



Licencing Venues Policy

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LICENCING VENUES POLICY

DATE OF COMMENCEMENT

This policy takes effect on 24 November 2004

PURPOSE

The *Racing Act 2002* authorises Greyhounds Queensland Limited (GQL) to make policies for the sound management of the greyhound racing industry. Section 81(c) of the Act requires GQL to make a policy on its licensing of a venue.

The purpose of the licensing policy is to introduce a probative system for assessing the suitability of a place for the holding of a greyhound racing meeting i.e.:

1. the integrity of greyhound racing activities conducted in Queensland;
2. the safety of persons involved in racing and/or training licensed greyhounds;
3. the safety and comfort of patrons attending a greyhound racing meeting; and
4. the welfare of licensed greyhounds while they are involved in:
 - racing;
 - training;
 - activities associated with racing or training.

POLICY STATEMENT

It is GQL's policy that a place may be licensed as a venue, at which a greyhound racing meeting may be held by a licensed club, if the infrastructure is:

- suitable for the integrity of greyhound racing
- suitable for the efficient/effective conduct of a greyhound racing meeting
- suitable for the welfare of greyhounds competing at or attending the venue
- suitable for the safety and comfort of persons attending the venue.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to:

All clubs and Corporations

GQL

Registered owners/lessees of racing venues



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DEFINITIONS

This policy adopts the terminology used in the *Racing Act 2002*. Schedule 3 of the Act contains a dictionary of words used in the *Racing Act 2002* and may be accessed via the internet at www.legislation.qld.gov.au under the tab “R”.

PROCEDURES

Before issuing a licence for a venue GQL must be satisfied that requirements concerning policies, rules and legislation have been addressed and adequately complied with.

For example:

- *Local government local laws*
- *GQL rules and policies*
- *Workplace Health and safety Act 1995*
- *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994*

Professional advice

GQL may use the services of any appropriately qualified person/entity to assist GQL in its assessment of the suitability of a venue.

GQL will keep, and maintain to an appropriate standard, a register of licensed venues.

Audit program

GQL establishes a program for auditing every venue. The audit program is lodged with the Director General of Department of Public Works, Housing and Racing each year.

In establishing the program, GQL, noted the provisions of *Racing Act 2002*, regarding the audits of clubs relative to the number of race meetings allotted to the club, the number of races held at each meeting, and the number of greyhound in each race.

Program:

- Class 1 track – Annually
- Class 2 track – Annually
- Class 3 track – Annually
- Class 4 track – Biannually
- Class 5 track – Biannually

In addition, a GQL audit of a venue may be commenced as a result of:

- a random audit ; or



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- a written complaint provided by a third party to the GQL regarding a venue; or
- information gathered by a GQL officer which evidences that the management of a venue may not comply with a condition of a licence.

Serving notices

Having regard to all of the circumstances, GQL will ensure that a notice, in either the written or verbal form, required to be served on a licence holder regarding a licensed venue, is served so as to ensure expedience or to comply with any relevant GQL rule of greyhound racing.

Disciplinary Action against a licensed venue

A licence holder failing to comply with any condition of a licence, may be subject to disciplinary action.

GQL may become aware that a licence holder may have breached a condition of a licence in a number of ways, including but not limited to:

1. during the course of a race day:
 - on these occasions, GQL stewards conduct an inquiry and interview all persons involved in the incident. If a GQL steward becomes concerned that a licence holder may have breached a GQL rule, the steward must notify the licence holder of the rule that the licence holder is alleged to have breached. The licence holder must be afforded the right to respond to the allegation; or
2. during the course of an audit:
 - after undertaking preliminary investigations, a GQL officer becomes concerned that a licence holder has breached a condition of a licence.

Immediate Suspension of a Licence

GQL may immediately suspend any licence issued by it if:

- GQL officer forms the belief during the conduct of an audit of a licence that a venue is not suitable for all or any category of licence for which it is licensed.

Examples of reasons for immediate suspension of a licence include:

- allegations that the condition of a venue creates concern of the welfare of racing greyhounds and persons attending the venue;
- allegations of a licensed venue being used contrary to the *Racing Act 2002* or the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*;
- the financial capabilities of the managing club/corporation.

Should the GQL immediately suspend a licence, GQL must:

- immediately issue an information notice to the licence holder of the licence for the licensed venue whose licence has been suspended;
- provide to the licence holder a copy of the written report forming the basis of the decision to immediately suspend the licence;



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- provide the registered owner/lessee of the property on which the venue is situated with a copy of the written report forming the basis of the decision to immediately suspend the licence;
- within 14 days of the date of suspension, cause a formal inquiry to be commenced into the allegations giving rise to the decision to immediately suspend the licence and provide the licence holder with an opportunity to be heard and to call evidence in defence of the allegations.

Surrender of a Licence

A licence holder may at any time apply to GQL verbally, or in the prescribed form, seeking to surrender a licence of a venue.

GQL must consider the application within 14 days and provide an Information Notice to the licence holder.

An application to surrender a licence will not terminate any audit commenced by the GQL.

Licence Fees

GQL will, from time to time, establish for each category of licence an application fee payable upon application for a licence.

The fees will be published in the racing calendar (Journal) and on GQL website at: www.greyhoundsqueensland.com.au.

Review

This policy will be reviewed after two years of operation.

This policy was reviewed by GQL Board on 31 January 2007, with the policy to be reviewed within two years of this date or earlier as determined by GQL Board.

GQL rules of greyhound racing

GQL rules of greyhound racing are not made to provide for the application of this policy.

Authority and other information

This policy was issued by GQL on 24 November 2004 pursuant to the powers vested in GQL by the *Racing Act 2002*.