

## 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;
- Limit the unnecessary movement of licensed persons and racing animals, as well as other relevant persons into and throughout Queensland to avoid the potential spread of COVID-19; and
- Continue to give guidance and structure to the core racing operations of a race meeting.

## Background

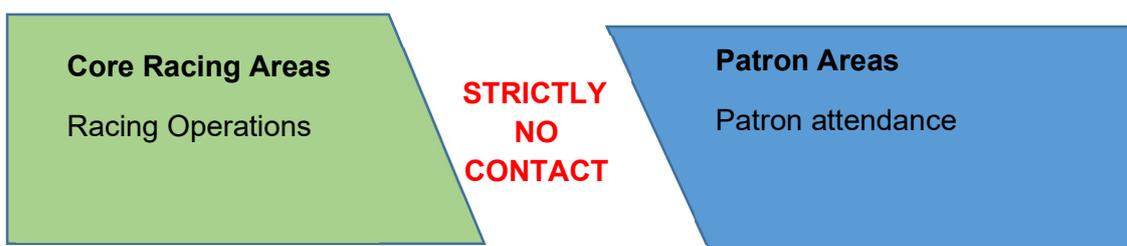
The Queensland racing industry has continued to operate with racing at a restricted number of racing venues throughout Queensland in recent months during the COVID-19 pandemic, subject to operational restrictions and protocols, with the approval of the Chief Health Officer. These race meetings have been conducted without Patrons and only racing industry participants deemed as Essential Racing Personnel have been permitted to attend. The core functions of racing have continued under the COVID-19 Racing Code Protocols adopted by RQ. These will continue to operate for the Core Racing Areas used by Essential Racing Personnel.

## Re-introduction of Patrons to Race Meetings

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

During Stage 2 of easing the restrictions, racing clubs hosting Patrons must ensure there is minimised risk of contact between the Patrons and Essential Racing Personnel. Two distinct and clearly separated areas must be developed at the licensed venue:

1. **Core Racing Areas** – areas critical to the conduct of racing and Essential Racing Personnel (as detailed in this document); and
2. **Patron Areas** – includes all areas not critical to the conduct of racing and is accessible to patrons (refer to the Industry COVID Safe Plan).



RQ has now received approval of the Chief Health Officer for the Industry COVID Safe Plan for the Queensland Racing Industry and Racing Clubs (the Plan). 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):

- Attendance – Core Racing Area Access;
- Temperature testing on arrival;
- Food and beverage;
- Seating areas;
- People separation and hygiene;
- Older racing participants;
- Training venues and kennels;
- Away from race meeting and trial session considerations; and
- Kennel transfers

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.

#### Queensland border closure

As the Queensland border remains closed, interstate based trainers are not permitted to nominate and handle their greyhounds at Queensland race meetings or trial sessions unless they have undergone a 14-day self-isolation period prior to the date of the race meeting or trial session.

However, interstate based greyhounds can be nominated for Queensland race meetings in accordance with the following protocols:

- 1) The interstate based greyhound is nominated by a Queensland trainer after trainership of the greyhound has been transferred.
- 2) The interstate based greyhound is nominated by an interstate trainer in accordance with GAR 105(6). Under this rule, an interstate greyhound can be handled by a Queensland licensed trainer or attendant, or an interstate licensed trainer or attendant who has self-isolated for 14 days prior to the race meeting. Prior to nominating the greyhound, the interstate trainer must provide written notification to both RQ and QRIC of when the greyhound will arrive in Queensland, where it will stay, who will handle the greyhound, and when it will return home.

Any greyhound entering Queensland must be transported by an Approved Canine Transportation Business (refer further detail below in this document).

## **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, so as 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**

Essential Racing Personnel attending a race meeting will be subject to temperature check/s on arrival and prior to entry to the racecourse being allowed.

The testing process and requirements are as outlined:

- Each person is tested upon arrival at the racecourse by an appointed officer;
- A verified test within the normal parameter (below 37.6) is required before the person can enter the racecourse;
- If a person records an elevated temperature, the person will be given the opportunity to have a further temperature test up to 15 minutes following the first test;
- If the person's temperature remains elevated the person is not permitted to enter the racecourse. The person is required to leave the racecourse and should be advised to seek medical advice through 13HEALTH. A medical clearance to the satisfaction of the QRIC may be required before being permitted to attend a Queensland race meeting again; and
- To facilitate the temperature testing process, access to the Core Racing Area should be via a single-entry point.

## **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.

## Seating areas

Racing clubs are permitted to provide external and internal seating areas for Essential Racing Personnel within the Core Racing Area. Racing clubs must ensure that appropriate social distancing and spacing requirements are adhered to.

## People separation and hygiene

All 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 social distancing requirements of remaining 1.5 metres apart and avoiding physical contact, having no more than one person per four square metres in an indoor space, as well as regular handwashing, sanitisation and hygiene processes.

Personal actions to assist with the community obligation to uphold social 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 social distancing enhancements introduced by QRIC, RQ, and racing club officials at race meetings.

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

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, and essential personnel (e.g., Vets, Farriers, Medical Officers etc.).

Notwithstanding the above, during Stage 2 of the Government's Roadmap to easing restrictions, an Owner of a licensed racing animal may:

- Visit kennels to see their licensed racing animal and meet their Trainer and, if doing so, the Trainer shall assume responsibility for contact tracing; and
- Visit a racing/training venue to watch the licensed racing animal compete in a trial or jumpout, in which case the Owner 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.

Social 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 social distancing and sanitisation standards when travelling.

### **Kennel transfers**

#### ***Inter-state kennel transfers***

- Where Government regulations allow, greyhounds are permitted to transfer from an inter-state kennel to a Queensland kennel, however greyhounds transferring from inter-state must be transported with an "Approved Canine Transportation Business". An "Approved Canine Transportation Business" is a canine transportation business which has sought and been granted approval by RQ to transport greyhounds within Queensland; and

- The connections of a greyhound transferring from inter-state to a Queensland kennel must undertake all kennel transfer administrative advice, as required by their home state controlling body or bodies and the QRIC.

### ***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.