriction for greyhounds nominating to compete in an Event.

The purpose of this Rule is to safeguard the welfare of greyhounds by establishing clear and nationally consistent minimum and maximum age limits for participation in racing Events across Australasia.

Aligning the minimum racing age to 18 months (LR 48 GRV) ensures that greyhounds are afforded a consistent timeframe for education, physical development and readiness for competitive racing.

Currently a very low percentage of greyhounds have their first start under the age of 18 months. This low percentage equally applies to greyhounds competing in any Event beyond the age of 6 years.

The establishment of a maximum racing age reflects a proactive approach to managing welfare risks associated with racing older animals.

The GA Board has approved the proposed amendment to the rules for external consultation by the Controlling Bodies.

GAR 38 Age at which a *greyhound* can compete in an *Event*

- (1) *A greyhound must not compete in an Event before it reaches the age of 18 months.*
- (2) *A greyhound must not compete in an Event once it reaches the age of six years.*



DRAFT NEW RULE TO GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES

GAR 41A – Stand Down after falling during an *Event* or *satisfactory trial*

Summary:

Following discussion and consideration at the Greyhounds Australasia Sub-Committee's a new national rule has been proposed, that would impose a mandatory stand down period for any greyhound deemed to have fallen whilst competing in an Event or satisfactory trial.

The purpose of this rule is to strengthen animal welfare provisions by introducing a mandatory stand-down period following a fall during an event or satisfactory trial. It aligns with policy provisions already in place in some jurisdictions.

The rule is drafted to ensure a precautionary recovery period, allowing adequate time for physiological recovery and monitoring before a greyhound is permitted to return to racing or trialling. By removing reliance on discretionary decision-making, the rule provides a clear, consistent and welfare-focused response to incidents involving falls.

The GA Board has approved the proposed amendment to the GA rules for external consultation by the Controlling Bodies.

41A Stand Down after falling during an *Event* or *satisfactory trial*

- (i) Where a *greyhound* falls during an *Event* or *satisfactory trial*, the *Stewards* must order the *greyhound* be prohibited from competing in an *Event* or *trial* for 10 days, which cannot be revoked.
- (ii) Where a *greyhound* falls after the finish line of an *Event* or *satisfactory trial*, the *Stewards* may order the *greyhound* be prohibited from competing in an *Event* or *trial* for 10 days which cannot be revoked.
- (iii) For the purposes of GAR 41A(i) and (ii) a *greyhound* is deemed to have fallen if *in the stewards opinion* the *greyhound* is brought to ground so that its head, shoulder, side or back makes contact with the racing surface.

[Note: A separate *stand-down period* may also be issued. If this period is less than 10 days it will run concurrently with the prohibition period imposed after a fall]



DRAFT RULE AMENDMENT TO GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES

Draft Rule Amendment GAR 56 – Registration of Sires and Breeding Females

Summary:

Under the current provisions of GAR 56, an application for registration as a sire may be made by the owner of a greyhound, or a person authorised by the owner, by:

- lodging a complete prescribed application form with the relevant Controlling Body in the state or territory in which the applicant resides;
- paying the prescribed application fee;
- providing, at the applicant's expense, a DNA fingerprint analysis from a sample collected by a veterinarian or other authorised person and analysed by an approved DNA laboratory; and
- providing a fertility test, acceptable to the relevant Controlling Body, that has been conducted no more than 30 days prior to the application for registration as a sire.

While the Rules specifically require veterinary oversight for the collection of DNA samples, no equivalent requirement currently exists for the collection of semen samples used for fertility testing. This creates an inconsistency within the sire registration process, despite the fertility test being a fundamental component of determining a greyhound's suitability for registration as a sire.

It is also noted that, under the 2025 GA Rule amendment introducing GAR 56(4), a registered sire is required to undergo annual fertility testing to maintain its registration, with those annual tests requiring veterinary oversight. The absence of a similar requirement for the initial fertility test is therefore inconsistent with the intent of the broader registration framework.

The proposed redrafting of GAR 56(3)(c) addresses this inconsistency by requiring veterinary oversight throughout the sire registration process, ensuring a consistent, transparent and robust standard for both the initial registration and the ongoing management of registered sires.



The GA Board has approved the proposed amendment to the GA rules for external consultation by the Controlling Bodies.

GAR 56 Registration of sires and breeding females

- (1) A male *greyhound* shall not be used for breeding purposes unless registered with the *Controlling Body* as a *sire*.
- (2) All *documents* and other items in relation to a *sire* are to be left open for inspection by the *Controlling Body* of the jurisdiction in which the *sire* is domiciled.
- (3) Application for registration as a *sire* may be made by the *owner* of a *greyhound* or *person* authorised by the *owner*, by lodging with a *Controlling Body* in the state or territory in which the relevant *person* resides:
 - (a) a completed prescribed form together with a prescribed *fee*;
 - (b) at the expense of the applicant, a *DNA fingerprint analysis* on a *sample* taken by a *veterinarian* or other *authorised person* and carried out by an *approved DNA laboratory*; and
 - (c) a fertility test **conducted by a veterinarian** which is acceptable to the controlling body and is carried out no less than 30 days prior to the application for registration as a *sire*.
- (4) The granting of registration of a *sire* is conditional on the owner or other person authorized by the *owner* providing the *Controlling Body* with:
 - (a) an annual fertility test conducted by a *veterinarian* to the relevant *Controlling Body* or *Greyhounds Australasia*; and
 - (b) an annual veterinary certification of the health and fitness which confirms any presence of disease (including possible heritable disease), and that it is appropriate for him to be used as a *sire*.