



MEDIA RELEASE

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Change to the Selection Process for Nationals Finals

At the 2008 AGRA Annual Meeting held last Thursday August 28 a landmark decision was put to a vote and carried after all member clubs except Sandown and the MGRA voting in favour of changing the current selection process for both the National Sprint and Distance finals.

The concept put forward by the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club has been two years in the determination stage and will be introduced for the 2009 series to be conducted in Perth.

The full explanation as it was presented is contained below. The decision passed at the meeting to change the process introduces a new and exciting aspect to the Championships and it has been well received by participants around Australia.

Background

The current process for making up the field for the National Sprint and Distance Championship was:

- One representative from each State;
- One extra representative from either NSW or Vic;
- One extra representative from the Host State;
- Reserves from the Host State.

Issues

- AGRA seeks to promote and improve greyhound racing on a national basis. One of AGRA's major undertakings each year is the staging of the National Sprint and Distance Championships.
- AGRA now has Greyhound of the Year rankings which are updated each month and are based on Group Racing performance.
- The Nationals should aim to have the best possible representation in each of the National Finals.
- Group Racing performance should be rewarded.
- This item was discussed at the September, January and March AGRA CEO's meeting.

New Concept

The National Sprint and Distance Championship fields comprise:

- (a) **One** representative from **each State**;
- (b) An **extra** representative from the **Host State**
- (c) The **highest ranked** greyhounds from the **AGRA National Rankings** at 31 July, that **competed** in their respective **State Finals** but **did not win** their State Final;
- (d) Reserves from the Host State.
- (e) In the event of two greyhounds being equal highest ranked in (c) , then the following criteria (in order from (i) to (vii)) will be used to select the representative:**
 - (i) Most Group One wins**
 - (ii) Most Group Two wins**
 - (iii) Most Group Three wins**
 - (iv) Most Group One placings**
 - (v) Most Group Two placings**
 - (vi) Most Group Three placings**
- (vii) If the greyhounds cannot be split using any of the above criteria then a ballot will be used to determine the representative.**

Benefits

- The Wild Card concept has the potential to create increased media interest in the series as it will create a talking point throughout the State Finals Series.
- Greyhounds that have performed consistently in Group Races in the first half of the year are rewarded for that effort.
- Current form is still required as the wild card entry must have competed in their respective State Final.
- Assist in the development of the AGRA profile and Group Race rankings.
- Increase interest in Group Race activity into the Nationals.
- May encourage trainers of high performing greyhounds to travel with their greyhounds to accumulate points, thus improving the depth of Group Races up to July 31.
- The depth of each of the Finals will be strengthened.
- Remove confusion over the current Victoria/NSW rotation.
- The selection process of the Wild Card entries is quantitative and free from perceived bias.

Logistical Issues

- By using the AGRA rankings, trainers of highly ranked greyhounds still should have the opportunity, if they wish, to trial their greyhounds on the track prior to the final as greyhounds eligible for wild card entries will be known prior to each State's Finals being run.

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