

CONSULTATION NOTICE - RULES OF RACING

Code of Racing	Greyhound
Rule	Greyhounds Australasia Rules 32 and 33
Description	Removal of Ear Tattooing of Greyhounds
Authorised for Consultation	December 15, 2023
Consultation Closes	January 19, 2024
Submissions to	policies@racingqueensland.com.au

Racing Queensland (**RQ**) has received notice from Greyhounds Australasia (**GA**) that following substantial review and discussion, GA has agreed to commence a process toward the termination of the ear tattooing of greyhounds as a form of identification.

GA advise that to facilitate the removal of ear tattooing, a suite of GA Rules will require amendment and, given the breadth of the amendments and to allow for the integration of recent advances in alternative methods of identification, a multi-staged process has been developed. It is proposed that this multi-staged process would see the termination of ear tattooing by July 1, 2024.

This change by GA will see all jurisdictions move to the microchip as the primary method of identification, with integration of alternative identification measures as tools for secondary identification to be implemented by each responsible Controlling Body. It is noted that Greyhound Racing New Zealand adopted this position to terminate ear tattooing in late 2022.

As part of Stage 1 of GA's process, GA is proposing to amend the following GA Rules:

- GAR 32: Appointment and duties of marking and microchipping officials (removing ear tattooing from officials); and
- GAR 33: Greyhound to be microchipped (removing ear tattooing requirement).

Further background and full details to the proposed rule amendments are provided in the following pages in documentation issued by GA.

GA advises that Stage 2 will involve review of, and consultation on, required amendments to all remaining rules relative to ear tattooing. Further advices will be provided on those proposed rule amendments in due course.

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on the proposed rule amendments (GAR 32 and GAR 33) as per the details at the top of this document.



AMENDMENT TO GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES

TERMINATION OF EAR TATTOO (BRAND)

Summary:

The reliable identification of greyhounds is a fundamental integrity measure underpinning the sport of greyhound racing, and the tattooing (branding) of an ear with a unique registration code, is currently compulsory in all Greyhounds Australasia (GA) jurisdictions, with the exception of New Zealand.

In late 2022, Greyhound Racing New Zealand announced the introduction of Local Rules which removed the requirement for the mandatory ear tattoo in all NZ-registered greyhounds, with the practice ceased from 1 February 2023.

Concurrently, the GA Board sought to assess the phase-out of the ear tattoo and designated a working group to review all current methods of greyhound identification and assess their suitability, effectiveness, and associated risks.

The working group noted that advancement and access to technology have improved techniques for the identification of individual animals, and so has the reliability of identification methods employed by and available to the greyhound industry.

Following the review by the working group and consultation between Controlling Bodies, the GA Board has determined that by 1 July 2024, the requirement for ear tattooing of registered greyhounds will cease.

This change will see all jurisdictions move to the microchip as the primary method of identification, with integration of alternative identification measures as tools for secondary identification to be implemented by each responsible Controlling Body.

In preparation for the termination of the ear tattooing of greyhounds and the removal of the ear tattoo as a source of identification within the GA Rules (GARs), the first phase of amended GA Rules has been provided for external consultation with the amended rules to remove all reference to ear tattoos.



Termination of Greyhound Ear Tattoo - FAQs

Q. When will the need for greyhound pups to have an ear tattoo cease?

- A. It is intended that by 1 July 2024, the requirement for an ear tattoo to be applied as part of the identification process for greyhound pups will cease. Current identification methods of microchipping and marking will continue to occur.

Q. What methods will replace the ear tattoo for the identification of greyhound pups?

- A. The microchip will remain as the primary identifier for registered greyhounds. Several alternate identification methods are currently being advanced by Controlling Bodies to replace the ear tattoo.

Q. What happens if the microchip cannot be located or read by the scanner?

- A. Each greyhound pup will continue to be provided with a unique registration code (currently the ear tattoo/brand) that will sit within the greyhound's digital profile and remain uniquely attributed to that greyhound for life.

If the microchip cannot be located or read, then a replacement microchip will need to be inserted and a DNA sample may be taken to verify the greyhound's identity.

Controlling Bodies are currently addressing the implementation of alternate methods of identification, which would be available to operate if the microchip cannot be found. It is intended that these measures will be incorporated into the race day procedures at a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction level.



DRAFT AMENDMENT TO GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES

GAR 32 Appointment and duties of marking and microchipping officials

Summary:

As advancement and access to technology have improved techniques for the identification of individual animals, so has the reliability of identification methods employed by and available to the greyhound industry.

In late 2022, Greyhound Racing New Zealand announced the introduction of Local Rules which removed the requirement for the mandatory ear tattoo (brand) in all NZ-registered greyhounds. Concurrently, the GA Board designated a working group to review all current methods of greyhound identification and assess their suitability, effectiveness, and associated risks.

Following the review by the working group and consultation between Control Bodies, the GA Board has determined that by 1 July 2024, the requirement for ear tattooing of registered greyhounds will cease.

In preparation for the ceasing of ear branding of greyhounds and thereby removing the ear tattoo (brand) as a source of identification within the GA Rules (GARs), the following proposed rules have been amended to remove all references to ear branding or ear tattoos.

Draft amendment GAR 32

32 Appointment and duties of marking and microchipping officials

A Controlling Body may appoint a person to be a marking official to:

- (a) mark or microchip, greyhounds;*
- (b) inquire into any matter relating to greyhound management or registration;*
- (c) report on any matter relating to greyhound management or registration; or*
- (d) perform any other activity or function authorised by a Controlling Body which relates to greyhound management or registration.*



DRAFT AMENDMENT TO GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA RULES

GAR 33 Greyhound to be microchipped

Summary:

As advancement and access to technology have improved techniques for the identification of individual animals, so has the reliability of identification methods employed by and available to the greyhound industry.

In late 2022, Greyhound Racing New Zealand announced the introduction of Local Rules which removed the requirement for the mandatory ear tattoo (brand) in all NZ-registered greyhounds. Concurrently, the GA Board designated a working group to review all current methods of greyhound identification and assess their suitability, effectiveness, and associated risks.

Following the review by the working group and consultation between Controlling Bodies, the GA Board has determined that by 1 July 2024, the requirement for ear tattooing of registered greyhounds will cease.

In preparation for the ceasing of ear branding of greyhounds and thereby removing the ear tattoo (brand) as a source of identification within the GA Rules (GARs), the following proposed rules have been amended to remove all references to ear branding or ear tattoos.

Draft amendment GAR 33 (1)

33 Greyhound to be microchipped

- (1) A greyhound whelped must be microchipped in accordance with the requirements of a Controlling Body.*
- (2) A microchip must not be implanted in a greyhound unless the microchip has been approved by a Controlling Body.*
- (3) A person must not implant a microchip in a greyhound unless the person is approved by a Controlling Body to do so.*
- (4) A person must not remove, attempt to remove, alter or otherwise interfere with a microchip implanted in a greyhound.*