

Effective 8 August 2020

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, identification of 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 operated two distinct and clearly separated areas at racing venues to ensure minimised risk of contact between Patrons and Essential Racing Personnel.

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).



From Stage 3, segregation of Patrons and Essential Racing Personnel is not required, albeit Core Racing Areas are generally restricted to licensed participants and officials, meaning the Core Racing Area for Essential Racing Personnel and racing operations will remain separate from Patron Areas and Patrons.

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):

- Attendance – Core Racing Area Access;
- Travel restrictions for persons from a declared COVID-19 hotspot;
- Nominations by interstate trainers;
- Temperature testing on arrival;
- Food and beverage;
- 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.

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.

Travel restrictions for persons from a declared COVID-19 hotspot

- In line with the Queensland Government's current Border restrictions Directions issued by Queensland's Chief Health Officer, persons who have been in a COVID-19 hotspot in the 14 days prior to proposed entry into Queensland, are not permitted to enter Queensland except through an exemption available under the Direction.
- Refer to the following link for details of the current Direction and exemptions for entry, and the list of current declared COVID-19 hotspots:
<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions>.
- Where a person has been in a declared COVID-19 hotspot in the 14 days prior to proposed entry into Queensland, but receives an entry exemption from the Queensland Government available under the Direction (other than border zone residents outlined below), the person will be unable to attend Queensland race meetings, racing or training centres for a period of 14 days.

Exemption for border zone residents from declared COVID-19 hotspots

- A border zone resident is someone who lives in a community on the Queensland New South Wales border. This includes both sides of the border – people who live in Queensland but work across the border in a neighbouring New South Wales border zone, and people who live in a New South Wales border zone but come to work in a neighbouring Queensland border zone.
- Refer the below links for a list of designated postcodes and a map for the border zone:
<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions/border-restrictions>.

https://www.health.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0026/998000/map-border-zones-qld-border-restriction-direction.pdf.

- New South Wales border zone residents cannot travel outside the border zone in either Queensland or New South Wales. If the New South Wales border zone resident has travelled in a COVID-19 hotspot outside the border zone within the preceding 14 days, they must not enter Queensland. The Queensland border zone residents cannot travel outside the border zone in New South Wales.
- Accordingly, a licensed participant who resides in a designated border zone that is also a declared COVID-19 hotspot, who has the appropriate Border Declaration Pass and has satisfied any other requirements of the Queensland Government, may continue to attend Queensland racing and training venues in the designated Queensland border zone for the purposes of performing their work.
- Notwithstanding the above, the licensed person must not have attended, or been in contact with any other person who has attended, a racecourse, licensed racing or training premises in a declared COVID-19 hotspot, in the preceding 14 days.

Race meeting nomination and trial session attendance for Interstate trainers

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

Whilst there is an exemption for New South Wales border zone residents to enter Queensland, the exemption only allows a person to travel within the designated Queensland border zone, and there are no Queensland greyhound race meetings conducted within the Queensland border zone.

Trainers based in, or trainers that have been in, a declared COVID-19 hotspot within the 14 days prior to a race meeting at which they intend to nominate, are able to nominate for Queensland race meetings in accordance with the following:

- The greyhound is nominated by the trainer that is based in, or has been in, a declared COVID-19 hotspot 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 when the greyhound will arrive in Queensland, where it will stay, who will handle the greyhound, and when it will return home.

Greyhounds from a declared COVID-19 hotspot are able to transfer into Queensland kennels but must be transported by an Approved Canine Transportation Business (refer further detail below in this document).

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.

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 physical 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 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.

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, 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". 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 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.

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.