



Grading Policy

Grading Policy

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COMMENCEMENT DATE

This policy comes into effect on 01 July 2006.

PURPOSE

The Racing Act 2002 authorises the Greyhounds Queensland Limited (GQL) to make policies for the sound management of the greyhound racing industry. Section 81(r) of the Act requires GQL to make a policy on handicapping and the appropriate qualifications for handicappers.

“Handicapping” and “handicappers” are not common in greyhound racing. Generally, in greyhound racing “grading” and “graders” comprise a system similar to handicapping and that system is vital to the management of greyhound racing. Section 81(r) of the Act applies to a policy making requirement of GQL in relation to its grading policy.

Grading is a prescribed system that aims to:

- make racing competitive and interesting;
- classify racing greyhounds for programming/nomination purposes;
- clarify the process for the selection in a race.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that grading is, fair, consistent and transparent so that all parties can understand the rationale and process of grading. This should result in a system that industry participants and patrons understand, accept and support.

POLICY STATEMENT

GQL will devise and implement a system of grading that aims to make greyhound races in Queensland fair and competitive. The system will be based on sound greyhound racing principles, consistent and the decision making process will be transparent.

Graders’ qualifications

There are no formal qualifications for graders other than a sound knowledge and understanding of greyhound racing and the rules of greyhound racing.

GQL senior graders will closely supervise new members of the grading panel to ensure the grading service is of a high standard.

New grading panel members will work with and under the supervision of senior graders to learn the basic skills they need.

Once these graders have demonstrated their competence, undertaken an accreditation process and received approval from the Chief Grader, they may grade races without direct supervision.



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Grading system

The grading system generally imposes a penalty of a rise in grade on greyhounds that win penalty bearing races. Conversely greyhounds, unplaced for a prescribed number of starts, revert to a lower grade.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to all race clubs and greyhounds racing in races in Queensland.

This policy relates to the prescribed:

- Queensland Grading System
- Classification of tracks
- Selection Order Of Choice.

PROCEDURES

GQL and Graders

GQL and Graders will ensure that, in all respects, the provisions of the Grading System, Classification of Tracks and the Selection Order of Choice is applied appropriately.

Review

This policy may be reviewed at any time, but not more than after two years in operation.

GQL rules of greyhound racing

GQL rules of greyhound racing provide for the application of this policy.

ATTACHMENTS

Queensland Grading System.
Race Field Selection Policy
Selection Order of Choice.



QUEENSLAND GRADING SYSTEM

DEFINITIONS

Distance event – means an event raced over a distance of more than 590m.

Eligibility to be nominated – A greyhound cannot be **nominated** for an event before it attains the age of sixteen (16) months.

Graded event – means an event restricted to greyhounds of a specified grade and for which the winner will be penalised under the Grading scale.

Novice – means a greyhound, as at the date of the proposed meeting, which has **not won**, other than a maiden, maiden heat and final or maiden heat, semi-final and final.

Maiden – (1) in relation to a flat race means a greyhound that has not won, or been awarded first place in a flat race.

(2) in relation to a hurdle race means a greyhound that has not won, or been awarded first place in a hurdle race.

Non-penalty event – means any event, conducted in **Queensland only**, declared by the Authority to be a non- penalty event.

For example: Usually an event for which eligible starters are restricted by a particular age limit i.e. Futurity, Derby, Young Guns etc.

Penalty bearing event – means any event not declared by the Authority to be a non-penalty event.

For example: Usually a graded event.

Sprint event – means an event raced over a distance of not more than 590m.

TRACK CLASS

The classification of a track shall be as prescribed by the Authority.

As of 1st July 2006, tracks are classified as:

- **Class 1 (City class)**

- Brisbane – Monday (selected dates)
- Brisbane – Thursday



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- Interstate – all metropolitan city excepting Darwin and Canberra.

- **Class 2**

- Brisbane – Monday (selected dates)
- Brisbane - Wednesday
- Ipswich – Tuesday
- Interstate – as prescribed

- **Class 3**

- Brisbane – Tuesday
- Ipswich – Wednesday
- Brisbane – Friday (Non penalty)
- Interstate – as prescribed

- **Class 4**

- Bundaberg
- Cairns
- Mackay
- Rockhampton
- Townsville
- Interstate – as prescribed

- **Class 5**

- Capalaba
- Interstate – straight tracks



Grading Policy

• Interstate Tracks

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|---|---------------|------|---|---------------------|------|---|
| ALBURY | ALBY | 4 | HEALESVILLE | HEAL | 5 | SALE | SALE | 2 |
| ANGLE PARK | A/PK | 1 | HOBART | HOBT | 1 | SANDOWN | S/PK | 1 |
| ANGLE PARK(WED) | APK2 | 2 | HORSHAM | HORS | 2 | SANDOWN (WED) | SPK2 | 2 |
| APPIN | APPN | 5 | KEMPSEY | KEMP | 4 | SHEPPARTON | SHEP | 2 |
| ARMIDALE | ARMD | 4 | KULPARA | KULP | 4 | SINGLETON | SING | 2 |
| | | | | | | STRATHALBYN | STRA | 4 |
| BALLARAT | BALL | 2 | LAUNCESTON | LAUN | 2 | TAMWORTH | TAMW | 4 |
| BARMERA | BARM | 4 | LISMORE | LISM | 2 | TAREE | TARE | 4 |
| BATHURST | BATH | 4 | LITHGOW | LITH | 4 | TEMORA | TEMA | 4 |
| BENDIGO | BEND | 2 | MAITLAND | MAIT | 2 | TRARALGON | TRAR | 2 |
| BROKEN HILL | BKH | 4 | MANDURAH | MAND | 2 | TWEED HEADS | TWHD | 4 |
| BULLI | BULI | 2 | MEADOWS | MEAD | 1 | | | |
| CANBERRA | CANB | 2 | MEADOWS (WED) | MEA2 | 2 | WAGGA | WAGA | 4 |
| CANNINGTON | CANN | 1 | MOREE | MORE | 4 | WANGARATTA | WANG | 2 |
| CASINO | CASO | 2 | MOSSVALE | MSVL | 4 | WARRAGUL | WRGL | 2 |
| CESSNOCK | CESS | 2 | MT GAMBIER | MT/G | 4 | WARRNAMBOOL | WNBL | 2 |
| COONABARABRAN | CBRN | 4 | MUDGEE | MUDG | 4 | WAUCHOPE | WAUH | 4 |
| COONAMBLE | CBLE | 4 | MUSWELLBROOK | MUSW | 4 | WENTWORTH PARK W/PK | | 1 |
| COWRA | CWRA | 4 | | | | WENTWORK PARK | | |
| CRANBOURNE | CRAN | 2 | NORTHAM | NORT | 3 | (GOSFORD) | WPK2 | 2 |
| | | | NOWRA | NOWR | 2 | WHYALLA | WHYA | 4 |
| DAPTO | DAPT | 2 | | | | WYONG | WYNG | 5 |
| DARWIN | DARW | 2 | ORANGE | ORAN | 4 | | | |
| DEVONPORT | DPRT | 2 | | | | YOUNG | YOUG | 4 |
| DUBBO | DUBO | 4 | PORT AUGUSTA | PT/A | 4 | | | |
| | | | PORT LINCOLN | PT/L | 4 | | | |
| FORBES | FORB | 4 | PORT PIRIE | PT/P | 4 | | | |
| | | | POTTS PARK | P/PK | 3 | | | |
| GARDENS | GDRN | 2 | | | | | | |
| GAWLER | GAWL | 2 | RICHMOND | RICH | 2 | | | |
| GEELONG | GEEL | 2 | ROBINVALE | RBVL | 4 | | | |
| GOSFORD | GOSF | 2 | | | | | | |
| GOULBURN | GOUL | 4 | | | | | | |
| GRAFTON | GRAF | 4 | | | | | | |
| GUNNEDAH | GUNN | 4 | | | | | | |

International Tracks

- All Class 2

GRADE OF GREYHOUND

The classification of the scale of grading of a greyhound shall be as prescribed by the Authority.

As of 1st July 2006, the scale of Grade within Class and Distance is:

- Maiden
- 5th Grade
- 4th Grade
- 3rd Grade
- 2nd Grade
- 1st Grade

GRADING PENALTIES

Subject to any prescribed Grading Concessions, and “Grading – Class 4 and 5 Tracks Only”, a greyhound shall be penalised one Grade for each win in a penalty bearing event including a “walkover”:

- (a) for the Class and Distance of the track; and
- (b) for the Class and Distance of any track of a lower Class, providing the penalty, at such track, does not result in the Grade becoming higher than 3rd Grade.

For example: Providing the event is a penalty bearing race, a win at a Class 4 track cannot affect the Grade of a greyhound at a Class 2 & 3 track. However, a win at a Class 2 track will affect the Grade of a greyhound at a Class 3 & 4 track.

DEAD HEAT

Where two or more greyhounds Dead Heat for first place, all shall be deemed to have been placed first and shall be penalised in the same manner as any other winner in accordance with the Queensland Grading System.

WALKOVER

A greyhound deemed the winner of a Walkover, shall be penalised in the same manner as any other winner in accordance with the Queensland Grading System.

DISQUALIFICATION – AFTER “ALL CLEAR”

Any Grading penalty applied to a greyhound following a win shall be retained, notwithstanding that, after the “All Clear” signal had been given, the greyhound is disqualified from the event.

GRADING – CLASS 5 TRACKS ONLY (I.E. CAPALABA)

A greyhound not having established a Grade for a Class 5 track shall be allotted a Grade for penalty bearing wins on other than Class 5 tracks in accordance with the following scale:

- One -five ---to be graded 5th Grade.
- Six – ten ---to be graded 4th Grade.



Eleven or more ---to be graded 3rd Grade.

A greyhound, having established a Grade for a Class 5 track, shall not, thereafter, be penalised for a win on any other Class track.

GRADING CONCESSIONS

Subject to a greyhound being penalised for a win in an event at a higher Class track:

- a greyhound shall be permitted to win, within a Class and Distance, **two** 5th Grade penalty bearing events at Class 1, 2 & 3 tracks.
- a Maiden greyhound, or a greyhound having won only a Maiden event, and Novice event, shall be permitted to win, within a Class and Distance, **two** 5th Grade and **two** 4th Grade penalty bearing events at Class 4 and Class 5 tracks.

After dropping a Grade a greyhound shall not be eligible for the benefits of the above Grading Concessions and shall be penalised one Grade, within a class and Distance, for each win in a penalty bearing event.

A greyhound winning a heat and/ or a semi final and/or final of a penalty bearing Event will be penalised one Grade only.

MAIDEN WIN

A greyhound winning an event for the first time, whether it is a Maiden event or a non-penalty event, other than a Qualifying Trial, shall be deemed to have won a Maiden for every Class and Distance.

NOVICE

An eligible greyhound shall be permitted to win **one Novice only** at any class of track.

TRANSITION RULE – GRADING OF DISTANCE EVENTS

1. For grading purposes a greyhound's grade on a Class 1 track in sprint events 520/600m as at 1st July 2006 will retain this grade, providing the greyhound's grade in a distance event of 601m or more is not higher than its sprint grade at the same date.

Eg: A greyhound's grade on a Class 1 track in sprint events 520/600m as at 1st July 2006 is 4th grade and in a distance event at the same date is 3rd grade, the greyhound will be graded as a 3rd grade when nominating for 600/710m events as of 1st July 2006.

2. A greyhound's current grade in Distance Events on Class 2, 3 & 4 tracks may be affected by its Class 1 Sprint grade in accordance with "Grading Penalties" as at 1st July 2006.



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Should a greyhound's grade in Distance Events on a Class 2, 3 & 4 tracks be higher than its Class 1 Sprint grade as at 1st July 2006, it shall retain this grade.

Eg: A greyhound's grade in Class 1 Sprint Events 520/600m as at 1st July 2006 is 3rd grade and in a Class 2 Distance Event is 5th grade as at 1st July 2006, the greyhound will be a 3rd grade when nominated for a Class 2 Distance Event as of 1st July 2006.

PRE-GRADED

Other than in events for maidens and novices, or in which maidens are included, a greyhound pre-graded into two or more events, shall be eligible to compete in all of the events and if winning more than one of the events will be penalised one grade.

DROPPING A GRADE

Following three consecutive unplaced performances within a Class and Distance, the Grade of a greyhound shall be lowered by one Grade only, within the Class and Distance.

Greyhounds that have been pre-graded into two (2) races of a similar Grade within a Class and have their third unplaced performance at the first of the pre-graded races and then win at the second of the pre-graded races will be elevated to the next grade. Greyhounds running a place will remain in the same grade.

A greyhound, having its Grade lowered to 5th Grade shall, after one win in 5th Grade be penalised one Grade.

ABSENCE FROM RACING

On returning to racing, the Grade of a greyhound, **not having started for six months or longer, as at the date of the proposed meeting**, shall be lowered by one Grade at only the Class of track at which the greyhound is nominated for its return.

A greyhound, not having started for **more than twelve months**, as at the date of the proposed meeting, **must perform a satisfactory trial over a similar distance** of the race for which the greyhound will be starting for the first time on its return to racing.

RACE FIELD SELECTION POLICY

DEFINITIONS

Best of event – means an event for which the selection of greyhounds shall be at the discretion of the Grader without regard to the Selection Order of Choice.



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Selection Order of Choice – means the order of choice prescribed by the Authority to be applied to the selection of greyhounds for an event.

Series – means a race conducted that consists of Qualifying Trials, Heats, Semi finals and Final etc., and where applicable a non-compulsory Consolation. The nomination of a greyhound for a Series does not include a Consolation. To be eligible for selection for a Consolation a greyhound must be nominated for the Consolation.

Event – means races consisting of graded races, maidens and heats and finals.

GENERAL

Maiden winning away from Series

A greyhound, competing in a series for, or which includes, maidens, which is conducted as a series, that, during the time the series is being conducted, wins an event other than as a part of the series, shall not be eligible to compete further in the series.

Eligibility – Brisbane – Class 1

To be eligible to nominate in a Sprint / Distance event at Brisbane – Class 1, a greyhound must have won an event at a Class 2, 3 or Class 4 track. (Excluding Class 1 maiden events).

Eligibility – Series / Event

To be eligible to contest a series/event a greyhound must be eligible to race at all of the tracks at which the greyhound may be required to race during the series/event at the time of the Box Draw of the first race of the series/event in which the selection of the greyhound is being considered.

COMPOSITION OF FIELDS

Best Of Events

A person intending to nominate a greyhound for a "Best Of" event must specify the name of the event when lodging the nomination.

For example: A trainer wishing to nominate a 5th or 4th Grade greyhound, must nominate for the name of the Best Of Event..

For a "Best Of" event the Selection Order of Choice will not apply – the greyhounds included for the event shall be at the discretion of the Grader.

Where a Best 8 is graded, any greyhound of 3rd or higher Grade may, at the discretion of the Grader, be included for the event.



For example: A “no Best 8” specification on a nomination is not acceptable.

Mixed Graded Events

In an event in which two Grades are combined, greyhounds of the higher of the Grades will be included first followed by the lower Grades regardless of form, but with regard to the Selection Order of Choice within the Grades.

Consolation Events

To be eligible for selection in a Consolation a greyhound must be nominated for the Consolation.

Greyhounds included in a Consolation shall be included in accordance with their placing in the Event that qualifies greyhounds for a final.

Same Owner / Trainer

If on a program there are two or more events of the same Grade and distance (including Qualifying Trials, Maiden and Novice events), if included for the events, solely owned or greyhounds trained by the same person shall be allotted to as many separate events as possible.

Heats and Final Selection Scale

Unless, in special circumstances, approved otherwise by the Authority and advertised as a condition of a Series/Event, the following shall apply when establishing which greyhounds from Qualifying Trials-Heats-Semi finals shall progress further in a Series.

| No of QTs-Heats-Semi finals | Field x 8 | Reserves x 2 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 2 | 1 – 2 – 3 - 4 | fastest 5 - 5 |
| 3 | 1 - 2 - fastest 3 - 3 | other 3 – fastest 4 |
| 4 | 1 - 2 | fastest 3 - 3 |
| 5 | 1 - fastest 2 – 2 - 2 | next fastest 2 – 2 |
| 6 | 1 - fastest 2 - 2 | next fastest 2 - 2 |
| 7 | 1 – fastest 2 | next fastest 2 – 2 |
| 8 | 1 | fastest 2 – 2 |
| 9 | fastest 1 | other 1 – fastest 2 |
| 10 | fastest 1 | other fastest 1 – 1 |

The principles of the scale shall apply if a greater number of Heats / Semifinals.

In the case of a Dead-Heat, thereby creating a situation where more than the permitted number of greyhounds is to be considered to progress further in a Series/Event, the greyhound to be selected shall be selected by lot from the greyhounds that comprised the Dead-Heat. The greyhound unsuccessful in the ballot shall be afforded a preference when being further assessed in accordance with the principles of the scale.



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For the purpose of this scale, “fastest” shall mean the actual time of a greyhound in the Event. Should it not be possible to establish the time for a greyhound in the Event, the progress of a greyhound in a Series/Event shall be at the discretion of the Grading Panel.

Should a circumstance arise in which the principle of this scale would not be appropriate, the progress of a greyhound in the Series/Event shall be at the discretion of the Grading Panel.

Reserve Rights

A greyhound listed as a reserve that does not gain a start, if nominated for an event of the same Grade and Distance for the next available meeting of the club (excepting Brisbane Thursday), shall be included in the original draw of the event provided a fresh nomination is provided.

A greyhound listed as a reserve that does gain, or would have been eligible to gain a start, that is withdrawn from the event for any reason whatsoever, shall forfeit any reserve rights.

Reserve rights do **NOT** apply when a greyhound is listed as a reserve in a semi final, final, Best Of Event or Brisbane Thursday meetings.

Correction of Selection Error

If a greyhound that should not have been included in the Box Draw is so included, it shall be withdrawn by order of the stewards.

If a greyhound that should have been included in the Box Draw is not included and the omission is discovered by not later than 9.00am the next business day, the Grader, Chairman of Stewards or General Manager after, if convenient, combined consultation, may order that the greyhound be included in the field and a drawn greyhound deleted from the field. If so ordered, the original Box Draw shall be cancelled and a new Box Draw conducted.

SELECTION ORDER OF CHOICE

NOTE: Other than as mentioned in (3) below, the Grader shall not give any consideration to a performance in a Qualifying Trial other than if the performance qualified a greyhound to compete further in a Series

MAIDEN EVENTS

All Classes

- (1) Greyhounds with Reserve Rights.
- (2) Last start place getter.
- (3) Greyhound having first race start. A greyhound having its first race start in a Qualifying Trial and failing to qualify, shall be deemed to be a first starter when next nominated.

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- (4) (a) Place getter 2 of last 3 starts.
- (b) Place getter 1 of last 3 starts.
- (5) Greyhounds not having had 3 starts.
- (6) Greyhounds not having had a start for 30 days.
- (7) Apply unplaced runners table on last 3 starts.
- (8) A greyhound drawn in a race as a first starter will not be eligible to be pre-graded unless there are insufficient nominations for that particular event.

NOTE: Preference will be given to placed performances on a circle track when selecting greyhounds for circle track races, and straight track placed performances when selecting greyhounds for straight track races.

CLASS 1

Graded Events

- (1) Greyhounds with Reserve Rights (excepting Brisbane Thursday).
- (2) Last start winners - Class 1 track (excepting maiden winners).
- (3) Last start place getter - Class 1 track.
- (4) Last start winners - Class 2 track (excepting maiden winners).
- (5) Last start winners – Class 3 track (excepting maiden winners).
- (6) Other winners/place getters last 3 starts in the following sequence:
 - (a) Winner 2 of last 3 - Class 1
 - (b) Winner 2 of last 3 - Class 2
 - (c) Winner 2 of last 3 – Class 3
 - (d) Place getter 2 of last 3 - Class 1
 - (e) Winner 1 of last 3 - Class 1
 - (f) Last start winner - Class 4 (excepting maiden winners).
 - (g) Place getter 2 of last 3 - Class 2
 - (h) Place getter 2 of last 3 – Class 3
 - (i) Place getter 1 of last 3 - Class 1
 - (j) Last start place getter - Class 2
 - (k) Last start place getter – Class 3
 - (l) Winner 1 of last 3 - Class 2 (excepting maiden winners)
 - (m) Winner 1 of last 3 – Class 3 (excepting maiden winners)
 - (n) Winner 2 of last 3 - Class 4
 - (o) Place getter 1 of last 3 - Class 2
 - (p) Place getter 1 of last 3 – Class 3
 - (q) Place getter 2 of last 3 - Class 4
 - (r) Winner 1 of last 3 - Class 4 (excepting maiden winners).
 - (s) Last start place getter - Class 4
 - (t) Place getter 1 of last 3 - Class 4
 - (u) Greyhounds dropping Class 1 Grade.
 - (v) Last start maiden winners.
- (7) Greyhound not having started for 30 days.
- (8) Apply unplaced runners table on last 3 starts.

Novice Events

- (1) Last start winners Class 1
- (2) Last start place getters Class 1
- (3) Last start winners Class 2
- (4) Last start winners Class 3
- (5) Last start winners Class 4
- (6) Other winners / placegetters last 3 starts
 - (a) Winner 2 of last 3 Class 1
 - (b) Placegetter 2 of last 3 Class 1
 - (c) Winner 1 of last 3 Class 1
 - (d) Winner 2 of last 3 Class 2
 - (e) Winner 2 of last 3 Class 3
 - (f) Winner 2 of last 3 Class 4
 - (g) Place getter 2 of last 3 Class 2
 - (h) Place getter 2 of last 3 Class 3
 - (i) Place getter 2 of last 3 Class 4
 - (j) Winner 1 of 3 last 3 Class 2
 - (k) Winner 1 of 3 last 3 Class 3
 - (l) Winner 1 of 3 last 3 Class 4
 - (m) Last start place getter Class 2
 - (n) Last start place getter Class 3
 - (o) Last start place getter Class 4
 - (p) Place getter 1 of last 3 Class 1
 - (q) Place getter 1 of last 3 Class 2
 - (r) Place getter 1 of last 3 Class 3
 - (s) Place getter 1 of last 3 Class 4
 - (t) Apply unplaced runners table on last 3 starts

NOTE: Straight track performances will **NOT** be considered when selecting races for Class 1 events.

CLASS 2, 3 & 4 –

Graded Events

- (1) Reserve greyhound having Reserve Rights.
- (2) Last start winners - Class 1
- (3) Last start winners - Class 2
- (4) Last start winners - Class 3
- (5) Last start winners - Class 4
- (6) Last start place getter - Class 1
- (7) Last start place getter - Class 2, 3 & 4
- (8) Greyhound dropping a grade at Class 2, 3 & 4 grades.
- (9) Last start winners - Class 5
- (10) Other winners/place getters last 3 starts in the following sequence:
 - (a) Winner 2 of last 3 - Class 1, 2, 3 & 4
 - (b) Winner 1 of last 3 - Class 1, 2, 3 & 4
 - (c) Place getter 2 of last 3 - Class 1, 2, 3 & 4



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- (d) Last start place getter Class 5
 - (e) Winner 2 of last 3 - Class 5
 - (f) Place getter 2 of last 3 - Class 5
 - (g) Winner 1 of last 3 Class 5
 - (h) Place getter 1 of last 3 - Class 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5
 - (i) Greyhound not having started for 30 days.
- (11) Apply unplaced runners table on last 3 starts (not including qualifying trials).

CLASS 5 – Straight Track.

Graded Events

- (1) Greyhound having Reserve Rights.
- (2) Last start winners - Class 5
- (3) Last start place getter - Class 5
- (4) Greyhound dropping Class 5 Grade.
- (5) Last start winner - Class 1, 2, 3 & 4
- (6) Last start place getter – Class 1, 2, 3 & 4.
- (7) Other winners/place getters last 3 starts in the following sequence:

- (a) Winner 2 of last 3 - Class 5
- (b) Winner 2 of last 3 - Class 1, 2, 3 & 4
- (c) Winner 1 of last 3 - Class 5
- (d) Winner 1 of last 3 - Class 1, 2, 3 & 4
- (e) Place getter 2 of last 3 - Class 5
- (f) Place getter 2 of last 3 - Class 1, 2, 3 & 4
- (g) Place getter 1 of last 3 - Class 5
- (h) Place getter 1 of last 3 - Class 1, 2, 3 & 4
- (i) Greyhounds not having started for 30 days.
- (j) Apply unplaced runners table on last 3 starts..

POWERS OF GRADER

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Selection Order of Choice, the Grader may exercise discretion in any matter relating to the inclusion of a greyhound in an event.