

Updated and effective from 27 February 2021

Purpose

The objectives of the Greyhound Code Protocols are to:

- Protect racing industry stakeholders (e.g., licensed persons, officials etc), licensed racing venues and training centres from the potential spread of COVID-19; and
- Continue to give guidance and structure to the core racing operations of a race meeting.

Background

The Queensland racing industry has continued to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic, subject to operational restrictions and protocols, with the approval of the Chief Health Officer. Race meetings were originally conducted without Patrons and only racing industry participants deemed as Essential Racing Personnel were permitted to attend. The core functions of racing continued under the COVID-19 Racing Code Protocols adopted by RQ.

With the easing of previous restrictions by Government, and as racing clubs transitioned to racing with Patrons, identification of Core Racing Areas for the conduct of racing operations and Patron Areas for public attendance was of principal importance.

As restrictions have continued to ease, full segregation of Patrons and Essential Racing Personnel has not been required, albeit Core Racing Areas are generally restricted to licensed participants and officials. This means the Core Racing Area for Essential Racing Personnel and racing operations have largely remained separate from Patron Areas.

Industry COVID Safe Plan

The Industry COVID Safe Plan for the Queensland Racing Industry and Racing Clubs (the Plan) has been approved by the Queensland Government's Chief Health Officer. The purpose of the Plan is to provide an overarching plan with guidance and structure to facilitate the return of Patrons to race meetings in a staged approach. The Plan deals primarily with requirements for the Patron Areas.

Racing clubs are required to operate under the Industry COVID Safe Plan for the Queensland Racing Industry and Racing Clubs and must publicly display the COVID Safe Statement of Compliance.

Greyhound Code Protocols

Included in this document are protocols relating to the core functions of a race meeting (i.e., those that relate to the Core Racing Area of the venue and Essential Racing Personnel):

- Restriction of entry to Queensland / Declared COVID-19 Hotspots (when applicable);
- Attendance – Core Racing Area Access
- Temperature testing on arrival;
- Food and beverage;
- People separation and hygiene;
- Older racing participants;
- Training venues and kennels; and
- Away from race meeting and trial session considerations.

Racing clubs conducting race meetings are required to meet the requirements of this document and any additional instruction, direction or advice provided by RQ, as well as any requirements of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) that may be imposed at a race meeting.

Racing clubs may provide additional information specific to their venue to assist essential racing personnel in adhering to these protocols and all relevant requirements.

Restriction of entry to Queensland / Declared COVID-19 Hotspots (when applicable)

The following links provide details of the Queensland Government Border restrictions information and Directions, health advice and declared COVID-19 hotspots (if there are any declared). All industry participants are required to ensure they are aware of, and comply with, any requirements contained therein.

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions>

[Border restrictions | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

[COVID-19 update | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

[COVID-19 hotspots | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

- In line with Queensland Government Border restrictions Directions issued by Queensland's Chief Health Officer, persons who have been in a declared COVID-19 hotspot (if there are any declared) in the 14 days prior to proposed entry into Queensland or since the start date identified for the COVID-19 hotspot (whichever is shorter), are not permitted to enter Queensland except through an exemption available under the Direction.
- Notwithstanding any of the above, RQ may require any person to undergo and provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test post arrival into Queensland and prior to entering any racing or training venue.
- Any person who enters Queensland and develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within 14 days after entry, must present for a COVID-19 test

The following link provides information related to the Quarantine for International Arrivals Direction and quarantine-free flights, with reference to flights and arrivals from New Zealand to Australia:

[Quarantine for International Arrivals Direction | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#).

Race meeting and trial session entry for Interstate trainers

Interstate based trainers, except those that have been in a declared [COVID-19 hotspot](#) within the 14 days prior to the race meeting of nomination, are permitted to enter and handle* their greyhounds at Queensland race meetings or trial sessions.

Interstate based trainers that have been in a declared [COVID-19 hotspot](#) within the 14 days prior to a race meeting at which they intend to enter, are able to nominate for Queensland race meetings in accordance with GAR 105(6).

- Under this rule, the greyhound can be handled by a Queensland licensed trainer or attendant, or an interstate licensed trainer provided such trainer or attendant is not from, or has not been in, a declared COVID-19 hotspot during the 14 days prior to the race meeting of nomination.
- The trainer must provide written notification to both RQ and QRIC of:

- Details of when the greyhound will arrive in Queensland;
 - Transportation, handling and temporary kennelling arrangements that apply to the greyhound's visitation to Queensland; and
 - Details of when the greyhound will return to its base kennel.
- Transportation of the greyhound must be undertaken in a manner that complies with Queensland Border Restrictions (link below) and the persons involved are compliant with the "Restriction of entry to Queensland" section of this document.
<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions>.

*As stated earlier, RQ may require any person (i.e., including interstate based trainers/handlers) to undergo and provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test post arrival into Queensland and prior to entering any racing or training venue.

Attendance – Core Racing Area Access

To help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, access to the Core Racing Area is restricted to Essential Racing Personnel, which includes:

- Licensed greyhound trainers with greyhounds engaged to race or stewards' trial at a race meeting, or to trial at a trial session;
- Licensed greyhound trainers or attendants specifically required to attend a race meeting or trial session, to enable a particular greyhound to race, e.g., by handling the greyhound, boxing the greyhound or catching the greyhound;
- Essential support personnel of trainers, such as persons required to assist trainers in commuting to race meetings or trial sessions at which they have greyhounds racing;
- QRIC stewards and officials;
- RQ officials;
- Essential club employees and race meeting contractors, including vision and broadcast providers;
- Club officials and/or committee members carrying out a formal duty at the race meeting or trial session; and
- RQ accredited media as approved by RQ and the race club.

Further to the above, a racing club may choose to offer restricted catering services and oncourse wagering services within the Core Racing Area to service the Essential Racing Personnel. Where a racing club wishes to offer these services within the Core Racing Area they should engage in prior discussions with RQ and QRIC.

Temperature testing on arrival

Temperature testing of Essential Racing Personnel on arrival at race meetings has been discontinued.

Notwithstanding the above, Essential Racing Personnel are advised not to enter a racing venue if they are feeling unwell, have been in close contact with a known active case of COVID-19, have any COVID-19 symptoms, have travelled from overseas (except as provided for persons from New Zealand on quarantine-free flights), or been to a declared COVID-19 hotspot in the previous 14 days or since the start date identified for the COVID-19 hotspot (whichever is shorter).

Temperature testing of Essential Racing Personnel may be reintroduced by RQ in the future dependant on any direction or advice of the Chief Health Officer or the Queensland Government. RQ will reassess these protocols at that time if those circumstances arise.

Food and beverage

If the racing club offers food and beverage services to Essential Racing Personnel, it is the racing club's responsibility to ensure appropriate protocols are in place with respect to food service as set out in the Industry COVID Safe Plan.

People separation and hygiene

Racing clubs are required to implement satisfactory measures to ensure the principles of the directions issued by the relevant authorities regarding space and distancing are adhered to.

This includes not exceeding the maximum occupancy density of one person per two square metres, avoiding physical contact, as well as regular handwashing, sanitisation and hygiene processes.

Racing clubs should display in areas used by essential racing personnel relevant information sheets about COVID-19 and ways to reduce the spread of the virus.

Personal actions to assist with the community obligation to uphold physical distancing include:

- Exercising an industry first approach to COVID-19 free racing by ensuring that you do not attend race meetings or a trial session where you are unwell or displaying any symptoms that are associated with COVID-19;
- Making the necessary arrangements in the event you are unable to attend a race meeting or trail session with your greyhounds because you are unwell or displaying any symptoms that are associated with COVID-19. This may include organising and authorising for your greyhounds to be taken to, and handled at, a race meeting;
- Covering coughs and sneezes with an elbow or a tissue;
- Disposing of tissues properly;
- Washing hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based sanitisers, including before and after eating, after going to the toilet, and after using shared equipment such as racing rugs;
- Cleaning and sanitising frequently used objects such as mobile phones, keys and wallets;
- Keeping a distance of 1.5 metres between oneself and other people whenever possible – including in pre-kennelling, kennelling, race parading, boxing and catching of greyhounds;
- Minimising physical contact, especially with people at higher risk such as older people and people with existing health conditions; and
- Supporting physical distancing enhancements introduced by QRIC, RQ, and racing club officials at race meetings.

Where an internal seating area is provided by a racing club, a sanitisation station is to be provided at the entrance and exit points.

The provision of water is permitted and race meeting attendees may consume personal food supplies in the area.

The area should be subject to appropriate levels of oversight by an official of the racing club.

Older racing participants

The Federal Government has advised that COVID-19 has more serious impacts on people over 70 years of age and those with existing health conditions or comorbidities.

National Cabinet's strong advice continues to be self-isolation at home to the maximum extent practicable for Australians who are:

- Over 70 years of age; or
- Over 60 years of age and have existing health conditions or comorbidities.

Given the Federal Government's health advice, RQ encourages participants who meet the aforementioned criteria to consider their ongoing attendance at all greyhound race meetings and trial sessions and other training facilities during the current COVID-19 conditions.

Whilst this is not currently a mandatory requirement, it is strongly advised.

Training venues and kennels

Access to all training venues and kennels in Queensland is restricted to licensed persons engaged in the training of licensed racing animals, RQ and QRIC officials, race club staff as required, registered owners and essential personnel (e.g., Vets, Medical Officers etc.).

Notwithstanding the above, members of the public (non-licensed persons) may:

- Visit kennels to meet a Trainer and, if doing so, the Trainer shall assume responsibility for contact tracing; and
- Visit a racing/training venue to watch a trial, in which case the non-licensed person must be positioned in an area designated by the racing club (e.g., section of a grandstand) segregated from licensed persons, and the racing club shall assume responsibility for contact tracing.

Away from race meeting and trial session considerations

All race meeting attendees are encouraged to consider their obligations to Queensland greyhound racing whenever possible.

Physical distancing, in line with the requirements of the Queensland Government, should be practised at all times, including during the training of greyhounds and in other social interaction. Good hygiene and sanitisation standards should be applied where at all possible.

No person should attend race meetings, trials or other events if they are feeling unwell or displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

Other healthcare considerations – including flu immunisation – should be considered. RQ also supports and encourages essential racing personnel to consider use of the Australian Government COVIDSafe app.

Whilst industry participants are no longer restricted in terms of their travel within Queensland, care should be taken to practise good physical distancing and sanitisation standards when travelling.

Kennel transfers

Inter-state kennel transfers

- Greyhounds are permitted to transfer from an interstate kennel to a Queensland kennel, however greyhounds transferring from a kennel in a declared COVID-19 hotspot must be transported with an "Approved Canine Transportation Business" or by a licensed person or persons, provided Queensland Government Border Restrictions are complied with: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions>.
- An "Approved Canine Transportation Business" is a canine transportation business which has sought and been granted approval by RQ to transport greyhounds within Queensland.

- The connections of a greyhound transferring from a kennel in a declared COVID-19 hotspot to a Queensland kennel must undertake all kennel transfer administrative advice, as required by their home state controlling body or bodies and the QRIC.
- RQ may impose other restrictions on the transport of greyhounds from declared COVID-19 hotspots or from other areas interstate.

Transportation protocols

- Prior to and upon completion of a transportation journey, the “Approved Canine Transportation Business” must ensure the vehicle is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to minimise any risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- “Approved Canine Transportation Business” drivers and/or assistants are to make prior arrangements with any drop off points and are not to access licensed premises when transporting and delivering greyhounds (unless otherwise approved by QRIC stewards).
- Any gear used by the “Approved Canine Transportation Business” on one greyhound to another, must be sanitised between each use.