

Preferred Box Draws (PBD)

6 May 2022

Purpose

To reduce racetrack collisions between greyhounds during the initial stages of a race, i.e. in the run to the first turn.

Means

Greyhounds nominating for a PBD race will each be designated with an official Early Racing Trait (ERT) and the Box Draw for these races will be strongly influenced by the distribution of ERTs in the field.

There are seven possible ERTs that a greyhound can be designated and they are:

- Determined Railer (DR)
- Railer (R)
- Straight Railer (SR)
- Straight (ST)
- Straight Wide (SW)
- Wide (W)
- Extra Wide (XW)

Any greyhounds designated "DR" will be drawn into the inside boxes, next outside them will be those designated "R" and so on with the outside boxes going to those designated "W" and "XW".

Note that these ERTs are listed from inside to outside and the abbreviations for each ERT have been deliberately designed to allow an alphabetical sort of ERTs to order them in this fashion

No Reserves at Launch

As Reserves would add a significant level of complexity to PBD races, there will not be Reserves assigned to PBD races until further notice.

Scheduling

Initially PBD sprints for C1 graded greyhounds will be scheduled at a selected venue or venues.

This will enable those trainers wishing to nominate their C1 sprinter for a PBD race, to do so and those trainers wishing to nominate for a standard box draw race to do so. By starting with the C1 grade there should be sufficient runners for all trainers to access their preferred option. Of course it will be possible to A pref for PBD and B pref for standard or vice versa.

As PBD is rolled out to other grades and distances there will soon become races where there are not enough greyhounds to run both PBD and standard draw races. On such occasions it is anticipated that all greyhounds will have been nominated with both an A and B pref and the race with the most A pref nominations will proceed.

Initial ERT Designations for Greyhounds

Rather than spending hours assessing the greyhound population's traits, GRNZ will require trainers, nominating a greyhound for its **first** PBD race, to supply GRNZ with their assessment of that greyhound's ERT.

This initial assessment will be restricted to:

Railer (R),
Straight (ST) or
Wide (W)

Trainers will be invited to recommend to GRNZ that specific Greyhounds be considered Determined Railers (DR) or Extra Wide (XW) and GRNZ will take that into consideration when assessing greyhounds after their first PBD race.

A Schedule of Current ERT Designations will be published on the GRNZ website. This schedule will display a timestamp to show when it was created.

Field Selection

Club Selection Criteria will be used as normal to determine eligibility to gain a start in a PBD race.

Where there is more than one PBD race of the same grade and distance, Rule 22.5 must be applied for greyhounds in the same ownership and/or trainer. Best endeavours will be made to create a homogeneous spread of traits across these races.

Post Race Revision of ERT Designations

GRNZ will appoint members to an ERT panel. After each PBD race at least two members of the panel will review the Early Racing Traits of the greyhounds and make a decision as to whether;

a greyhound retains their pre-race designated ERT or
has their pre-race designated ERT amended.

As well as each greyhound's racing trait up to the first corner, the ERT panel will also take into account each greyhound's trait at the first corner, so Railer's that veer out at the first corner may be amended to Straight Railer (SR) and Wide runners that cut left at the first corner may be amended to Straight Wide (SW) in an attempt to minimise their impact on other runners.

Where trainers have recommended to GRNZ that specific Greyhounds, having their first PBD race, be considered Determined Railers (DR) or Extra Wide (XW) the ERT panel will review previous (non-PBD) races by such greyhounds and also use these in arriving at their Post Race decision.

Any amendments made to greyhounds' ERTs will be updated on the Schedule of Current ERT Designations and published on the GRNZ website.

Box Draw Method

As required by the Rules, nominated greyhounds will be prioritised into fields according to club selection criteria.

The eight greyhounds making the field will be listed in the alphabetical order of their ERT:

Number	sub-order	Name	ERT	Draw
1		Wee Mull	R	
2		Deputy Dawg	R	
3		Miss Deanna	R	
4		Hairy Legs	R	
5		Dangle the Carat	SS	
6		Dream Collector	W	
7		Shades of Greys	W	
8		Big Mull	W	

Set Sub-Order

Box-Draw

First, a sub-order will be randomly set using the RAND() function in Microsoft Excel to determine, for each group of greyhounds sharing the same ERT, which greyhound gets the first randomly assigned box draw, through to the last randomly assigned box draw.

Number	sub-order	Name	ERT	Draw
1	1	Miss Deanna	R	
2	2	Wee Mull	R	
3	3	Hairy Legs	R	
4	4	Deputy Dawg	R	
5	1	Dangle the Carat	SS	
6	1	Shades of Greys	W	
7	2	Big Mull	W	
8	3	Dream Collector	W	

Set Sub-Order

Box-Draw

After setting the random sub-order above, the Box Draw is then randomly applied, using the RAND() function in Microsoft Excel, to determine the Box Draws for each of the four Railers and the three Wide runners, as the one Straight runner will Draw 5.

The field is then sorted into Box Draw order.

Number	sub-order	Name	ERT	Draw
1	4	Deputy Dawg	R	1
2	2	Wee Mull	R	2
3	1	Miss Deanna	R	3
4	3	Hairy Legs	R	4
5	1	Dangle the Carat	SS	5
6	2	Big Mull	W	6
7	1	Shades of Greys	W	7
8	3	Dream Collector	W	8

Set Sub-Order

Box-Draw

Extreme Case - if all eight runners in a PBD race each have the same ERT then the standard Box Draw method will be applied.

Redraws for PBD Races

Where a Redraw is ordered for a PBD race, this should be completed with the least possible disruption to the original draw.

The most common cause of a redraw is Runner B wrongly being included in a field at the expense of Runner A.

In such situations, a second Preferred Box Draw process should be followed but with Runner A in the field and Runner B out. The outcome of this second Box Draw for Runner A should then be imposed upon the original Box Draw, with the original draws for runners other than Runner A being adjusted by no more than 1 Box inward or outward to allow for Runner A's draw

e.g. The following Preferred Box Draw is processed:

Number	sub-order	Name	ERT	Draw
1	3	Hairy Legs	R	1
2	1	Miss Deanna	R	2
3	4	Runner B	R	3
4	2	Wee Mull	R	4
5	1	Dangle the Carat	SS	5
6	2	Dream Collector	W	6
7	3	Shades of Greys	W	7
8	1	Big Mull	W	8

It is subsequently discovered that Runner A, a Wide Runner (W), should have been in the field instead of Runner B.

A second Preferred Box Draw is processed that assigns Box 7 to Runner A.

Numbers 4, 5, 6 and 7 from the original draw are all moved inward by one box to allow Runner A into Box 7.

Number	sub-order	Name	ERT	Draw
1		Hairy Legs	R	1
2		Miss Deanna	R	2
3		Wee Mull	R	3
4		Dangle the Carat	SS	4
5		Dream Collector	W	5
6		Shades of Greys	W	6
7		Runner A	W	7
8		Big Mull	W	8

The redraw has been completed with no greyhound moving more than 1 box.