

Grading Guidelines

Effective 5th August 2026



Table of Contents

Grading Policy	3
Rules of Racing	3
Conflict of interest	4
Grading Department Contact	4
Common Terms.....	4
General Principles & Information	5
Withdrawal of a greyhound	6
Mixed Events	6
Eligibility	6
Meeting Levels	7
Advancing Grades.....	7
Up-grading	8
Group race winners	8
Down-grading	8
Tier 3.....	9
Time Standard	9
Victorian Tier 3 Time Standards Table	10
Alpha results.....	11
Ranking points	11
Victorian Meeting Type and Category Table.....	11
Victorian Weighted Points Score Table.....	12
Ranking calculation.....	13
Order of Entry	14
Standard	14
Special Events	14
Maiden Events	14
Tier 3.....	15
Bottom-Up Graded Meetings	15
Aged prize money calculation.....	15
Composition of fields.....	15
Guarding	16
Banded	16
Seeded/guarded.....	16
Random/guarded	16
Finals & reserve allocation	16
Same day engagements	17
Box draw.....	17
Redraw	17
Handicap Events	18
Finalisation of scratchings.....	18
Race programming	18
Early race requests.....	18
Amendment summary.....	19



Grading Policy

The Grading process outlined in this document, which governs the compilation of all Victorian race fields, is guided by the Grading Policy stated below and the Rules of Racing.

1. GRV will always attempt, where possible to:
 - a. provide full race meetings, and full fields of 8 greyhounds, plus up to 2 reserve greyhounds from the final list of nominations received, and
 - b. create a meeting from the top down, (excluding bottom-up meetings) in the following order of preference:
 - i. advertised events,
 - ii. longer distance events ahead of short distances events,
 - iii. by grade, where Grade 1 is the highest priority and Maiden the lowest.
 - iv. for Hybrid Meetings, the highest meeting level unless otherwise stated.
2. GRV have the discretion to:
 - a. to extend a nomination closing time;
 - b. program any event when fewer than 8 nominations are received;
 - c. create any restricted-win event, based on the nominations received, to ensure a competitive event; and
 - d. program any events, to make up a race meeting when a high total number of nominations are received.
3. The intention of the Grading process is to ensure that greyhounds with the most appropriate form gain starts and are allocated to races with greyhounds of similar ranking.

Rules of Racing

There are Greyhounds Australasia Rules (GARs) and GRV Local Rules (LRs) that apply to race programming, reserves, nominations, eligibility for Events, and the grading of Victorian race meetings. They include:

- LR 9 – Definitions
- LR 44 – Events Conducted by way of Heats and Final
- LR 47 – Nomination Requirements
- LR 48 – Minimum age of nomination
- LR 49 – Conditions of acceptance of nominations by the Controlling Body
- LR 50 – Grading
- LR 51 - Re-Grading
- LR 53 - Special Events
- LR 54 – Box Draw
- LR 54A – Preferential Box Draw
- GAR 9 - Definitions
- GAR 39 – Limits on frequency of racing or trialling
- GAR 85 – Box draw, rug colours, reserve starters



Conflict of interest

If a Grader believes they may have a conflict of interest in grading any race meeting, they must do the following:

- a. fully disclose the nature of the conflict of interest to the Head of Racing Operations & Clubs or, in their absence the Executive General Manager– Operations, as soon as they become aware of a potential conflict of interest, and
- b. stand down from grading duties for the particular race meeting and reassign the race meeting to another Grader.

Grading Department Contact

All enquiries regarding greyhound eligibility and/or the grading of race fields are to be sent to the Grading Department by emailing graders@grv.org.au. GRV aims to provide a written response by return email within 2 business days.

Common Terms

Definitions in the Rules of Racing have the same meaning in these Guidelines unless the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires.

- **Advertised Event** – An Event which has been defined and advertised in the racing program prior to nominations opening.
- **City Class Win** - Win worth \$3,000 or more to the winner at the following tracks - The Meadows, Sandown Park, Wentworth Park, Albion Park, Q1 Lakeside, Q2 Parklands, Cannington, Angle Park, Hobart, and Launceston (excluding Maiden Events).
- **Connections** –A greyhound's registered owner and/or trainer.
- **Debutant** – A greyhound that has not previously started in an Event.
- **Event** - The competitive pursuit by one or more greyhounds of a mechanical lure.
- **Field** - An Event that shall comprise a maximum of 8 greyhounds, plus up to 2 Reserve greyhounds.
- **Free For All** – Event comprised of Grade 4, Grade 3, Grade 2 or Grade 1 greyhounds.
- **Guarding** - The allocation of greyhounds owned and/or trained by the same person into separate Events without compromising the grading of any Event.
- **Grade 7** – Greyhound has won 1 Event.
- **Grade 6** - Greyhound has won 2 Events.
- **Grade 5** – Greyhound has won a minimum of 3 Events.
- **Hybrid Race Meeting** – Combination of meeting levels held at the same race meeting.
- **Maiden** – At the time of competing, a greyhound has not won an Event.
- **Maiden Event** – An Event open to greyhounds who have not won an Event.
- **Mixed Event** – Event contains 2 consecutive grades of greyhounds.
- **Multi-Stage Series** - An Event comprised of heats and final, or an Event comprised



of heats, semi-finals and final.

- **Nomination** – Submission of an entry into an Event in accordance with the Rules of Racing.
- **Non-Penalty Event** – Grade 5 or higher Event where the winning greyhound does not advance in grade at that track and distance.
- **Order Of Entry** – Conditions associated with the order in which greyhounds will be selected into the field for a defined Event.
- **Preferential Box Draw** – Means a box draw conducted by way of a partially random allocation process that factors in a greyhound's preferred early race trait and using this to determine the respective starting boxes for each greyhound in the Event.
- **Ranking** – Individual ranking of a greyhound calculated from the Weighted Points Score Table.
- **Recent** – For the purpose of Order of Entry, it is defined as 28 days.
- **Restricted Win** – means an Event restricted to greyhounds that have only won the prescribed number of Events in their career.
- **Reserve** – A greyhound that has not made the final field of 8 greyhounds and will only be permitted to run following a scratching of another greyhound from the Event.
- **Scratching** – Withdrawal of a greyhound from an Event.
- **Time Standard** – A series of times for each track and distance that determine a greyhound's Tier 3 eligibility.
- **Weighted Points Score Table** – The points allocated for each resulted Event.
- **Veterans** – Greyhound is 4 years old or older on the date of the race meeting. All Veterans Events are non-penalty.
- **Vic Bred** – A greyhound whelped in Victoria, whose ear brand begins with a "V".
- **Vic Greys** – Bonuses payable to the owner(s) and breeder(s) of eligible Vic Bred greyhounds applicable to selected Events.

General Principles & Information

1. All Order of Entry, grade changes and ranking updates occur approx. 40 minutes after a race meeting has been finalised.
2. Only times recorded in an Event (excluding any exhibition or satisfactory trials) will be considered for the declaration of a track record.
3. Should a greyhound qualify or be drawn into two (2) Events or finals to be conducted on the same day, preference is given to the Event which the greyhound qualified for or was drawn into first.
4. If a greyhound holds a reserve position in its first preference nomination but gains a start in a second preference (or subsequent nomination), the greyhound is excluded from its first preference reserve position, except for a Group Race, Special Event Heat or Special Event.
5. If an advertised Multi-Stage Event receives insufficient nominations, GRV will reduce it to a single stage Event, apply the advertised final prize money and any applicable bonuses, and conduct it on the original first stage meeting date except for events held over 601m+ where 1 heat will be conducted or unless otherwise agreed by GRV and the Club.



6. A Level 2 or Level 3 meeting may be advertised as a *Preference to Maiden, Grade 7 & Grade 6 Meeting*, where priority will be given to Maiden, Grade 7 and Grade 6 races, in that order. For Level 3 meetings, in the event that Grade 5 or higher races are required, Bottom-Up Grading will apply.
7. Once a greyhound reaches Grade 5 or higher, its Sandown Provincial (SAP) and Meadows Provincial (MEP) grades will always be equal to or higher than its Sandown Metropolitan (SAN) and Meadows Metropolitan (MEA) grades.

Withdrawal of a greyhound

8. Where a greyhound was drawn as a reserve and then competed in the Event due to a scratching, the trainer may apply to Stewards to withdraw the greyhound from any other meetings to be held within three calendar days, without a stand down penalty, that the greyhound is drawn in, notwithstanding the provisions of GAR39 (consecutive day rule). The application for withdrawal must be made to Stewards before the official scratching time for that meeting.
9. A trainer may apply to withdraw a greyhound without penalty if it has qualified for or has been graded into a Group or Listed race final as listed in the GCA Group Race Calendar.

Mixed Events

10. When a Mixed 4/5 Event is programmed, preference is given to Grade 4 greyhounds.
11. When two or more Events are graded over the same distance at Level 1 and Level 2 meetings and a Mixed 4/5 Event is one of those events, a 3-win greyhound will not be drawn into the Mixed 4/5 Event and the next best ranked greyhound will be drawn in its place. This does not apply when only one Mixed 4/5 Event is graded.
12. For all Mixed 6/7, Restricted Win, Veterans and single stage Advertised Events, ranking based selection including Order of Entry (grades irrelevant) will be used to compile fields.
13. When two (2) or more Mixed 6/7 Events are graded over the same distance the Banded selection method will apply, which may result in multiple Mixed 6/7 events over the same distance.

Eligibility

14. When grading Events with a prize money clause, all bonus prize money earned (e.g. Vic Greys) will be ignored for the purpose of establishing eligibility.
15. For a Tier 3, Bottom Up or Rank Limit meeting, greyhounds must have had a minimum of two starts to be eligible.
16. For multi-stage series conducted at multiple venues, greyhounds must not be under any order that will prohibit the greyhound from progressing through the series. Greyhounds prohibited from progressing through the series will not be drawn in heats.
17. Maiden greyhounds will be eligible for an Event at the time of competing.
18. Eligibility for an Event for all other greyhounds will be based on its grade for the track and distance and ranking at the time of grading.



Meeting Levels

In Victoria, there are 3 different levels of standard race meetings, each attracting different prize money and allocating different ranking points according to a greyhound's finishing position. A Hybrid race meeting may also be programmed which contains a mix of the different meeting levels described below.

1. Level 1 - Metropolitan Meeting
2. Level 2 - Provincial Meeting
3. Level 3 – Reduced Stakes Meetings
 - a. Level 3 Stakes – Provincial graded meeting for Level 3 prize money.
 - b. Tier 3 Meeting – For greyhounds with a ranking of 250+ and who have not run faster than the Time Standard.
 - c. Rank Limit Meeting – For greyhounds who, at the time of grading, are not ranked lower than the published rank limit (excludes Debutants).
 - d. Bottom-Up Meeting – A Rank Limit meeting with greyhounds ordered by their individual rank in descending order (highest to lowest). No Order of Entry right applies, and no reserves will be drawn.

Grade 4 or higher nominations will only be considered at level 3 meetings when nominations are low.

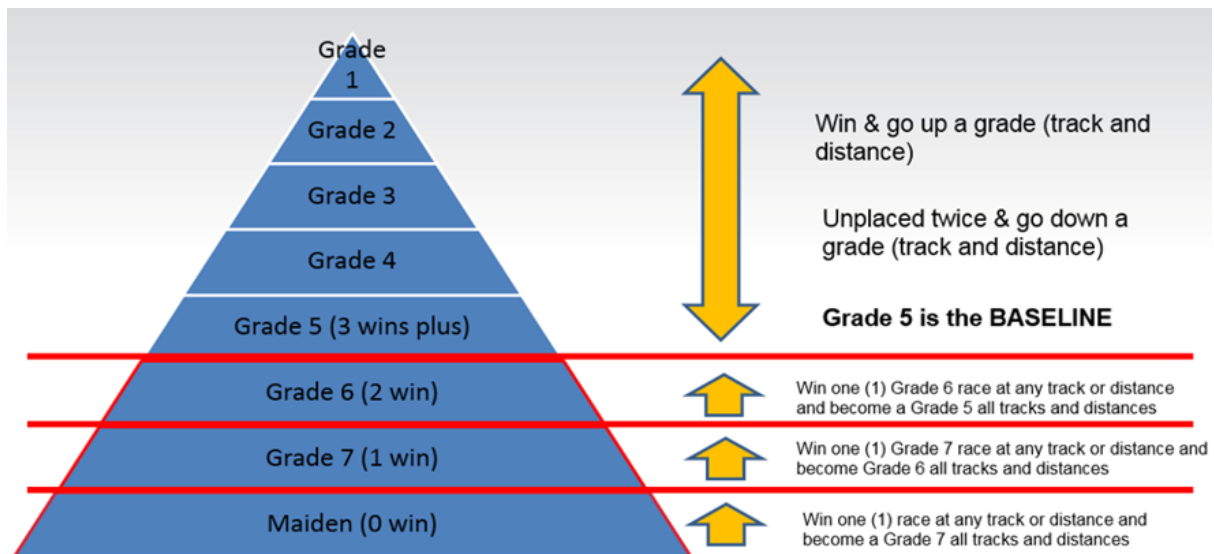
Advancing Grades

Greyhounds commence their racing career as a Maiden greyhound and progress through the grades.

1. A Maiden greyhound that wins an Event advances to Grade 7 at all tracks and distances.
2. A Grade 7 greyhound that wins an Event advances to Grade 6 at all tracks and distances.
3. A Grade 6 greyhound that wins an Event advances to Grade 5 at all tracks and distances.
4. Once Grade 5 (all tracks and distances), a greyhound will only advance one (1) grade each time it wins, but only at the specific track and distance it won at.
5. If a Grade 5 or higher-grade Event is restricted to greyhounds with a ranking of 200 or more, or the Event is at Level 3 Stakes prize money, the Event will be non-penalty and the winner will not advance in grade.
6. If an Event is conducted by way of heat, semi-final and/or final, a greyhound will advance by one grade for each win.
7. When a greyhound is a Grade 4 or higher for a track and distance and is unplaced two times without a win at that track and distance, the greyhound will drop one grade for that track and distance.
8. If a greyhound is adjudged to have dead-heated for first place, the greyhound will be deemed to have won the Event.
9. Where a Grade 6 greyhound is drawn into two Grade 6 Events (or equivalent) and



subsequently wins both Events, the greyhound will be reverted to Grade 5 at that track and distance.



Up-grading

- For the purposes of up-grading high-class greyhounds at Provincial tracks, greyhounds that satisfy all 3 of the following criteria will be up-graded to Grade 4 at all Victorian Provincial venues:
 - greyhounds who have won 10 or more Full Stakes Events, and
 - greyhounds who have won 4 or more City Class Events, and
 - greyhounds who have won \$35,000 or more in prize money.
- Greyhounds that fulfil two of the three criteria and have placed in Group 1 and Group 2 finals will be upgraded to Grade 4 at all Victorian Provincial tracks.
- Notwithstanding the above, the GRV has the discretion to up-grade any greyhound based on the meeting and nominations received.

Group race winners

Greyhounds that have won:

- A Group 1 Event will be upgraded to Grade 3 at all Victorian Provincial tracks.
- A Group 2 Event will be upgraded to Grade 4 at all Victorian Provincial tracks.

Down-grading

- Trainers of greyhounds that are Grade 4 or above may apply for a down-grade to Grade 5, at up to 4 tracks, if one or more of the following occurs:
 - the form of the greyhound is poor enough to warrant returning to Grade 5, or
 - the greyhound is a Veteran greyhound, or
 - the greyhound has not broken the Tier 3 Time Standard in its previous 4 starts.



2. Trainers of up-graded Group winning greyhounds may apply for a down-grade once 180 days has elapsed since the greyhound's most recent Group win.

Tier 3

1. Is a Level 3 restricted meeting aimed at providing greater opportunities for lower class Grade 5, Grade 6, Grade 7 and Maiden greyhounds.
2. Eligibility for Grade 5, Grade 6 & Grade 7 Tier 3 Events is restricted to greyhounds:
 - a. with a ranking of 250 or higher, and
 - b. that have not recorded an official time faster than the Time Standard in accordance with the Time Standard Eligibility Table, and
 - c. have competed in Victoria or at Goulburn, Mt. Gambier, Temora or Wagga in all their past four starts.
3. Greyhounds who commence their career at a track with a Tier 3 Time Standard must have had a minimum of two starts to be eligible for Tier 3 Maiden Events.
4. Greyhounds who commence their career at a track without a Tier 3 Time Standard must have had a minimum of four starts to be eligible for Tier 3 Maiden Events.

Time Standard

The official time recorded by the greyhound determines how many runs outside the Time Standard is required before a greyhound becomes Tier 3 eligible again, provided they meet the ranking criteria. An alpha result will count towards a run outside the Time Standard.

Seconds faster than Time Standard (Official time)	Number of runs slower than Time Standard required
0.001 < 0.100	1 run
0.101 < 0.200	2 runs
0.201 < 0.300	3 runs
0.301 +	4 runs



Victorian Tier 3 Time Standards Table

Track	Dist.	Time	Track	Dist.	Time
Ballarat (BAL)	390	22.5	Sale (SLE)	435	24.8
	450	25.8		510	29.2
	545	31.5		640	37.2
	660	38.7			
Bendigo (BEN)	425	24.3	Sandown Park (SAN & SAP)	515	29.9
	500	28.6		595	34.73
	660	38.75		715	42.6
Cranbourne (CRN)	330	TBC	Shepparton (SHP)	390	22.5
	420	TBC		450	25.8
	470	TBC		650	38.2
	655	TBC			
Geelong (GEL)	400	22.9	The Meadows (MEA & MEP)	525	30.55
	460	26.2		600	35
	520	30.5		730	43.3
	596	34.9			
	680	39.7			
Healesville (HVL)	300	16.9	Traralgon (TRA)	350m	20.3
	350	19.5		425m	24.4
				570m	33.2
Horsham (HOR)	410	23.8	Warragul (WGL)	400	23.1
	485	27.75		460	26.35
				680	39.96
			Warrnambool (WBL)	390	22.5
				450	25.8
				650	38.11

Time standards for Goulburn, Mt. Gambier, Temora or Wagga can be found in the *Interstate Grades and Times Document*.



Alpha results

A greyhound is awarded a placing value (1st to 8th) in a race except when the following alpha results apply:

B - Dog Stays or Turns in Boxes: When Stewards determine that a greyhound stayed or turned in boxes, runs last and takes no competitive part in the race. If the greyhound beats another runner home, it will be awarded that numerical placing, irrespective of other factors.

F - Dog Falls in the Race: When a greyhound falls because of a racing incident and fails to finish the race or is more than 16 lengths off the second last dog after falling in the run. Greyhounds that fall as they pass the winning post will be awarded the placing value. If the fallen greyhound beats home another runner home that has not fallen, it will be awarded that numerical placing, irrespective of having fallen.

T - Dog Tails off in the Race: When a greyhound finishes 16 lengths or more behind the second last runner.

P – Pulled Up in the Race: Where a greyhound remains upright but fails to finish the race for any other reason than a fall.

Ranking points

- Ranking points are allocated to a greyhound for each numerical place value (1st to 8th) result. The value of the points allocated is detailed in the Weighted Points Score Table, with versions developed for both Victorian and Interstate/New Zealand tracks.
- The Weighted Points Score Table details the points allocated for a numerical place value based on the Track Category and Race Type/Event Grades.
- For Hybrid Race Meetings, points are allocated in accordance with the classification level at which the race is conducted.
- Weighting is given to results achieved at a higher Track Category and higher Race Type/Event Grade in the form of low point values, while high point values are given to the lowest Track Category and lowest Race Type/Event Grade.
- Due to the variety of Race Type/Event Grades across the different Track Categories, the Weighted Points Score Table has ten (10) different levels of points.

Victorian Meeting Type and Category Table

Meeting Type	Track Category
Metropolitan	1
Provincial Full Stakes	2
Level 3 Stakes, Rank Limit, Tier 3, Bottom-Up	3



Victorian Weighted Points Score Table

Level & Weight	Track Categ.	Grade of Event	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Level 1	1, 2, 3	GRP1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Level 2	1, 2, 3	GRP2, GRP3, GL,	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32
Level 3	1	1, 2, 3, 4, FFA, HCP, S, SF, SH, SSF, X12, X23, X34, X45F, X45, X45H	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
Level 4	1	5, 5H, 5F, VET, RWF	25	50	75	100	125	150	175	175
	2	n/a								
	3	n/a								
Level 5	1	n/a	40	80	120	160	200	240	280	280
	2	1, 2, 3, 4, S, SH, SSF, SF, FFA, HCP, RWF, X12, X23, X34, X45, X45H, X45F 5F								
	3	n/a								
Level 6	1	NF, RW, RWH, 6, 6H, 6F, 7, 7H, 7F, X67, X67H, X67F	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	350
	2	5, 5H, NF, VET,								
	3	1, 2, 3, 4, S, SH, SSF, SF, FFA, HCP, RWF, X12, X23, X34, X45F								
Level 7	1	MSF, MF, N, NH	60	120	180	240	300	350	350	350
	2	RW, RWH, 6, 6H, 6F, 7, 7H, 7F, X67, X67H, X67F, 5NP, 5NPH								
	3	5, 5H, 5F, NF, X45, X45H, VET								
Level 8	1	n/a	70	140	210	280	350	350	350	350
	2	MF, MSF, N, NH								
	3	RW, RWH, 6, 6H, 6F, 7, 7H, 7F, X67, X67H, X67F								
Level 9	1	n/a	80	160	240	320	400	400	400	400
	2	M, MH								
	3	5NP, 5NPH, MF, N, NH, T3-5, T3-6, T3-7, T3-RW, MSF, B-5, B-6, B-7, B-RW, RL-5, RL-6, RL-7, RL-RW								
Level 10	1	n/a	100	200	300	400	500	500	500	500
	2	n/a								
	3	M, MH, T3-M, B-M, RL-M								

Points for Interstate and/or New Zealand tracks, can be found in the *Interstate Grades and Times Document*.



Ranking calculation

- Rankings are used to differentiate between greyhounds during the grading process and are calculated from a greyhound's recent race form. Individual rankings based on performance range from 101 to 600. Debutants are allocated a ranking of 1000 until they commence their racing career.
- After being awarded a place value (1st to 8th) for an Event, a greyhound is allocated the relevant points from the Weighted Points Score Table, based on finishing position, Track Category, and Race Type/Grade, resulting in their current ranking being re-calculated and updated.
- To ensure a ranking reflects a greyhound's most recent performance/results, the points from no more than the best six (6) out of the last eight (8) starts are added together, with the two (2) worst results ignored. The average of the best starts is then calculated, with 100 base points added.
- To preserve fairness for inexperienced greyhounds, a proportionate scale is used for greyhounds with less than eight (8) starts as per the table below.

Total Race Starts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
Less Starts to Ignore	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2
Starts Used	1	2	3	3	4	5	5	6

Example – calculating a greyhound's ranking with four (4) starts.

As per the table above, the worst result can be ignored when calculating rank.

Start Number	Race Type / Event Grade	Track Category	Level	Place	Points Allocated
1	MH	2	9	4th	320
2	MF	2	8	2nd	140
3	M	2	9	1st	80
4	Grade 7	2	7	7th	350

540

← ignore

- To find the average, divide the total by the number of starts: $540 \div 3 = 180$
- Add 100 base points to find the calculated ranking for this greyhound: $180 + 100 = 280$ ranking.



Order of Entry

- Greyhounds that satisfy an order of entry requirement at a specific race meeting will be afforded an Order of Entry right. Remaining greyhounds will be ordered in ascending order (lowest to highest) by their individual Ranking.
- If two (2) or more greyhounds have the same Order of Entry right and individual Ranking, the greyhound with the highest Total Aged Prize money will be ordered above the other. If greyhounds cannot be split on Aged Prize money a random ballot will apply.
- The Standard Order of Entry applies to all Victorian Events except Special Events, Maiden Events, as well as Bottom-Up and Tier 3 Meetings.
- Preferential selection criteria are listed at the beginning of each Order of Entry type, in order of priority.

Standard

1. Recent Last start winner at the track and distance at the same meeting level.
2. Recent Last start placegetter at the track and distance at the same meeting level.
3. Last start winner at the same or higher meeting level.
4. Last start placegetter at the same or higher meeting level.
5. Recent last start reserve greyhound that did not obtain a start at a previously finalised meeting, at the same meeting level.
6. Greyhound competed in a Level 3 Event at its last start and broke the Tier 3 Time Standard (excludes Level 1 - Metropolitan meetings).
7. Remainder of nominations ordered by individual Ranking in ascending order.

Special Events

1. Greyhounds that are a Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3 at that track and distance with greyhounds ordered by individual Ranking in ascending order.
2. Remainder of nominations ordered by individual Ranking in ascending order.

Maiden Events

1. Last start placegetter at that track and distance.
2. Last start placegetter at any track and distance.
3. Debutant.
4. Recent last start reserve greyhound that did not obtain a start (meeting must have been finalised), at the same meeting level, track and distance.
5. Greyhounds with one (1) start only.
6. Greyhounds with two (2) starts only.
7. Greyhound competed in Tier 3 Event at last start and broke the Tier 3 Time Standard.
8. Remainder of nominations ordered by individual rank in ascending order.

NOTE: Greyhounds with an Alpha result at their first start will be awarded a OoE #5 at the time of grading.



Tier 3

1. Last start winners and placegetters at their most recent last start (regardless of track and distance).
2. Last start reserve greyhound that did not obtain a start at a previously finalised meeting.
3. Greyhounds who have had 4 or more unsuccessful nominations since their last start.
4. Greyhounds who have had 3 unsuccessful nominations since their last start.
5. Greyhounds who have had 2 unsuccessful nominations since their last start.
6. Greyhounds who have had 1 unsuccessful nomination since their last start.
7. The remaining greyhounds will be drawn into the meeting randomly.

Bottom-Up Graded Meetings

Order of Entry Rights do not apply for Events in Bottom-Up Meetings.

- A greyhound must have had a minimum of two placed runs to establish a ranking to be considered.
- Greyhounds will be ordered by their individual Ranking in descending order (highest to lowest). If two or more greyhounds have the same individual Ranking, the greyhound with the lowest Total Aged Prize money will be included in the field.
- To ensure the highest ranked greyhound obtains a start, no reserves will be selected.

Aged prize money calculation

- If two or more greyhounds have the same Order of Entry or individual ranking, Total Aged Prize money will be used as the secondary method to split the greyhounds.
- Total Aged Prize money for a greyhound is determined by calculating the percentage of prize money earned for each past Time Period as per the table below and adding the values together.

Past Time Period	0 - 30 days	31 - 60 days	61 - 120 days	121 - 180 days	181 - 360 days	361 - 540 days	541+ days
% of Prize money included	100%	80%	60%	40%	20%	2%	1%

Composition of fields

Fields for all Victorian greyhound Events will be composed using one of three following methods, unless the Event has special conditions which override the below methods.

- **Banded** - applies to all standard Events and single stage Advertised Events (except Maiden Events)
- **Seeded/Guarded** – applies to all heats
- **Random/Guarded** – applies to all Maiden Events



Guarding

This is the principle of greyhounds with the same connections not competing against each other. This means in practice greyhounds owned and/or trained by the same participant (excluding individuals in syndicates) are placed into separate Events without compromising the grading of any Event.

Banded

This method allocates greyhounds into races so that within the grade, greyhounds of a similar ranking race against each other.

- a) When multiple races are conducted for the same grade and distance, greyhounds are ordered by their ranking and allocated to the available races in rank order.
- b) Reserve greyhounds are allocated to races based on their ranking.
- c) After allocation, the races are reviewed to identify any greyhounds that could be considered for Guarding, which will only be considered if:
 - a. an owner and/or trainer has three or more greyhounds engaged in an Event, and
 - b. two or more Events are being conducted over the same distance and grade.
- d) Guarding will only be applied if re-allocating greyhounds will not compromise the grading of an Event, and the other greyhound is within ten ranking points and deemed both suitable and not disadvantaged.

Seeded/guarded

- This method orders greyhounds by their individual Ranking and then allocates them into races so that greyhounds of a similar ranking are evenly distributed among the available races.
- The top 25% of greyhounds as determined by ranking are seeded and distributed among the heats being conducted – essentially the top two greyhounds in each heat are seeded.
- After greyhounds have been allocated, review the races are reviewed to identify any greyhounds that could be considered for Guarding, including reserves. If identified, the need for Guarding for any single greyhound will be minimised by re-allocating greyhounds between the available races, while ensuring seeding is maintained.

Random/guarded

Greyhounds are randomly allocated when more two or more Events over the same grade and distance are conducted, whilst ensuring Guarding is applied.

Finals & reserve allocation

- Semi-final and final fields are compiled in accordance with their finishing order (placing) so there is an even distribution of greyhounds from each heat. Guarding does not apply. Remaining places are filled by the best time greyhounds that finished next in the placings in the heats.



- The number of semi-finals conducted are based on the total number of heats:
 - 5 heats or less = 2 semi-finals
 - 6 or 7 heats = 3 semi-finals
 - 8 or more heats = 4 semi-finals
- For all finals, reserve greyhounds will be allocated in order of qualifying (excluding multi-venue).

Same day engagements

- If a greyhound is drawn as a reserve in a final, Group Event, Special Event or single stage Advertised Event, it will be allowed to nominate and be drawn at another meeting on the same day if the scratching deadline for both meetings are the same time.
- A reserve greyhound already selected at a meeting cannot be accepted for another meeting on the same day that is yet to be graded.

Box draw

- Box draws will be conducted to the nearest 15-minute mark of the hour once a meeting has been graded. The box draw can be observed at the scheduled time in FastTrack.
- GRV may, from time to time, determine that a box draw for an Event will be drawn as a Preferential Box Draw.

Redraw

- If a greyhound:
 - has been omitted from a field and should have been drawn, and
 - the omission is reported by no later than 10am the next day (including Saturday for fields drawn on a Friday),the Racing Operations Manager, in conjunction with the Chief Steward (or representative), may order that the greyhound be included in the field and a drawn greyhound omitted.
- If so ordered, the original Box Draw will be voided, and a new Box Draw will be conducted by manual process, overseen by the Chief Steward (or representative).
- A Redraw will not be ordered if:
 - the greyhound is deemed ineligible for an Event following the Box Draw and withdrawn by order of the Stewards, or
 - the greyhound not included in the Event would only have obtained a reserve position, or
 - the greyhound not included in the Event is engaged in an alternative preference at the same meeting, or
 - an Owner or Trainer has been Guarded incorrectly, or
 - a 3-win greyhound has been incorrectly included into a Mixed 4/5 Event.



Handicap Events

- Only Clubs with GRV approved handicap starting boxes may advertise or conduct a Handicap Event.
- GRV may select greyhounds to compete in a handicap Event should nominations be received for three grades of greyhounds at the track and distance.
- Grades 5, 6 and 7 greyhounds will be selected by their current ranking and will start from the 10-metre mark, while the rest of the field starts from the mark that corresponds to their current grade at the track and distance.
 - Grade 1 – 6 metres
 - Grade 2 – 7 metres
 - Grade 3 – 8 metres
 - Grade 4 – 9 metres
 - Grades 5, 6 or 7 – 10 metres

Finalisation of scratchings

- For Morning and Day meetings, scratchings are finalised at 4pm the day prior to the meeting.
- For Twilight and Night meetings, scratchings are finalised at 8:30am the day of the meeting.
- For all standard Events with two reserve greyhounds, and only one is required to compete in the Event, selection will be made by random ballot (GAR 85.10).

Race programming

The scheduling of individual Events in any meeting generally follows the same pattern.

- Maidens and/or the lowest win/grade Events are conducted as early as possible.
- Higher grade races (subject to the number of starters) and features are conducted next, with remaining races completing the race meeting.
- A race program may be affected by 'Early Race' endorsed greyhounds, multiple advertised Events of the same grade or the size of any field.

Early race requests

- Early race requests will only be granted for those greyhounds already endorsed as an 'Early Race' greyhound by Stewards.
- Applications for Early Race endorsement can only be made to Stewards at a race meeting, in conjunction with the on-track veterinarian (OTV), following a veterinary inspection.
- 'Early Race' endorsed greyhounds will be placed in an Event no later than Race 6, except when the greyhound has qualified for a feature Event final.

NOTE: If multiple early race endorsed greyhounds have obtained a start, reserve or multiple reserve positions, those greyhounds may be omitted at the Grader's discretion if it will impact the race meeting schedule (GRV LR50.5).



Amendment summary

An updated version of these Guidelines were first published on Friday 4th February 2022.

1. 1st July 2022 – Update of Racing Rules, inclusion of Tier 3 times for Traralgon, modification to up-grade criteria.
2. 16th May 2024 – Update of Racing Rules, Common Terms, Preferential Box Draws, Tier 3 Times (Sale, Sandown, The Meadows), Seeded Guarded Selection criteria, Maiden Order of Entry, Early Race Requests & Points Table.
3. 4th December 2025 – Inclusion of Hybrid Meeting type and relevant changes to SAN/SAP & MEA/MEP grading, changes to Race Programming and Early Race requests, and changes to formatting to improve readability.
4. 5th March 2026 – Inclusion of Q1 Lakeside & Q2 Parklands into City Win Definition.
5. 5th August 2026 – Inclusion of Tier 3 time standards at Traralgon.





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