



GRNZ Safe Return to Racing Policy FAQs

GRNZ is implementing a new policy, called the Safe Return to Racing Policy, and associated with this policy are Return to Racing Fitness Best Practice Guidelines. The Guidelines are not enforceable but represent advice for trainers to follow in achieving Racing Fitness.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that greyhounds returning to race following a rest period due to injury, illness, or other reason are fit to do so, and that racing them does not pose an unnecessary risk of injury to themselves or others. This replaces the previous requirement to trial after 28 days off racing.

The policy applies to all Licensed Persons (LPs) who wish to nominate to race:

1. Greyhounds that have had a stand-down time applied in terms of Rule 41, for a serious injury of 42 days or more.
2. Greyhounds which require a break, or spell from racing due to an injury, or condition, requiring 60 days or more layoff from racing.

FAQs

1. Why do we need this policy?

Injury risk in greyhounds returning to race following serious injury at the track is higher and we need to manage the Satisfactory Trial (ST) process (all greyhounds with a 42 day or more stand-down require an ST currently) to ensure that the greyhounds intending to race following a serious injury at the track are fit to do so. Similarly, the Serious Injury Review Committee (SIRC) has noted a significant increased risk of injury in greyhounds returning to race after 60 days or more rest.

2. When do we need to complete an application form?

In the event your greyhound is injured or has an illness or condition which means that your greyhound is out of racing for 60 days or more, you will need to notify GRNZ of this reason. The application form provides this opportunity to notify us, and for GRNZ to record the reasons the greyhound has been out of racing (this was a recommendation in the McHugh Report). There are further requirements for greyhounds that have undergone orthopaedic surgery, and wish to return to racing e.g. hock surgery, bone fracture repairs (any pins, screws or plates have been inserted). These greyhounds need to be re-x-rayed and a report from the surgeon sent to GRNZ stating that the greyhound is fit to resume racing.

3. My greyhound is fit and I've completed the exercise requirements in the GRNZ Return to Racing Best Practice Guidelines, what do I need to do to be eligible to nominate?

Once you have completed the application form, notifying GRNZ of the reasons your greyhound was off racing and your intention to trial, you may request a Steward ST and



book this in with the Club. GRNZ will provide the paperwork to the Stewards (and OTV) and you may trial. Following your trial, the OTV will undertake a thorough examination of your greyhound, and the greyhound may be swabbed. If the OTV gives the greyhound the 'all clear', you will be eligible to nominate and must race that greyhound within 21 days.

4. My greyhound passed the ST and OTV Fitness to Race Examination, what happens now?

Your greyhound is eligible to be nominated but **MUST** race within 21 days, to ensure it remains fit to do so. You will need to keep up your exercise and fitness work. Further restrictions to racing frequency apply, and you may only race your greyhound a maximum of 5 times during its first 28 days of racing. This will be counted from the ST (1st start) and official trials count.

5. My greyhound passed the ST but was not cleared by the OTV, what happens now?

In order to be eligible to nominate, the greyhound must pass the ST time and OTV clearance examination. If the OTV finds an injury, a stand down time will be applied to the greyhound. Should the stand-down time be less than 21 days, it will not affect the greyhound's eligibility to race within 21 days and you may nominate. You will need to balance the time out of work with the fitness required to return to racing, as well as consider whether your greyhound is 'at risk' according to the Guidelines. A conservative approach with these greyhounds is recommended. Should the greyhound receive a stand-down of 21 days or more, or cannot race within 21 days because it is not yet fit, then it will need to repeat the ST, with further veterinary clearance or certification potentially required by the Stewards, depending on the nature of the injury detected.