# Coursing Grading Guidelines
## Effective April 2024

## Events

### Main Event Stakes

Main Events are the feature Stakes on a Coursing program. Generally, they are Cup and/or Memorial Stakes. The greyhounds that are entered in these Stakes are generally experienced Coursing greyhounds; they can be males or females. These greyhounds will have usually won their Maiden (at Coursing) and may have also won a One Win Stake or an All Aged Stake. Maiden Coursing greyhounds are also eligible to compete in a Main Event if the Trainer believes the greyhound is capable – but must be nominated for the higher graded event, to be considered for selection.

Greyhounds that have previously won a Coursing Stake will be given preference in selection for a Main Event over a greyhound that has not competed at coursing.

### All Aged Stakes

These are for the next level of open class greyhounds that may have previously won a Coursing event. These greyhounds may also have competed over more than one Coursing season.

### Win Limit Stakes

These are for greyhounds that have previously won the required number of Coursing stakes, that is a One Win Stake is for greyhounds that have only won one Coursing event.

### Maidens

A Maiden in Coursing is a greyhound that has not won three courses in a single event. A greyhound could be a city class greyhound and remain a Maiden at Coursing, until they have broken their Maiden status at Coursing. In the case of multiple Events being graded, greyhounds with coursing prizemoney will be grouped together where possible.

### Puppies

For the 2024 Coursing season a Puppy is any greyhound (male or female) that is whelped on or after 01/03/2022. Depending on nominations, gender will separate greyhounds where possible, that is: Dog Puppy, Bitch Puppy and if nominations allow a Mixed Puppy Stake.

There are Special Stakes conducted for Puppies only, with good prize money! The Sylvester Doyle Puppy Championship for both the boys and the girls, the Derby (for the boys) and the Oaks (for girls) are three of the National Coursing Association of Victoria Classic Stakes.

### Waterloo Cup

This is the final Coursing Classic event of the season and is considered the major prize carrying a long tradition which was first held in 1873. This event is open to all greyhounds with preference given to greyhounds that have previously coursed. Consolations of this event are also held for greyhounds defeated in the first round (Waterloo Plate), the second round (Waterloo Purse) and then if enough overall nominations are received, a consolation event for greyhounds defeated in the third round will be conducted.

### Nomination Close Times

For the 2024 Coursing season nominations will close on the Thursday prior to the date of the meeting at 8:30am, and may be extended should insufficient nominations be received. Nominations can be submitted online or by calling GRV Member Services Department on (03) 8329 1100. Fields will be declared no later than 3pm on the Thursday prior to the date of the meeting.

### Selection For Coursing

Greyhounds are eligible to compete at a Coursing meeting under similar rules to standard racing, in that the greyhound must be cleared to race, not be under any penalty, and its Owner and Trainer must be currently registered. The following additional conditions apply:

1.      Trainers nominating for a Coursing meeting will each gain a minimum of one starter if nominations allow.
2.      Trainers nominating multiple greyhounds should email the Grader advising of their order of preference for their greyhounds prior to nominations closing - graders@grv.org.au
3.      Trainers with multiple greyhounds nominated, who have not provided preferences to the grader, will be subject to a ballot. The number of Coursing events to be conducted will be determined from the total nominations received, with preference given to separating each pool of nominations by gender. Where the nominations require males and females to be merged to create an event, the youngest aged male greyhounds will be selected to compete against the oldest aged female greyhounds.

### Upgrading

For the purposes of selecting greyhounds to compete in a higher-level event (eg. Cup), preference will be given to greyhounds that have been nominated for the event. If required, any other greyhound that has previous Coursing wins and Coursing prize money will be considered for elevation to a higher level event to provide a full field of eight runners.

### Puppies

Greyhounds that are nominated for an event other than a Puppy Stake, may be included in a Puppy stake if they are whelped on or after the 1st of March 2022.

### Consolation Events

If a consolation event is to be conducted, greyhounds eliminated in the first or second rounds of an event will be automatically nominated for a consolation event if one is being conducted. The draw for these events will be conducted on course by the Steward in charge. Any Trainer not wishing to run in a consolation event must advise the Stewards prior to the draw being conducted.

### Reserve Allocation

Once fields have been graded, the remaining greyhounds will be allocated as reserves. Reserve dogs for each event will be randomly drawn at the time of grading and will be published in order of preference. At close of scratchings, reserves will be allocated in order of preference from top down.

### Scratchings

Scratchings can be submitted online or by calling GRV's Racing Services Department on (03) 8329 1100. Scratchings for a Coursing meeting will be finalised on the day prior to the meeting at 4:00pm. Trainers of any required reserves will receive an SMS notification – Trainers are advised to ensure their contact details are up to date with GRV. Should a late scratching occur (after 4:00pm on the day prior), a replacement greyhound will not be included in the field.

### Satisfactory Trials

Greyhounds that are subject to a Satisfactory trial in accordance with the Rules, may perform a Satisfactory trial at a Coursing meeting and if endorsed by the Stewards – will be cleared for Coursing only.