



Protocol for track inspections and race abandonments

The purpose of this document is to provide clarity to greyhound racing participants and greyhound clubs on the steps officials will take to determine if a track is suitable to race on. In doing so, it sets out the respective roles of both GRNSW and GWIC officials; the timeframes for certain activities and assessments to occur; and escalation points where significant decisions must be made in relation to the abandonment of race meetings.








GRNSW is responsible for track preparation and ensuring their suitability to conduct greyhound racing.

GWIC is responsible for determining that tracks are safe to conduct greyhound racing.

It is important for GRNSW and GWIC officials to understand the areas of responsibility and support each other in the discharge of these responsibilities in service of the greyhound racing industry in NSW.



Prior to race day or prior to the routine track inspection by stewards (3 hours before start time of the first race)









-  24 hours prior to the commencement of all TAB race meetings, track curators provide GRNSW with the track profiles and penetrometer readings for publication on the website.
-  If any issues are identified from this time up to 3 hours before the scheduled start time for the first race, GRNSW's Chief Executive Officer will inform the senior steward in the region who in turn informs the officiating GWIC stewards.
-  A GWIC steward will attend the venue to conduct a track inspection at the earliest possible time, or appropriate time as determined in consultation with the senior steward of the region and GRNSW's Chief Executive Officer.
-  If, following this inspection, GWIC stewards form the view that the track is not suitable for racing and any remediation of the track surface will not assist to bring the track up to a safe standard, and this is agreed to by the club curator and GRNSW area supervisor, the following action must be taken:
 -  GWIC officiating stewards inform the senior steward in the region who in turn informs GWIC's Chief Operating Officer.
 -  The GRNSW area supervisor informs GRNSW's Chief Executive Officer.
 -  It is only after GWIC's Chief Operating Officer and GRNSW's Chief Executive Officer have consulted that a decision to abandon the meeting be made.




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Race day

-  A track inspection will be conducted by GWIC stewards in the company of the club curator 3 hours prior to the advertised starting time of the first race. This is done by walking the track and inspecting various aspects of the track (for example, boxes, lure cable etc.)
-  Penetrometer readings and track profiles will be taken at this time. GWIC officiating stewards will advise the senior steward of the region and GRNSW's Chief Executive Officer if any issues are identified that have the capacity to delay or cause the abandonment of the meeting.
-  If the club curator is of the view that the issues identified by GWIC stewards can be remedied in time for the meeting to proceed as scheduled, the club curator must be given the opportunity to undertake the remedial work.
-  GWIC stewards are not to provide advice to the club curator regarding the remedial works that should be undertaken to bring the track up to a suitable standard, but should clearly articulate their concerns and ensure the club curator has full understanding of the identified issues.
-  If the club curator believes that the remedial works required will cause the meeting to be delayed but is of the view that the meeting will then be able to proceed within a reasonable time, GWIC stewards must immediately contact the senior steward of the region and GRNSW's Chief Executive Officer.
-  GWIC stewards will continue to monitor the suitability of the track for racing in consultation with the club curator during the time the remedial works are undertaken.
-  If at any time GWIC stewards in consultation with the club curator form the view that the track is unsuitable for racing and do not believe that any remedial works will bring the track up to a suitable standard in a reasonable time, GWIC stewards must immediately inform the senior steward of the region and GRNSW's Chief Executive Officer
-  It is only after GWIC's Chief Operating Officer, GRNSW's Chief Executive Officer and the senior steward of the region have resolved that the meeting be abandoned that the decision is made.

Other race day processes

-  No less than 90 minutes prior to the scheduled time of the first race, GWIC stewards will confirm all relevant staff and officials are present such as veterinary surgeon, starter, lure operator, judge, swab official, and kennel supervisor.
If any issues are identified, GWIC stewards will notify the senior steward of the region, who will notify GWIC's Chief Operating Officer.







If an issue is identified during the course of a meeting

-  If an issue is identified during a meeting, GWIC stewards will advise the club curator in the first instance. GWIC stewards, in consultation with the club curator will assess the situation and determine the best course of action.
GWIC stewards will then advise the senior steward of the region and make a record if considered appropriate.



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General principles

-  At all times the club track curator and GRNSW area supervisor will be solely responsible for the remedy of any track related issues without the intervention of others.
-  Stewards will genuinely consider the club curator and GRNSW area supervisor's recommendation when accessing track conditions.
-  All penetrometer and profile readings to be taken by the club curator or GRNSW area supervisor prior to steward accessing track conditions.
-  Only GRNSW or club issued equipment to be utilised in accessing track conditions.
-  General maintenance functions such as track upgrades, harrowing, extra sand etc will be undertaken and overseen by the club curator and GRNSW area supervisor under the auspices of GRNSW.
-  Any third party (club officials, stewards, vets etc) to provide feedback or any complaints via email to GRNSW over track related issues.

