

LICENSED VENUE STANDARDS – GREYHOUND



1. About these Standards

These Standards outline the minimum requirements applicable to greyhound licensed venues in Queensland. They are intended to ensure licensed venues provide safe, functional and suitable infrastructure for greyhound racing and, where applicable, training activities.

The Standards should be read together with *The Standard Required of Licensed Venues Policy* (the **Policy**).

Compliance with these Standards does not limit or replace any obligation of a club to comply with applicable laws, regulatory approvals, workplace health and safety requirements, building requirements, local government requirements or any other statutory obligations. Clubs are responsible for obtaining their own advice about those obligations.

RQ may impose additional requirements, approve alternative means of compliance or grant exemptions from these Standards, in whole or in part, having regard to the nature and frequency of racing or training activities conducted at the venue, the condition and configuration of the relevant asset, and any safety, welfare, integrity or operational risk. Any additional requirement, approved alternative means of compliance or exemption must be notified by RQ in writing and may be subject to conditions.

2. Definitions & Interpretation

In these Standards, unless the context otherwise requires, the terms in the table below have the meanings given to them in this section.

Term	Meaning
Animal Precinct	Designated enclosed areas within the licensed venue separated from general public access that have been prescribed for the training, racing, handling and welfare of greyhounds. Areas include but not limited to tracks, scales area, parade rings, and kennels.
Licensed Participants	Any individual or participant licensed by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission to care for, train, handle or perform duties associated with animals registered for racing.
Licensed Venue/s	The areas or venue set out in the licence, including all public facilities, racing facilities and training facilities in relation to which RQ has granted the relevant licence to stage, host or conduct racing and/or training activities.
Officials	Means any Stewards, Swabbing Attendant, Veterinarian, Lure Driver, Catching Pen Attendants, Judge/s, Photo Finish Operators taking part in the operation of the current race meeting or training activity.

3. Standards

3.1. Track Surface

Purpose: Tracks provide a uniform surface that enables safe and professional greyhound racing and training activities.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Surface evenness and consistency	All track surfaces must be even, and the physical properties of the surface (moisture, compaction and structural integrity) must be consistent for the entirety of the track.
Objects, debris and obstructions	Tracks must be smooth, and free of depression, major undulations, debris, stones, and rocks.
Drainage	Tracks must be freely draining and capable of use after moderate rain.
Sand tracks	
Weeds and vegetation	Sand Tracks must be free of weeds and vegetation.
Sand track profile	Sand Track profile is to be a minimum of 150mm deep consistently across the track.
Grass tracks	
Grass height	Grass Tracks are to be presented at a height of no longer than 75mm.

3.2. Irrigation Management

Purpose: Tracks must be able to have water delivered to ensure sand tracks maintain moisture and structural integrity throughout the race meeting.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Water application	The method of water application must be able to deliver water to the track surface in a consistent, uniform application with minimum disruption to track surface material.
Water trucks	Water trucks must be in a roadworthy condition.

3.3. Lure System

Purpose: The lure system is required to stimulate a greyhound's drive to chase, in a manner that avoids injury or harm to greyhounds or capture of the lure.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Lure materials	All lures must be soft, made of synthetic or artificial materials, and not contain any part of an animal.
Operation and guarding	All lure systems must be responsive to driver controls, able to move at high speed and slow on command and appropriately guarded to avoid injury to greyhounds.
Lure driver visibility	The lure driver must be able to operate the lure from a position that allows an unimpeded view of the entire circumference of the track.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Rails and guarding	
Rail condition	Rails must be consistent in height and alignment, and free from significant gaps, rust, dents or damage that would inhibit the lure carriage.
Safety rail	All tracks must have steel or plastic safety rails, rectangular or rolled in shape, positioned no more than 200mm above the lure rail or return cable. The safety rail must be continuous with no gaps, except at the photo finish mirror and expansion joints.
Moving parts and pinch points	Lure carriages, cable systems and motors must be covered or guarded to inhibit contact with moving parts and pinch points where possible.
Spare lure system components	If applicable to the lure system in place, a club must maintain a second or spare lure cable, lure carriage, hoop arms, remote controlled trolley, remote controlled trolley battery and cable.
Cable lure systems	
Cable type and position	Cable lure systems must operate using a fibre-cored steel cable, 6mm or 8mm diameter, with the cable installed above the running rail.
Cable lure rail height	Cable lure systems must have a rail height between 420mm and 450mm from the top of rail to the racing surface or concrete plinth.
Dual lure design	Cable driven carriage lures must use a dual lure design. This does not apply to drag lures or cable-less remote-controlled lures.
Drag lure cable	The cable of a drag lure, if applicable, must be anchored into the ground and tightened to run flat along the ground to prevent injuries.
Cable-less remote-controlled lures	
Stopper pads	Cable-less battery-operated remote-controlled lures on a straight track must have stopper pads fitted to the rail at the start and finish to stop the lure trolley.

3.4. Starting Boxes

Purpose: Starting boxes are required to enable a safe and simultaneous start for all greyhounds, while avoiding the risk of injury and interference.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Condition and flooring	Starting boxes must be free of rust, corrosion and sharp edges that could harm a greyhound, and must have rubber flooring to provide a consistent and safe surface.
Rear doors	Each box must have roller or latch type rear doors that are lubricated, fully functional and open easily.
Trip start and manual trigger	There must be a functioning trip start attached to the rail at each starting distance to trigger the opening of boxes, together with a functioning manual trigger.
Colours, numbers and lights	Boxes must be painted with clear colours with numbers displayed and fitted with operational flashing amber/red and green lights.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
<i>Synthetic grass in front of fixed starting boxes</i>	
Grass matting condition	The synthetic grass installed in front of all fixed starting boxes must be maintained so that the grass matting remains structurally sound.
Pile height	The synthetic grass must retain a consistent pile height of 40mm +/- 5%.
Top dressing	The synthetic grass must be top dressed with rubber crumb and sand to a depth that ensures 5mm of grass pile is visible.
Infill rubber	Infill rubber must be 12g rubber crumb in black or green.
Infill sand	Infill sand must be fine or medium washed, kiln dried or graded silica sand, not track sand.

3.5. Catching Pen

Purpose: Catching pens are required to contain greyhounds and minimise the risk of injury as greyhounds decelerate from racing speeds.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Dimensions and surface	The catching pen must be a minimum of 9m in length and equal to or wider than the width of the track, with a level surface free of depression, major undulations, debris, vegetation and rocks.
Fencing and gates	The catching pen must be fully fenced to a minimum height of 1.2m, with a non-return gate of at least 1.5m in height, and must contain no exposed sharp, jagged or damaged edges, corners or panels.
Padding coverage	The catching pen, including gates, must be fully padded in foam padding to a minimum height of 0.9m.
Padding material	Padding must be open-cell foam and enclosed within a vinyl or canvas cover with no rips or tears.
Padding thickness	The minimum allowable thickness of catching pen padding is 50mm. All replacement catching pen padding must be 75mm thick.

3.6. Track Fencing / Padding

Purpose: The outer track circumference must be fully fenced to assist greyhounds' line of sight and retain greyhounds within the track confines.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Outer track fencing	The outer track circumference must be fully fenced with rounded or flat-top fencing, with no sharp edges, exposed pins or joint protrusions.
<i>Fence height</i>	
Straights	On straights, track fencing must have a minimum height of 0.2m.
Other outside fence sections	Outside fences in other sections must be a minimum of 0.6m high.
Catching pen approach and exit	Fencing leading into or from the catching pen must have a maximum height of 1.8m.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Padding	
Padding locations	Padding must be applied to the outside track fencing at all bends and turns, and to any posts, boxes, shelters or poles that encroach on the track, or as determined by RQ.
Padding material and thickness	Fence padding must be open-cell foam, minimum 50mm thick, and enclosed within a vinyl or canvas cover with no rips or tears. Padding on all exposed solid posts must be a minimum of 75mm thick.
Padding height	Fence padding must be equal to or higher than the height of the fence.

3.7. Other Fencing

Purpose: Fencing is required to contain a loose animal within the facility, separate the public and patrons from the track and restricted areas, and prevent entry of unwanted animals including wildlife.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Animal precinct fencing	All animal precincts must be fenced to a minimum height of 1.2m.
Construction	Fences must be constructed with panels or mesh.
Posts	All posts must be capped.
Prohibited fencing types	Star pickets, barbed wire, Ringlock, knotted apron hinge joint, other wire fencing with large spacing, and electric fencing must not be used in animal precincts.

3.8. Animal Ambulance and Privacy Screens

Purpose: An animal ambulance is required for appropriate transport of injured greyhounds and the dignified and discreet removal of deceased animals.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Animal ambulance equipment	The vehicle should contain a stretcher, slings and a crate to limit movement during transportation.
Privacy screen	A privacy screen is required to block the public's view of injured greyhounds.

3.9. Kennel Area

Purpose: Kennels are required for the safe containment of greyhounds, ensuring they are secure, comfortable and protected from harm.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Restricted access	The kennel area must be completely fenced or enclosed with clear and direct signage indicating the area is restricted to licensed participants and officials only.
Kennel bays	The kennel area must consist of a minimum of ten air-conditioned kennel bays containing eight kennel boxes positioned on ground level.
Kennel bay separation	Each kennel bay must be separated from the others, lockable and viewable by licensees and authorities.
Lighting and CCTV	Each kennel bay must have lighting and be monitored by CCTV recording.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Kennel box dimensions	The minimum kennel box dimensions are 1m high, 0.8m wide and 1m long.
Kennel construction	Individual kennels must have solid sides, flooring and roofing with mesh doors.
Air conditioning	The air conditioning system must be able to achieve and maintain temperatures between 20 and 22 degrees Celsius throughout the kennel area.
Temperature monitoring	A thermometer must be present in the kennel bays to monitor kennel temperature.
Wash bays	A minimum of four wash bays are required with good drainage and hose fittings with potable water.
Smoke alarms	The kennel area must have smoke alarms installed.
Swab bay	The licensed facility must have a swab bay with sufficient kennels to sample the winner of every race.

3.10. Veterinary / Swabbing Facility

Purpose: The veterinary / swabbing facility is an area of restricted or limited access to ensure the integrity of the sampling process and enable the care of greyhounds.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Access and space	The veterinary / swabbing facility should be lockable and have adequate space for officials to perform their duties and a viewing area for at least one licensed participant.
Air conditioning	The veterinary / swabbing areas should be air conditioned to maintain temperatures between 20 and 22 degrees Celsius.
Room separation	The swabbing area must be separate from the veterinary and treatment room.
Fixtures and equipment	Each room must contain fluorescent or LED lighting, a sink with running potable water, hand wash soap dispenser, workbench, paper towels, approved sharps container, lined rubbish bins, and a lockable refrigerator and cupboards.
Additional equipment	The veterinary treatment room must also have an examination table for a veterinarian to carry out duties, a crate to house an additional greyhound, and access to a lockable box freezer, which may be located outside the veterinary room.

3.11. Scales Area

Purpose: The scales area is required for the review and weighing of greyhounds for welfare and integrity purposes.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Greyhound inspection ramp	The scales area must contain a greyhound inspection ramp. The ramp must have an incline not greater than 1 over 2 and a non-slip surface. The ramp tabletop must be a minimum of 1.2m x 0.6m and positioned with sufficient room to examine the greyhound from all sides.
Dog scales	The scales area must contain a set of dog scales calibrated within the last six-month period.
Tables and chairs	There must be tables and chairs to cater to stewards and officials.
Ventilation and air conditioning	Adequate ventilation is required. If the scales area is enclosed in a room, an air-conditioning system must be able to maintain room temperatures between 20 and 22 degrees Celsius.

3.12. Judges' Facilities and Equipment

Purpose: Judges' facilities and towers are required to provide an unimpeded view of racing for judges, photo finish operators, race callers and camera operators.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Elevation and view	The judges' facility must be at a minimum elevation of 6m from track to cabin area and provide a view of the entire circumference of the track and the finish post.
Enclosure and air conditioning	The judges' tower must be enclosed from the elements and be air conditioned.
Structure and capacity	The judges' tower must be structurally sound and able to accommodate all essential race day officials, including judges, photo finish operator, race caller and camera operators, being a minimum of four people, together with equipment.
Photo finish, power, monitors and communications	The judges' tower must have an unobstructed, surveyed and secured ledge or mount for the photo finish camera, a minimum of two GPO outlets, two digital monitors and communication, via phone or closed-channel two-way radio system, with the Chief Steward.
Camera operator and broadcast announcer area	The judges' tower must have a separate room or area for the camera operator and broadcast announcer.
Safe access and equipment lifting	Towers must allow safe access, including stairs and handrails. If heavy equipment is used in the tower and access is via ladder, a winch or system to lift or carry equipment is required.

3.13. Winning Post and Semaphore Board

Purpose: A dedicated winning post is required to mark the finish line and house the photo-finish mirror.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Winning post and photo finish mirror	A surveyed winning post positioned no less than 1m from the inside running rail is required to securely house an adjustable photo finish mirror.
Mirror condition	The mirror must be free of damage or de-silvering that would obstruct the photo-finish image.
Survey marks	Survey marks are required on the inside and outside of track to enable realignment of the photo-finish camera.
Semaphore board	An electronic semaphore board is required to display the race results to the patron area.

3.14. Stewards Room and Towers

Purpose: Stewards room and towers are required to allow stewards to perform their duties effectively.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Stewards rooms	
Size and furniture	A stewards room must be of size, and have tables and chairs, to accommodate four people.
Services and communications	The stewards room must be air conditioned, have two double GPO outlets, two digital TV monitors and an operating communication system, via phone or closed-channel two-way radio system, with the judge and stewards.

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Privacy and security	The stewards room must be lockable and able to ensure privacy during an enquiry and to secure evidence and equipment during the race meeting.
Stewards towers	
Track view	Stewards towers are required to allow an unimpeded view of the entire circumference of the track.
Positioning	Stewards towers must be positioned to provide a head-on view of the home straight, as well as the back straight and lateral viewing.
Floor area and roof	Stewards towers must have a floor area to accommodate two persons and a roof that provides protection from the elements.
Lighting for night racing venues	Towers or viewing areas located at venues that conduct night racing must have lighting, including pathways and access stairs or steps.
Safe access and equipment lifting	Towers must allow safe access, including stairs and handrails. If heavy equipment is used in the tower and access is via ladder, a winch or system to lift or carry equipment is required.
Electrical earthing	A tower must be earthed if fitted with electrical outlets.

3.15. General

Asset/description	Standard/requirement
Required condition	Assets, facilities, equipment and surfaces used for greyhound racing, training, greyhound handling or race day operations must be maintained in a condition suitable for their intended use and, where applicable, be fully functional, structurally sound and capable of supporting their anticipated use and loading.
General Hazards	All Animal Precincts, and Official and Participant Areas must be free of hazards from: • uneven or muddy terrain. • biohazards. • debris, stockpiled building materials. • machinery and/or implements. • sharp edges on equipment and other infrastructure. • electrical exposure.

4. Asset Rectification Process

4.1. Venue Inspection

RQ may inspect a venue from time to time to assess whether it complies with the Standards and remains suitable to be licensed.

Where RQ identifies non-compliance with the Standards, the following process will ordinarily be applied by RQ to notify the club, manage any immediate risks and facilitate rectification.

4.2. Asset Cases

Where RQ identifies non-compliance with the Standards, RQ will create an Asset Case in Race Cube and notify the club by automated email.

In urgent circumstances, RQ may also contact a club representative in person, by phone or voicemail, text message or separate email to notify the club of the Asset Case.

The Asset Case will specify:

- details of the non-compliance;
- the timeframe within which the non-compliance must be rectified (**Rectification Period**); and
- any action required before future race meetings or training activities may proceed at the venue, including rectification or interim risk controls.

A club must take all reasonable steps to rectify the non-compliance, and complete any action required before future race meetings or training activities may proceed at the venue (if applicable), in accordance with the Asset Case.

4.3. Acceptance of an Asset Case

The club must acknowledge the Asset Case within 21 days of notification (or any shorter timeframe if communicated by RQ, in urgent circumstances) by either accepting or objecting to the Asset Case in Race Cube.

By accepting the Asset Case, the club acknowledges the non-compliance and agrees to take all reasonable steps to rectify it within the Rectification Period.

Failure to rectify an accepted Asset Case within the required timeframe may result in RQ taking further action in response to the non-compliance, including action under the Policy, any relevant licence conditions, the Rules of Racing or the Act.

4.4. Objection to an Asset Case

A club may object to an Asset Case where it disputes the existence of the non-compliance, the rectification requirements, the rectification Period or any other aspect of the Asset Case.

The objection must include:

- the reasons for the objection; and
- any requested extension to the Rectification Period.

After considering the objection and any other relevant information, RQ may:

- direct the club to rectify the non-compliance in accordance with the Asset Case;
- amend the Asset Case, including any extension to the Rectification Period; or
- withdraw the Asset Case on any terms RQ considers appropriate.

RQ may make its decision after discussing the matter with the club and will notify the club of the outcome via Race Cube.

Unless RQ directs otherwise, the club must continue to comply with the Asset Case, including implementing any interim risk controls and taking all reasonable steps to rectify the non-compliance.

4.5. Rectification and Finalisation

Once the club considers the non-compliance has been rectified, it must request finalisation of the Asset Case as soon as reasonably practicable by:

- recording the rectification steps taken by the club in the 'Club Notes' section of the Asset Case in Race Cube;
- providing sufficient evidence of compliance, including photographs or any other evidence requested by RQ; and
- changing the status of the Asset Case to "Maintenance Ready for Approval".

RQ may require further information, evidence or an inspection before finalising the Asset Case. If RQ is satisfied that the asset complies with the Standards, RQ will finalise the Asset Case in Race Cube.