

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY



What is the purpose of this Policy?

Public Comment is a valuable tool for industry engagement. This Policy aims to provide guidance and information to protect industry integrity from irresponsible practices and promote a vibrant, sustainable industry that meets its regulatory obligations.

Who does this Policy apply to?

All industry participants, GRNSW staff members and officials.

What does this Policy apply to?

All Public Comments that refer to greyhound racing, GRNSW or greyhound racing clubs and officials. As an example, Public Comments include those made in forums, on blogs, social media and networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter; and content sharing sites such as YouTube.

What is a 'Public Comment'?

ANY comment made in any medium, where it might be expected that the publication or circulation of the comment might spread to the community at large. This includes public speeches, comments in newspapers, radio, television, blogs and social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

What happens if I breach this Policy?

A breach of this Policy is an offence under the Greyhound Racing Rules and may also amount to breaches of other GRNSW policies including the *GRNSW Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy*. A person found guilty of an offence may be liable for a penalty under the Rules.

Public Comment you make may also be subject to other relevant State and Commonwealth laws.

Media Enquiries

Communicating with the media allows us to promote the industry as well as educate and inform the community about greyhound racing. It may include distributing positive and informative stories or responding to enquiries.

When providing information and making Public Comment in the media on greyhound racing you must:

- **think** clearly about the outcome you would like to achieve or influence by making a Public Comment;
- **check** that your Public Comment is accurate, supported by facts, and does not unreasonably damage the public reputation of the industry;
- **assess** the benefits and risks of making the Public Comment so that it does not expose the industry or you to potential legal risks; and
- **exercise** careful judgement to make sure your Public Comment does not prejudice the integrity of the industry, its officials and legal proceedings.

Official GRNSW Media Releases are issued only by the GRNSW Media, Communications and Wagering Unit.

What can I do if I have a complaint or concern about greyhound racing?

GRNSW will continually monitor media and online social media activity in relation to greyhound racing.

If you think there has been Public Comment in breach of this Policy or you have any concerns about the welfare or integrity of greyhound racing in NSW, it is important that you either:

contact GRNSW Intelligence Unit:

- by email on intelligence@grnsw.com.au

or contact the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Hotline:

- by phone on **1800 680 174**; or
- at its website at www.greyhoundwelfare.com.au

WHAT CAN'T I DO UNDER THIS POLICY?

Under the Greyhound Racing Rules and Policy you should not make any Public Comment that:

- Defames a greyhound racing club or official.
- Is discriminatory, racist, abusive, threatening or obscene language or imagery.
- Contains language or imagery that is otherwise offensive, inappropriate or inflammatory without a reasonable basis.
- Misrepresents the source of comments or the identity of the maker.
- Breaches a person's privacy.
- Includes unproven or unsupported accusations against an individual or organisation.
- Encourages conduct that may or would constitute a criminal offence, give rise to civil liability or violates any law.
- Identifies matters that are currently the subject of legal proceedings, Steward Inquiries or appeals as these may prejudice proceedings. GRNSW will treat any Public Comment regarding regulatory proceedings extremely seriously.

WHAT CAN I DO UNDER THIS POLICY?

You can make any Public Comment or criticism regarding Greyhound Racing, GRNSW or Greyhound Racing Clubs or Officials as long as it is reasonable or justifiable.