



28 August 2024

Rule change a step towards a vibrant future for the NSW greyhound racing industry

A move towards a strong, sustainable and vibrant future – that is the praise key industry stakeholders have bestowed on the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission’s rule change in relation to suspended participants.

Following consultation with the NSW Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers’ Association (NSW GBOTA) and Greyhound Clubs NSW (GCNSW), on 1 July the Commission introduced a local rule change which permits participants who are suspended to apply for an exemption that will allow them to continue some greyhound industry activities.

Given protecting both the welfare of greyhounds and the integrity of the sport remains as the fundamental pillar of the Commission’s operations, those activities will not extend to racing.

But as GWIC’s Chief Executive Officer Mr Steve Griffin points out, this rule change highlights the Commission is cognisant of the challenges facing participants and willing to adopt industry feedback to enhance regulation.

“This rule will reduce the burden on those who are suspended from racing by allowing them to apply for an exemption to continue activities such as breeding or working at a club,” Mr Griffin said.

“The Commission welcomes the exchange of ideas with industry stakeholders and sees it as a key step in guiding the sport in New South Wales to a more dynamic future.

“But let’s be clear, no exemption will be granted if it poses an unacceptable risk, and I stress our highest priority is to safeguard the welfare of greyhounds.”

NSW GBOTA Chief Executive Officer Daniel Weizman acknowledged the Commission’s “practical, workable and common-sense approach”.

He said it was evidence of what can be achieved when his organisation and GCNSW work collaboratively with the independent industry regulator.

“Make no mistake, it is about ensuring that the greyhound industry has a strong and vibrant future,” Mr Weizman said.

“This is about working together in partnership to find a sensible path forward, but also acknowledges the unique nature and complexities of the greyhound industry.

“While we welcome that a suspended participant – not disqualified ones – will be able to remain on their property, we also acknowledge that they will not be allowed to engage with racing dogs and will have to adhere to restrictions.”

GCNSW President Shayne Stiff echoed Mr Weizman’s thoughts about the cooperation which facilitated this change, and its positive impact on the sport.



“Greyhound Clubs NSW are thrilled to have worked with GWIC and the NSW GBOTA to see the introduction of a process that understands the varying levels of participation that exist in our industry,” he said.

“The implementation of this process will assist industry sustainability, which is imperative to all stakeholders, including clubs.”

Under Local Rule 178C(4) there are a number of effects of suspension which may be exempted, such as working for a greyhound trainer, being a committee member of a registered greyhound racing club, being involved in breeding and officiating at greyhound races.

This new local rule was one of four introduced on 1 July as the Commission continues its mission to improve the welfare of greyhounds and integrity of our great sport. You can find a copy of the NSW Greyhound Racing Rules here: <https://bit.ly/3ySi3CR>

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