

CONSULTATION NOTICE

Code of Racing	Greyhound
Description	Review of Greyhound Grading Procedure
Date of Issue	June 24, 2026

Following the Racing Queensland (RQ) Grading and Programming Review, including the club visits and online surveys held in November and December last year, RQ has undertaken a detailed analysis of the feedback received from greyhound industry participants in relation to the Greyhound Grading Procedure. RQ also sought independent input from Greyhounds Australasia (GA) to assist with this process.

With the support of GA, RQ has worked to incorporate the key feedback trends arising out of this process into proposed updates to the Greyhound Grading Procedure. The large volume of feedback provided by industry participants across each of the club visits and online surveys proved valuable in determining the key issues for change.

Accordingly, several changes have been put forward to improve the operation of grading and greyhound progression opportunities. The key changes proposed are:

1. Implementation of time-based grading

Time-based grading is proposed to replace Pathways events, using updated benchmark times to classify greyhounds more accurately according to current performance. This initiative would enable RQ to program events based on recent performances to provide competitive opportunities for participants and their greyhounds.

Rationale: Time-based grading assesses a greyhound's recent finishing times - averaging the best three performances over the last six starts, and disregarding the slowest three - to assign a time rating. This would replace the form-based grading of Pathways, with participant feedback suggesting the current Pathways grading is less accurate for greyhounds with inconsistent results or form. Similar systems have been introduced in New South Wales and South Australia. The intent of time-based grading is to improve field competitiveness by matching greyhounds of similar ability and improving utilisation rates.

2. Grading Concessions: Reduction in the number of Grade 5 wins and increase the number of Grade 4 wins permitted in each distance category for Provincial and Straight Class

Participant feedback suggested that there are currently too many Grade 5 wins available for each distance category in Provincial and Straight class. The current number of wins permits a greyhound to win up to sixteen Grade 5 Provincial events across the four distance categories before racing in Grade 4 events. A proposed reduction from four to two wins in each category is intended to progress greyhounds through the grades more efficiently and improve competitiveness of Grade 5 racing. Under the changes proposed, Provincial wins in Grade 4 would be increased from one to two.

Rationale: This proposal is intended to address feedback about a "bottleneck" of Grade 5 greyhounds accumulating excessive wins, which can slow the progression of greyhounds and reduce overall field quality and competitiveness. By reducing these concessions, greyhounds would move up the grades faster once they demonstrate consistent ability, creating a more



dynamic “grading ladder”. This is intended to balance opportunity and help prevent dominance by a small number of greyhounds in lower tiers of racing.

3. More greyhounds progressing up in grade, racing for increased prize money

Implementing the proposed changes is expected to increase the number of greyhounds moving up in grade, thereby providing more opportunities to compete for higher levels of prize money while enabling competitive opportunities for genuine Grade 5 greyhounds.

Rationale: Faster progression through the grades is expected to result in more frequent, higher prize money races for more greyhounds, improving returns for owners and trainers while maintaining competitive balance in baseline grades. This change is intended to support greater participation across the racing population, reward consistent performance, and enhance the overall appeal of Queensland greyhound racing. It directly responds to participant calls for fairer opportunities and a more merit-based system, ultimately strengthening sustainability.

4. Time Standards updated across Queensland tracks and introduced at The Q

Time standards are proposed to be updated for Masters racing across Queensland and introduced at The Q.

Rationale: Updating the time standards would provide clear, track-specific benchmarks for eligibility in various events, ensuring greyhounds are appropriately classified based on current track conditions and performances. Introducing these at The Q would support consistency across the state and accurate grading.

5. Re-grade in accordance with the updated grading procedures

If the above proposed changes are implemented, greyhounds would need to be re-graded based on their performances throughout their racing career.

Rationale: This process would be necessary to ensure all greyhounds are assigned the appropriate grade based on the proposed changes.

Summary

The changes proposed to the Greyhound Grading Procedure are designed to support a more responsive grading framework that has been developed in response to extensive industry participant feedback received during the November and December 2025 consultation period.

Through the club visits and online surveys, participants clearly highlighted the need for a fairer, more responsive, and more efficient grading system that better reflects current grading performance, improves greyhound progression opportunities, and delivers greater access to competitive racing and prize money.

Through the implementation of time-based grading, tightening win concessions, updating time standards and facilitating faster grade progression, RQ is seeking to respond to the key concerns and suggestions raised by contributors during the feedback period.

RQ remains committed to listening to the feedback of greyhound industry participants. If adopted, RQ would continue to monitor the impact of the proposed changes, with further adjustments made where necessary based on ongoing feedback and analysis.

A copy of the proposed draft Greyhound Grading Procedure has been published on the RQ website and is available via the following link: [Proposed Draft Greyhound Grading Procedures 2026](#) .

Participants are invited to provide feedback by completing the online survey available here: [2026 Grading Procedures: Final Consultation Survey](#).



The consultation period will remain open until July 22, 2026. Following consideration of all feedback received, RQ will determine whether to proceed with the proposed changes and, if so, will advise participants of the implementation date and any transitional arrangements.

