



## GRNZ Safe Return to Racing Policy

1 August 2024

<p><b>1. Purpose and Scope:</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this policy is to ensure that greyhounds returning to race following a significant rest period due to injury, illness, or other reason are <i>fit</i> to do so, and that racing them does not pose an unnecessary risk of injury to themselves or others.</p> <p>The Policy applies to all Licensed Persons (LPs) who wish to nominate to race:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Greyhounds that have had a stand-down time applied in terms of Rule 41<sup>1</sup>, for a serious injury of forty-two (42) days or more.</li> <li>2. Greyhounds which do not compete in an <i>Event</i> for sixty (60) days or more.</li> </ol>
<p><b>2. Principles of injury prevention:</b></p>	<p>Preventing injury requires the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Fitness to race</i> has been established.</li> <li>• Work done in training has adequately prepared the greyhound for the physical demands of racing.</li> <li>• Exercise intensity does not exceed physical capacity.</li> <li>• Known risk factors for injury are sufficiently mitigated.</li> <li>• Performance measures during trialling and racing indicate no underlying injury or fitness concerns.</li> </ul> <p>For further information on <i>Fitness to race</i> see the GRNZ Return to Racing Fitness Best-practice Guidelines.</p>
<p><b>3. Greyhounds with a Serious Injury stand-down period imposed under Rule 41, of forty-</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Greyhound, which has received a stand-down period (Rule 41) of 42-days, or more, cannot be nominated for an <i>Event</i> until:</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> **GRNZ Rule 41: Greyhound suffering injury or from a condition or illness during an Event**

(1) If a greyhound is injured during an Event the officiating veterinarian or in their absence, a Steward or other authorised person may impose a stand-down period commencing on the day the greyhound is injured.

<p>two (42) days or more:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. The greyhound has completed a satisfactory trial (ST) for the Stewards (LR132A)<sup>2</sup>, within 21 days of their nomination; and</li> <li>1.2. The greyhound has undergone a veterinary examination by the on-track veterinarian (OTV) following its ST, and an 'OTV Greyhound Examination form' is submitted to the Stewards which clears the greyhound of any injury.</li> <li>2. If the greyhound is returning to race following orthopaedic surgery, a report from the treating veterinarian, including follow up x-rays, confirming that the greyhound is fit to resume racing will be required prior to completing the 'Safe Return to Racing Application' and performing a trial.</li> <li>3. Greyhounds will undergo a standard pre-race veterinary inspection prior to their ST.</li> <li>4. The RIB can collect a sample for prohibited substance testing at any time. A swab sample may be collected following the ST (Rule 136(b)<sup>3</sup>), for analysis, to confirm that the greyhound has trialed free of prohibited substances.</li> <li>5. Greyhounds returning to race following a forty-two (42) day, or more, injury will be restricted to no more than five (5) <i>Events</i> in twenty-eight (28) days. The ST is counted as the 1<sup>st</sup> <i>Event</i>.</li> </ol>
<p>4. Greyhounds not competed in an <i>Event</i> for sixty (60) days, or more:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Greyhound, which has not competed in an event for sixty (60) days, or more, cannot be nominated for an <i>Event</i> until: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. GRNZ is notified of the reason the greyhound has not competed in an <i>Event</i> for 60 days or more, by completing the prescribed form and submitting it to GRNZ as soon as practicable.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

<sup>2</sup> **LR132A Satisfactory trials**

(1) Where a greyhound fails to perform to the satisfaction of the Racing Integrity Board or an authorised person, the Racing Integrity Board or the authorised person may, after considering any submission made by the trainer or person in charge of the greyhound, order that the greyhound undergo one or more satisfactory trials and/or such action as they deem necessary before being eligible to compete in or be nominated for any race. No appeal shall lie in respect of an order made to undergo one or more satisfactory trials.

<sup>3</sup> **GRNZ Rule 136: Testing and collection of samples**

(1) GRNZ or the Racing Integrity Board may carry out or cause to be carried out any test, examination or inspection they think necessary in relation to a greyhound at any time, including:

- (a) a greyhound which has been nominated for or has competed in an *Event*;
- (b) a greyhound presented for a satisfactory trial or such other trial as provided for pursuant to the Rules;
- (c) a greyhound which has been presented for any test or examination for the purpose of ascertaining its fitness to take part in an *Event* and/or for the purpose of having removed or varied any stand-down period issued pursuant to the Rules.

	<p>1.2. The greyhound has completed a ST (LR132A) for Stewards within 21 days of their nomination; and</p> <p>1.3. The greyhound has undergone a veterinary examination by the OTV following its ST, and an 'OTV Greyhound Examination form' is submitted to the Stewards which clears the greyhound of any injury.</p> <p>2. If the greyhound is returning to race following orthopaedic surgery, a report from the treating veterinarian, including follow up x-rays, confirming that the greyhound is fit to resume racing will be required prior to completing a 'Safe Return to Racing after 60 days Application' and performing a ST.</p> <p>3. Greyhounds will undergo a standard pre-race veterinary inspection prior to their ST.</p> <p>4. If an injury is detected during the OTV examination after the ST, a stand-down time will be applied.</p> <p>5. The RIB can collect a sample for prohibited substance testing at any time. A swab sample may be collected following the ST, for analysis, to confirm that the greyhound has trialed free of prohibited substances.</p> <p>6. Greyhounds returning to <i>an Event</i> following a spell of sixty (60) days or more will be restricted to no more than five (5) <i>Events</i> in twenty-eight (28) days. The ST is counted as the 1<sup>st</sup> <i>Event</i>.</p>
<p><b>5. Enforcement</b></p>	<p>Greyhounds falling into the categories above, who do not satisfy <i>fitness to race</i> requirements in terms of this Policy, will not be eligible to nominate.</p>