

A Summary Of

Directives, Instructions and Guidance Notes

Issued by

The Executive Committee

Of the

Irish Coursing Club

To

Club Secretaries,

Control Stewards

Judges and Slippers

Through the

Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club

(embodying the years 1969-2024)

Davis Road, Clonmel.

Phone 052-6188508

1 PRE COURSING INSPECTION

Hares, hare paddocks and feeding shall be inspected by the following, not later than five days before the holding of a coursing meeting where possible .-

- (i) Control Steward.
- (ii) Veterinary Surgeon arranged by the Club.
- (iii) An authorised person drawn from a panel appointed by the Irish Coursing Club. (Pre-Coursing Inspectors/Advisors)

A member of the Club may be present at such inspections.

Such inspections will be organised through the secretary of the club, who should ensure that the Vet is present.

VETERINARY INSPECTION OF HARES.

It is necessary that a Veterinary Surgeon be employed to inspect hares prior to the running of a meeting and the Vets report from the inspection must be received by this office prior to the first day of the meeting.

PRE-COURSING REPORT

A report of the inspection must be forwarded to the Secretary, Irish Coursing Club, by the Control Steward and signed by the following -

- (i) The Control Steward.
- (ii) Veterinary Surgeon.
- (iii) Pre-Coursing Advisor. .

A separate report may be forwarded to the Secretary by the Vet. This should be noted on the Inspection Report by the Control Steward.

PREGNANT HARES

Any hare which is pregnant, shall not be coursed and shall be released back to the wild as soon as possible. Likewise, any hare which is found to be lactating and its young identified, shall be released back to the wild, with its young, at the earliest possible opportunity.

INSTRUCTIONS OF ADVISOR/INSPECTOR.

Any instructions to a coursing club by a coursing advisor/inspector, must be complied with by the club concerned prior to the running of that club's meeting in the season in which the instruction is issued. Clubs must give Advisors/Inspectors access to all areas of their coursing field and must carry out all instructions given by them, before they will be allowed to run a meeting.

NPWS LICENCE

All conditions of the licence issued annually by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage (NPWS) must be strictly adhered to. These conditions may vary from year to year and Clubs should read the licence carefully when they receive their copy from the ICC. **NOTE** The Licence does not authorize any person or persons to enter any land without the permission of the owner or occupier of the land.

BOXING AREA

Each club should have 'inspection' boxes which allows the Club to detect hares which are unfit for coursing so that these hares can be removed and released.

Boxes about 1.5 foot high to help prevent hares hitting off the top of the box, should be provided in the boxing area.

BACK-RUN

Where possible, the minimum width for the back run should be 5 feet. Clubs should put sacking on the inside of the wire. If grass is allowed to grow it acts as a natural cover.

SHELTER

Where possible, grass should be allowed to grow in the hare paddock to provide a natural cover. Otherwise shelters should be provided.

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2 LENGTH OF FIELD

The length of coursing fields shall be monitored by the Executive Committee on an individual club basis. The minimum length of a coursing field shall be 250 yards and maximum length 600 yards unless otherwise instructed by the ICC.

3 CONDITIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF FIXTURES AND NOMINATOR EVENTS. (Amended 2013)

A: New two-day fixtures are limited to 128 entries for a period of three years before being reviewed

B: 32 dog nominator events will not be considered until a club has run two satisfactory two-day meetings.

C: All two-day fixtures which have run three meetings (see A above) may have a maximum of 3 x 32 and 3 x 16 dog stakes (144 entries) and this number may be advertised Initially (138 courses).

D: New meetings must have run 3 satisfactory meetings to be considered for allocation of trial stakes or reserve trial stakes.

E: One-day fixtures including Sundays may have a maximum of 4 x 16 and 1 x 8 and this number may be advertised initially (72 entries) (66 courses).

F: The number of courses on anyone day cannot exceed 72 except in the case of the National Meeting. Consolation Stakes to be included as 'entries'

4 MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.

A: A park meeting must have 40 entries and have sufficient hare stocks for 40 entries before being allowed to run a meeting

B: An open club must run a minimum of 24 entries

C: A park club two-day meeting shall not be permitted unless it has on its programme at least 2 x 32 stakes and 2 x 16 stakes or their equivalent with a sufficient hare stock to run the programme

D: An open coursing club shall require a minimum of 40 entries before it is permitted to run a two-day event

E: Preservation or other grants will not be available to clubs if they run meetings contrary to the above instructions.

5 MAXIMUM STAKE ENTRIES (Amended 2013, 2015, 2017, EC 2024)

(i) Two-day fixtures shall have a maximum of 144 entries.

(ii) One-day fixtures shall have a maximum of 72 entries.

(iii) The number of courses on any one day shall not exceed 72 except in the case of the National Meeting.

64 Dog or Bitch Trial Stakes. (Directive Issued 7.4.98 (Amended 6.7.99 and 03.08.11))

Coursing Clubs may opt to apply for permission to run a 64 Trial Stake, either Derby or Oaks, in which case 2 rounds must be run on the day preceding the allotted fixture dates, with 2 rounds on the next 2 days. On the final day, the semi-finals must be run before the first interval.

Minimum prize money: Winner: €2,000, R-Up: €600, Semi-finalists €200 each, 4 x €50.

48 Dog or Bitch Trial Stakes. (Directive Issued 2015)

Coursing Clubs may opt to apply for permission to run a 48 Trial Stake, either Derby or Oaks in which case 2 rounds must be run on the day preceding the allotted fixture dates, with 2 rounds on the next 2 days. At Quarter-final stage with 6 dogs remaining, the 3rd dog in each half gets a bye resulting with 4 dogs left on final day. On the final day, the semi-finals must be run before the first interval.

Minimum prize money: Winner: €2,000, R-Up: €600, 1 Semi-finalist €200, 3 x €50.

In the event of a **12 runner or 24 runner stakes**, the last greyhound in each half of either stake, at quarter final stage, shall receive a bye course to ensure that no bye is created at semifinal stage (unless an accidental bye arises)

A change from a 32 to a 64 or 48 will only be permitted if the change in conditions have been notified in Sporting Press prior to the draw.

Or

Coursing clubs shall be allowed to change the status of 32 Trial Stakes to 64 or 48 without having to advertise the change in the Sporting Press provided that the original coursing meeting advertisement in the Sporting Press stated 'this stake may be run as a 64 or 48 if entries allow' and that a notice is posted on the ICC website at least 48 hours prior to draw. Change to Trial Stake status subject to permission being granted by the ICC.

See No 6 for minimum hare requirement.

Trials should not be run within 4 days of the first day of the meeting. See also Directive No 44 re trials

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6 MINIMUM HARE REQUIREMENTS

A club running a two-day meeting or a three-day meeting shall have the following hare requirement.

- (i) Two-day meeting: a surplus of 10 hares plus one per course
- (ii) Three-day meeting: a surplus of 15 hares plus one per course.

Please note that in the event of a hare been pinned, that hare cannot be coursed again for the duration of the meeting. This will reduce the surplus number but as long as you can adhere to the one hare per course rule, a reduction in courses is not required subject to the quality of the remaining hares been maintained.

7 HARE MAINTENANCE.

Please ensure that the hare- paddocks are dry and sheltered and that the feeding and feeding arrangements are to the highest standards. Ensure that a reliable, knowledgeable person is given the responsibility of looking after all aspects of the hares' welfare. Utilise the medication supplied to you by the Irish Coursing Club

The name of each person responsible for hare husbandry in each club should be printed on the club's programme along with other officials

In the interest of hare conservation, clubs are advised to keep in close contact with their local landowners with regard to, in particular, any damage which may be caused by hares to young crops or young plantations. In such circumstances, clubs would be in a position to take hares out of such areas in their preserves and relocate them elsewhere on the preserves and so save them from being shot.

Where a club wishes to appoint an individual to net hares on its behalf for its coursing fixture the name and address of the person involved must be submitted to the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club for approval in advance.

On approval, the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club shall notify such approval to the club secretary, to the local Garda Sergeant, and to the local Wildlife Ranger.

Hares may only be netted on the club's recognised preserves.

The authorisation of any such approved individual shall cease when the clubs fixture has been run out.

Such approved individual will be obliged to carry a copy of the authorisation to net hares, at all times when engaged in the netting operation for production to Gardai and/or Wildlife Rangers.

155-Limitation for Netting of Hares. (Amended 2002 & 2012)

A club shall respect the preserves of other clubs, and shall not purchase hares for any purpose whatever, except from an authorised source. A club shall not issue permits to any person or persons to net, catch or take hares except on their own preserves or on land adjoining same or on lands for which they have obtained the consent of the owner or occupier, to take, net or catch hares, provided this would not involve encroachment on another club's preserves. Nor shall a club take, catch or net hares on lands near to or adjoining other club's preserves. If any dispute arises between clubs in this matter, and if it is not settled by mutual agreement, it shall be referred to the Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final. *Sanctions to be imposed on Clubs found netting hares on another Club's preserves shall include a fine.*

Should any of your club members see poachers or lurchers on your preserves at any time, please contact your nearest Ranger immediately. Please also advise the ICC of the outcome of such incidents in order that they may be logged for discussed with the Wildlife Department at a later date.

8 ENTRY FEES FOR STAKES

Apart from Trial Stakes where the maximum fee is fixed at €50 clubs may use their discretion on the level of entry fee for all other stakes

ENTRIES

RESPONSIBILITY OF REGISTERED OWNERS.

The registered owner of a greyhound shall be held responsible for any substitution, misconduct, or irregularity which may take place with regard to such greyhound to the date when he has notified the Keeper of the Stud Book that such greyhound is no longer his property as provided for in Rule 73. The parent or other guardian shall be held responsible for greyhounds registered in the name of a minor.

The registered owner is considered to be the legal owner. Unless a transfer of ownership is registered, any damage to livestock or to persons caused by a greyhound will be deemed to be the responsibility of the registered owner.

ALTERATION OF NAME OF GREYHOUND.

A-if any subscriber should enter a greyhound by a different name from that in which it shall have last been entered to run in public, he shall give notice of the alteration to the secretary at the time of entry, and the secretary shall place on the card both the late and the present names of the greyhound, and this

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shall be done at all meetings at which the greyhound runs throughout the ensuing season.

B-if notice of the alteration be not given, the greyhound shall be disqualified

C-The new name must be registered before the greyhound may run under it.

Delegates to the Irish Coursing Club AGM, recommended that club secretaries be asked, if an owner does not have a runner at the meeting, particularly if the owner has a long distance to travel, not to put that owner's greyhound in as a reserve.

At recent Provincial Committee meetings, it was recommended that club secretaries, with meetings after 1st November, be asked to keep a couple of places for owners that did not get an entry for their greyhound in a trial stake. It was also decided to recommend that secretaries should try and accommodate owners that have particular difficulties in getting entries in Trial Stakes, and also not to give entries in Trial Stakes to greyhounds that have run a number of times during the season.

It was also recommended that when a working member of a club enters a greyhound with another club, his/her club secretary would contact the club secretary where the greyhound is entered to advise that he/she is a working member and in this way, preference could be given to club working members.

9 ENTRY FORMS FOR INSPECTION AT MEETING

Clubs must have entry forms on field on day of meeting for inspection by Control Steward, if necessary.

ENTRIES -All-Aged Stakes

Club Secretaries should ensure that all entries for the All-aged Stakes are confirmed before the draw.

Greyhounds double entered for meetings to be run at the same time, will be disqualified from both meetings

MEMBERSHIP

Dogs may only be accepted for entry at a coursing meeting where the owner is a current member of a Coursing Club.

Please ensure that people who pay membership at your coursing meeting are issued with a membership card and receipt, as they require this to prove they are club members when they next course their greyhounds.

10 MUZZLING

Greyhounds shall be muzzled in each round of all stakes at park and open coursing meetings The muzzles used in coursing events shall be as approved by the Executive Committee. Owners shall provide their own muzzles. Control Stewards have full and final say over the fitting of a muzzle prior to course.

The Control Steward will ensure that each greyhound is wearing its correct collar and muzzle These will again be checked by the Slip Steward. In the event of any dispute with the Slip Steward regarding the collars or the fitting of the muzzle, the Control Steward shall be the final arbiter.

Control Stewards must ensure that all muzzles are in good condition and particularly ensure that the underneath section of the muzzle has not been interfered with in any way

It shall be a condition of entry in each stake that greyhounds participating shall be required to wear muzzles.

The role of the Slip Steward at coursing meetings has taken on increasing importance with the introduction of muzzling at all park and open coursing meetings.

It is a vital part of the Slip Stewards duty to ensure, not alone that greyhounds come to slips in their proper turn and wearing their proper collars, but also that each greyhound is muzzled.

Rule 105A Duties of Slip Steward

A-Slip Steward (As amended 1993 and A.G.M. 1995).

Every Club promoting a public meeting shall appoint a Slip Steward, whose duty shall be

(1) To see the right greyhounds, both in courses and byes, are brought to slips in their proper turn and that each greyhound is wearing its correct collar and muzzle which shall be worn by each greyhound when each greyhound is being identified by the Control Steward

Only the minimum number of people required, should be in the escape.

11 (A). SUPERVISION BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER AND PRE-COURSING ADVISOR SUPERVISION

A member of the Executive Committee shall be appointed to attend and supervise each coursing meeting. The Executive member should make his attendance known to the secretary of the host club and the officiating control steward. A Pre-Coursing Advisor (one member only) present at the meeting, as well as the officiating control steward, and the appointed Executive member shall consult before any decision is made regarding the meeting, including any decision that involves curtailing, abandoning, postponing, changing the field's layout, or giving instructions to the licensed officials. In the event of a Pre-Coursing Advisor being present at the meeting on the day the decision is being made, then the majority view of that group (Executive Member, Pre-Coursing Advisor & Control Steward) is sufficient to make a decision in relation to the meeting. However, in the absence of a Pre-Coursing Advisor present at the meeting, the appointed Executive Member shall confer with the officiating control steward but shall have complete authority to make decisions regarding the remainder of the meeting and may consult with any party prior to reaching his or her decision. (*Amended 2022*)

(B) OFFICIALS MONITORING COMMITTEE

An Officials Monitoring Committee shall be established by the Executive Committee to address any complaints regarding the performance of judges or slippers. Complaints must be made on the day the occurrence arose to the appointed Executive Member to the meeting. The Committee will monitor how officials perform generally throughout the coursing season. Decisions made by the Committee regarding improvement notices, warnings, licence suspensions, or revocations must be reported to the Executive Committee. Adverse decisions of the Officials Monitoring Committee may be appealed to the balance of the Executive Committee. The Committee shall approve or reject applications from Officials seeking full licence status. *(Amended 2022)*

12 INCORRECT INFORMATION IN RELATION TO ENTRIES.

In the case of wrong information in regard to the name of the greyhound, or owner, coursing card entries should be compared with the entry form and if the entry form agrees with the Identity Card, then the greyhound should be permitted to course and an announcement to that effect should be made.

If it is not correct and if there is not an entry form available, the greyhound may be debarred. Errors in relation to other parts of the entry should be corrected on the card and announced over the public address

CHAMPION STAKES (amended 2021 & 2024)

The Champion Stakes is an event for all-aged greyhounds with puppies specifically debarred. The event is open to all-age greyhounds competing in all-age stakes. All-aged stakes confined to greyhounds which have not won more than a certain level of prize money in any one stake, shall not qualify for points for the Champion Stakes,

ENTRIES	WINNERS PRIZEMONEY	WIN	R/UP	BTN SEMI
8	€750-€999	2	0	0
8	≥€1000	2.5	0	0
8	≥€1250	3	0	0
8	≥€1500	3.5	.5	0
8	≥€2000	4	1	0
ENTRIES	WINNERS PRIZEMONEY	WIN	R/UP	BTN SEMI
12-16	€1000 - €1499	4	2	0
12-16	≥€1500	5	2.5	0
12-16	≥€2000	6	3	1
12-16	≥€2500	7	3.5	1.5
12-16	≥€3000	8	4	2
ENTRIES	WINNERS PRIZEMONEY	WIN	R/UP	BTN SEMI
24-32	≥€2000	10	6	3
24-32	≥€3000	11	7	3.5
24-32	≥€4000	12	8	4

1. The closing date for qualifying for points shall be 12 days prior to the first day of the National Meeting.
2. The above is the only factor which will be used in the final selection. (2007)
3. For final placings where two greyhounds are on equal points, the prize money won will be taken into the reckoning. If they are still equal, selection will be by the toss of a coin by the Irish Coursing Club. The next four greyhounds in order of merit shall be listed as reserves. Reserves to be noted at the time of the draw once confirmed as available. No additional or replacement reserves to be added after the official draw is made.
4. Owners must notify the Secretary, Irish Coursing Club, of their acceptance following notification of selection,
5. Dogs, the property of the same owner will be guarded in the draw. No transfer of ownership shall be effected once the draw has been made.
6. Transfer of competing greyhounds will not be allowed between the date of commencement of selection and the termination of the stake.
7. The entry fee €100 must accompany the acceptance.
8. Dogs and bitches shall not be guarded.
9. The final must be run out.

GREYHOUNDS ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE.

A-Only greyhounds registered in the Irish Greyhound Stud Book may compete in coursing events in Ireland. Greyhounds registered in a Stud Book which is a member of the International Alliance of Greyhound Registries are required to register in the Irish Greyhound Stud Book if they wish to compete in Ireland.

B-A greyhound registered in the Irish Greyhound Stud Book and owned by a non National shall be eligible to compete.

C-All greyhounds must be micro-chipped in compliance with the Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015.

13 FAILURE TO WITHDRAW AFTER WINNING: PENALTY

There is a penalty for a greyhound left in for a meeting after he became ineligible through a winning performance subsequent to entry. A fine of €25 will be imposed where a satisfactory explanation is not forthcoming

14 DRAW FOR MEETING

To ensure publication of club's programmes the draw must be forwarded to the Sporting Press on the Monday morning before the meeting. The Sporting Press will then forward the draw to the Daily Papers. The draw should be made on the Sunday night. Sporting Press fax number is 052-6125018, email is news@sportingpress.ie

Secretaries are asked to ensure that the order of running and the starting times of their fixtures are included with their draw and to specify which events are taking place before and after the interval.

15 DOUBLE ENTRIES AT SAME MEETING

A greyhound can only be drawn in one stake at a meeting except where consolations stakes are run

ABSENT GREYHOUNDS

Greyhounds absent for a coursing meeting, with the exception of greyhounds doubly entered, are debarred from competing for a period of 12 days. Also debarred are absent reserves, where they are needed to fill vacancies in stakes.

Any greyhound absent from a meeting, for any reason (other than postponement or abandonment through weather conditions, e.g. frost, fog, snow or flooding, where the stewards of the meeting decided, with or without an inspection, to postpone or abandon the meeting) or withdrawn during the course of the meeting shall not be permitted to compete at any other meeting for 12 days to date from the final day of the original meeting. If, following a stewards inspection, for frost, fog, snow or flooding, they decide to proceed with the meeting, the owner shall in those circumstances have permission to withdraw his greyhound without incurring penalty. Any greyhound competing in a stake which, during the course of the running of that stake, is found to be so debarred, shall immediately be withdrawn from the stake.

Where an owner or his agent wishes to withdraw a greyhound from any stake at a coursing meeting, he must.

- (a) obtain the permission of the stewards of the meeting and
- (b) produce to the Control Steward a certificate from a Veterinary Surgeon stating reasons for such withdrawal or have the greyhound examined by a Veterinary Surgeon on the grounds.

Where the Stewards for any reason find it necessary to inspect coursing grounds, irrespective of the outcome of their inspection, an owner is entitled to withdraw a greyhound without incurring any of the disabilities under this Rule. If he so desires to withdraw his greyhound, provided he subsequently contacts the Secretary of the I.C.C. and obtains his written permission to compete within twelve days, which permission must be presented to the Control Steward at this subsequent meeting or meetings, he may so withdraw his greyhound. Where an owner opts to allow his/her greyhound to compete following such an inspection, then he may not subsequently withdraw his/her greyhound on that day, without incurring any of the disabilities under this rule.

With the exception of all-aged events, where a greyhound is entered for two meetings to be run at the same time, be they one-day or two-day meetings, the owner may opt to compete at either or both of these meetings provided that, in the case of a one and a two day meeting, the greyhound competes and is beaten on the first day of the two day meeting.

A greyhound shall not be entered in all-aged events at two meetings to be run at the same time, be they one or two-day meetings. Any greyhound so entered shall be deemed ineligible to compete in either meeting and the owner or agent shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee and such greyhound shall not be permitted to compete at any other meeting for 12 days from the final day of the meetings from which it was deemed ineligible to compete.

The attention of greyhound trainers and handlers with greyhounds running at coursing meetings is drawn to Irish Coursing Club Rule 122A(2). NOTE: Any owner who does not bring a qualifying greyhound to slips for the next round and fails to inform the Stewards of the Meeting, is guilty, at the very minimum of gross bad manners and of discourtesy to the host club. Such non-compliance has

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the effect of unnecessarily delaying coursing for owners, trainers and handlers and the general public alike.

16 DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZE MONEY IN CUP EVENTS

A ratio between the winner, the runner-up and the semi-finalists in 32 dog events must be maintained by all clubs. The ratio is for every ten units to the winner, there must be at least three to the runner-up with one each to the beaten semi-finalists. In the main 16 dog event at a one-day or two-day meeting for a ratio of 10 units to the winner, there must be three units to the runner-up. Prize money in all-aged stakes must be published in the advertisement. Once all-aged Stakes are advertised in the Sporting Press, prize money stated in the advertisement cannot be amended for any reason, unless the stake is re-advertised in the Sporting Press with amended prize money or published on the ICC coursing website prior to the draw.

17 DESTINATION OF TROPHY

Clubs should clearly state on their programmes, particularly in the case of nominator events, who is entitled to trophies. It will avoid ill feeling and rancour later if the information is carried on the card. Some clubs stipulate in nominator events as follows.- Winner €400 (of which the nominator receives €50) and trophy. Others carry an entry thus -Winner €400 (of which the nominator receives €50 and trophy). The distinction between the two conditions is unambiguous, and leaves no doubt in anyone's mind.

18 PAYMENT OF PRIZE MONEY IN NOMINATOR EVENTS.

Provided the Nominator pays the nomination fee, the Nominator shall be reimbursed the nomination fee from any prize money won by his nomination. Nominators shall be paid the Nominators' prize money only with the exception of the Irish Cup, Purse and Plate.

19 DUFFER STAKES

A duffer is a greyhound of any age that has not made himself ineligible through winning performances. Duffers or maidens are described as no-course, one-course, two course or three-course.

A no-course duffer as the name implies, is one that has never won a course.

A one-course duffer is one which has never won more than one course at anyone time. Winning one course at a number of meetings does not make a greyhound ineligible for one- course duffers.

Two-course duffers are greyhounds which have never won any more than two courses at any one time. The winning of two courses in a number of stakes does not make a greyhound ineligible.

Three-course duffers are greyhounds which have never won any more than three courses at any one time. The winning of three courses in a number of stakes does not make a greyhound ineligible.

A greyhound getting a bye course is deemed to have won that course. Therefore, a three- course duffer is ineligible to compete further in duffer stakes if he wins three courses and receives a bye in his next course.

A greyhound 'awarded' a course is not considered to have won that course as he has not run up the field.

By dividing an eight-dog stake, a two-course duffer, though he has technically divided a stake is still eligible for a two-course duffer.

If a puppy wins four courses, he is eligible, thereafter, for puppy stakes or all-aged stakes only.

If an all-aged dog wins four courses, he is eligible for all-aged stakes only.

In both the above instances byes count.

A dog winning one course is not eligible for a no-course duffer stake, but he is eligible for a one-course, two-course or three-course duffer stake.

A dog winning two courses is eligible for a two-course or three course duffer stakes. A dog winning three courses is eligible only for a three-course duffer.

20 TRIAL STAKE CONDITIONS

Programmes must carry a notice with trial stake conditions as follows.

It will be accepted a greyhound, eligible to compete in the Derby or Oaks is a declared runner unless advised to the contrary. Thus, it will be necessary, and very essential, to notify the Irish Coursing Club office immediately a greyhound becomes a non-runner for any reason, so that the next qualified greyhound's owner may be notified. Trial Stake winners competing in the National Meeting, Derby and Oaks are subject to an entry fee as decided by the Executive Committee.

Each coursing club must supply two good quality hares per trial stake.

If not, sanctions will apply. (EC 14.4.08)

21 DUTIES OF CONTROL STEWARDS

Control Stewards are advised by the Executive Committee they must not interpret Rules or instructions but rather implement them. Thus, if a club has not got sufficient hares in accordance with instructions, that club should be directed to reduce its stakes accordingly. The Control Steward's report should indicate compliance or otherwise.

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If there are any breaches or irregularities a Control Steward must notify the club and indicate on his report that he so notified the club.

If there are stakes in excess of the permitted maximum the club must be directed to reduce to the correct number.

Where Judge or Slippers or both are not performing as they should to maintain the image of coursing, the report should carry a note to the effect. The Executive Committee is very much dependent on reports on judges and slippers in the matter of selecting the right people to judge and slip at the National Meeting and the Irish Cup. For that reason reports on extra ability or lack of ability on the part of these officials should be included in the report.

These matters will be taken note of subsequently when Control Stewards' reports on meetings are being studied by the Sub-Committee and later by the Executive Committee.

22 STEWARDS OF THE MEETING.

The stewards of a meeting should be plainly notified on the programme. It is not necessary to put on the programme the names of the Executive Committee members. Executive Committee members present are automatically stewards and the notice following the listing of the stewards of the meeting should read 'Members of the Executive Committee present shall also act as stewards'

When there are three of the acting stewards present, and the others have been called to the scene of activity, the investigation may proceed once the three are assembled.

23 STEWARDS' INQUIRIES

Acting stewards will be advised as to their duties by the Control Steward, who will withdraw during deliberations.

24 PRIZEMONEY FOR WITHDRAWN GREYHOUNDS.

Stewards of meetings are asked to use their judgement in relation to the matter.

25 WITHDRAWAL OF GREYHOUNDS

(a) A greyhound shall not be withdrawn without the consent of the stewards of the meeting. The programme should clearly carry a notice- 'No greyhounds shall be withdrawn without the permission of the stewards. Any greyhound withdrawn during a coursing meeting, without the permission of the Stewards, must send a Vets Cert to the Irish Coursing Club office the day after the meeting'.

Control Stewards must advise, in their report, any greyhound withdrawn without this permission.
(EC 14.4.08)

The announcement made in relation to the withdrawal of a greyhound will indicate that it was withdrawn with the permission of the stewards of the meeting by the Veterinary Officer.

Where greyhounds are absent allegedly on grounds of illness or injury the stewards have the option of sending a Veterinary Officer to examine it. If the greyhound, in the Veterinary Officer's opinion, is fit to run, the owner pays such Officer's expenses. If not, the club pays him, where the Veterinary Officer had to visit a kennels or greyhound outside the grounds

(b) In the case of Trial Stakes, dogs drawn in the final are eligible to compete in the Derby and Oaks if the winners are not available, provided they have been withdrawn with the permission of the stewards of the meeting. In such cases, for the National Meeting only, the 12 Day Rule (Rule 122 sub para A7) IS not considered to have been violated

(c) Every greyhound withdrawn during a coursing meeting, without permission of the Stewards, must send a Vets Cert to the Irish Coursing Club office the day after the meeting. (EC14.4.08)

26 HARE STEWARDS

Clubs should ensure that they have a sufficient number of capable and active personnel available to intervene and rescue a hare in difficulty with muzzled greyhounds. Such hare should be placed in a box and inspected by a Veterinary Surgeon and the appropriate treatment given.

Hare Stewards should be on the side of the field furthest away from the crowd if possible.

27 OPEN COURSING CROWD CONTROL

The old maxim of staying with the flag should be strictly adhered to and Stewards should be appointed to ensure that the public congregate in the vicinity of the flag and not all over the grounds. The reasons for this are so obvious it is not necessary to explain them to Open Clubs

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28 INTERVALS AT OPEN COURSING

Where it is noted by the Stewards of the meeting that hares are fast coming to hand in any round, there shall be an interval of 10 minutes at the end of each such round to enable greyhounds to be caught and to give them a rest. In the event of an Undecided Course or No Course at an Open meeting, 15 minutes shall be allowed from when greyhound(s) are taken up as timed by the Control Steward or sooner if ordered by the Judge or if claimed on behalf of both greyhounds (and the five course rule is set aside).

29 CONSERVATION GRANTS / HARE RELEASE

The conservation grant given is €6.35 per hare. An open club may have hares released on to its preserves under the scheme from a nearby park club but then only after the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club has given permission

CO-OPERATION WITH WILDLIFE OFFICERS.

Clubs must co-operate fully with Wildlife Officers, particularly in the matter of the supervision of the release of hares. Appointments made in this regard with Wildlife Officers **must** be strictly adhered to. It is in the interest of the ICC to be able to confirm that all hares were released after a meeting if this can be confirmed by a Wildlife Officer.

The role of the Wildlife Officer at a meeting is to ensure that the terms of the Wildlife Act and the Netting Licence are adhered to.

30 GRANTS (Amended 2017)

(With the exception of Hare Conservation Grants, all grants reduced by 10% in 1997) (In 2004, this 10% was restored.)

(a) Open Clubs:

The grants to open clubs are - 1 day, €672.96
2 day, €780.89 Second Meeting €95

(b) Trial Stakes (Amended 2002, 2011, 2015, 2017, 2022)

	64 Trial Stake
Winner	€2,000
Runner Up	€600
2 unpl SF €200 ea	€400
4 unpl QF €50 ea	€200
Total	€3,200
Entry Fees @ €50	€3,200
ICC Grant	€368
New ICC Contribution	€250
Total	€3,818
Promoting Club Surplus	€ 618

	48 Trial Stake
Winner	€2,000
Runner Up	€600
2 unpl SF €200 ea	€400
2 unpl QF €50 ea	€100
Total	€3,100
Entry Fees @ €50	€2,400
ICC Grant	€368
New ICC Contribution	€250
Total	€3,018
Promoting Club Deficit	-€82

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	32 Trial Stake
Winner	€1,500
Runner Up	€450
2 unpl SF €150 ea	€300
4 unpl QF €50 ea	€200
	€2,450
Entry Fees @ €50	€1,600
ICC Grant	€368
New ICC Contribution	€250
Total	€2,218
Promoting Club Deficit	-€232

	16 Trial Stake
Winner	€1,000
Runner Up	€300
2 unpl SF €50 ea	€100
	€1,400
Entry Fees @ €50	€800
ICC Grant	€368
Total	€1,168
Promoting Club Deficit	-€232

(c) Grants: Working Members Stake €114.28 (16 or 32);
 Duffer Stake €86.34 (16 or 32);
 All- Aged Stake (1 day meeting only) €86.34 (16). (Half the above grant is payable for 8 dog stakes)

(D) Grant towards Judge and Slipper €57 for a one day meeting and €88 for a two or three day meeting.
 Restricted Judge or Slipper €100 per meeting (2012).

31 MID-WEEK FIXTURES

The mid-week grant is €634 per day (subject to there being no clash of mid-week fixtures). A club running more than one mid-week fixture will qualify for the grant.

Mid-week meetings run on days which include a Church Holiday or Bank Holiday (with the exception of Christmas meetings) will also qualify for mid-week grants as will a meeting run on the October bank Holiday provided it is not the second day of a two-day fixture

Where a club advertising a mid-week fixture, and subsequently, for any reason transfers one or both of its dates to a weekend or Christmas week it shall not be eligible for the mid-week grant. Similarly a club transferring to mid-week for any reason will be eligible for the grant (subject to there being no clash of mid-week fixtures) With each application for a change to mid-week, the club should verify its entitlement in advance

32 CONDITIONS: ATTACHED TO ALLOTMENT OF ANY GRANTS

The following stipulation was made in relation to grants

'That grants made by the Club for any purpose may be withheld or deferred in the case of clubs which have infringed the Rules of the Club or the directives of the Executive Committee.

33 GRANTS FOR OPEN MEETINGS NOT COMPLETED

If an open club does not run 75% of its courses, unless in extreme circumstances, the extent of the grant will be reviewed

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34 STEWARD TO SUPERVISE THE RELEASE OF HARES

The Control Stewards must supervise release of hares to the escape on termination of coursing on the first day of a two-day meeting.

The Steward who supervises the meeting should mark and release the hares after the meeting. When a Control Steward certifies that he released the hares on the termination of a meeting for conservation purposes it implies that **all** hares in the paddock were released.

35 NO GRANT FOR CONSERVATION IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Where hares are not marked on the evening of a meeting and released under supervision of the Control Steward, the conservation grant will NOT be paid to the club.

36 CONDUCT OF MEETING

Control Stewards, Judges, Slippers and Stewards of the Meeting must advise the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club of any incident which has come to their notice, as being a violation of the Rules of the Irish Coursing Club or instructions of the Executive Committee

37 ABSENCE OF CONTROL STEWARDS FROM MEETINGS

Where a Control Steward is absent for any reason from a meeting and he cannot nominate another Control Steward in his place, or he cannot contact the local committee, the committee shall appoint a member of the Executive Committee present to act as Control Steward, and if there is not a member of the Executive Committee present, the Steward of the meeting shall appoint some other person to act as Control Steward. The person so appointed shall submit a report to the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club on termination of the meeting. If the meeting is a two-day fixture, and the absence occurs on the first day, the Secretary, Irish Coursing Club (052-6172480) should be contacted for further instructions. His home number, after office hours is 087 6358127

38 CERTIFICATE OF PAYMENT OF PRIZE MONEY

This form, which is issued annually in early September to club secretaries, should be completed and returned as soon as possible after a meeting.

39 PAYMENT OF PRIZE MONEY

Prize money should not be paid within 14 days of the meeting but must be paid within 28 days.

40 JUDGES' AND SLIPPERS' FEES

The fees for judges and slippers should be paid on termination of meeting together with travelling and incidental expenses.

41 CONTROL STEWARDS' FEES FOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Clubs are authorised to seek from owners up to 50c per entry to defray these expenses. The 50c fee imposed is discretionary but Control Stewards fees will be deducted from a club's grant.

42 POSTPONEMENT OF MEETING

The Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club must be contacted where a club proposes to postpone a meeting other than on a day-to-day basis, and permission must be obtained for such postponement. Day-to-day postponements should also be reported as soon as possible.

Where meetings are postponed for one week, it is not necessary to make a new draw but where such a decision is taken, absentees shall be refunded their entry fees. Phone Secretary I.C.C. 052-6172480 during office hours (9.30 am to 4.00 pm) and 087 6358127, after office hours.

43 RUNNING OF AN ADDITIONAL STAKE BEFORE OR AFTER THE OFFICIAL MEETING

All clubs are advised they shall not run an extra stake before or after their meeting.

44 TRIAL SESSIONS

A club may hold no more than one trial session. In exceptional circumstances the Irish Coursing Club may apply to the Minister to hold a second day of trials. No more than one greyhound should take part in any trial (single trials). The ICC must notify the NPWS in advance of each trial session. An authorized officer of the ICC and a veterinary surgeon shall be in attendance.

No trials may be held after the meeting. Trials should only be held when conditions are right. *Under no circumstances should you hold trials during bad weather.*

Clubs who run trials should endeavour to hold these trials at a time when they would not constitute a clash with coursing fixtures in the same area.

All greyhounds running in coursing trials shall be muzzled. The type of muzzle used shall be to the satisfaction of the officers of the club holding such trials.

Trials may not be run within 4 days of the first day of a coursing meeting. (2008). See also No 5.

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45 TERMINATION OF TRIAL SESSIONS

A club may not have Trials after the hares are marked for conservation.

46 COURSES FOR RESERVES

Where there are reserves on the programme and they are not called on, the club may, if they so wish, allow these reserves to run a course on termination of coursing on the first day. Only greyhounds listed on the card as reserves and so identified by the Control Steward are eligible

47 PERMISSION FOR THE NETTING OF HARES BY INDIVIDUALS

All clubs authorising individuals to net hares on their behalf must do so by getting permission from the Secretary, ICC in writing

48 HARE HUSBANDRY

COCCIDIOSIS. Give each hare 1.8cc Baycox Bovis 5% undiluted via mouth.

WORMS On intake, give ¾ cc of Curazole (Fenbendazole - cattle strength), via mouth.

CUTS AND BRUISES. Spray feet on intake with Terrimycin Aerosol spray.

49 TREATMENT OF HARES ON RELEASE

It would be a good idea to treat hares feet with Terrimycin

50 HARE PRESERVES

Our legal adviser states that the position of a club in relation to the preservation of its land is weakened if notices are not displayed to the effect that the netting and coursing of hares on the coursing club's preserves is not permitted

Preserves -Rule 155

A club shall respect the preserves of other clubs, and shall not purchase hares for any purpose whatsoever, except from an authorised source. A club shall not issue permits to any person or persons to net, catch or take hares except on their own preserves or on land adjoining same or on lands for which they have obtained the consent of the owner or occupier, to take, net or catch hares, provided this would not involve encroachment on another club's preserves. Nor shall a club take, catch or net hares on lands near to or adjoining other club's preserves. If any dispute arises between clubs in this matter, and if it is not settled by mutual agreement, it shall be referred to the Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final. *Sanctions to be imposed on Clubs found netting hares on another Club's preserves shall include a fine.*

51 HORSE FOR THE JUDGE

It is important to have a good looking and well trained horse for a judge at a coursing meeting. It is very unfair to expect a judge to concentrate on judging if he has to control an unruly horse. Equally a judge does not look his best and the image of coursing to the spectators is not improved if an old unkempt horse is provided for the judge.

52 DOCTOR

Each club should make every effort to have a doctor present on the field, in either a paid or an honorary capacity.

53 SLIPPER'S HUT

A second covered hut or a horse box for dogs waiting to go to slips must be provided for the Control Steward and would encourage the owners to come to slips sooner, especially on a bad day. It should be situated about 20 to 30 yards away from the slipper's hut.

Clubs shall provide a screen in the slippers hut to be used in the event of a 'no slip'.

53 (1) When an owner, trainer, or handler has given control of their greyhound to the slipper, he/she must not interfere in any way with the hare and/or slipper: it is not permitted to make any sound nor cause a sound to be made that would affect the slip upon the greyhound's control been given to the slipper and prior to the greyhound(s) being released by the slipper.

A breach of this directive shall be reported to the Executive of the ICC via the Control Steward and/or Slip Steward and/or Executive Member on duty at the meeting.

The following sanctions may all or partly apply:

- A.** A verbal warning to desist.
- B.** A written warning to desist.
- C.** A suspension preventing the affected person from presenting greyhounds to slips for a defined period as determined by a sub-committee of the executive.

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- D. In the event of a repeat offence then the sub-committee of the executive can order a ban be implemented and the affected person is barred from bringing greyhounds to slips for a period not less than one coursing season or its equivalent if the suspension period spans two seasons.
- E. A fine in the sum of not more than €300.
- F. Any of the above sanctions are amenable to appeal to the balance of the executive that did not sit on the original sub-committee.

54 TOILETS

It is necessary to have toilets on the field, particularly ladles toilets. Every effort should be made to have them as presentable and hygienic as possible and clubs should make an all-out effort to satisfy the public in this respect. Portable toilets may now be hired.

55 TELEVISION AND MEDIA COVERAGE

In the event of being approached by any television crew for permission to televise proceedings at a coursing meeting, club secretaries should refer such television crew to the Secretary, Irish Coursing Club

All clubs are advised that elected public representatives attending coursing meetings, even if they are known to be opposed to coursing or other field sports, should be treated with courtesy and decorum. Please advise your members that it is not in the best interests of the image of our Sport to verbally abuse such people.

56 ATTENDANCE AT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ENQUIRIES

Any club which is summoned to come before the Executive Committee and fails to do so, in connection with investigations being held into their activities or the running of their meeting will not be granted a licence in succeeding years, until they have so appeared before the Committee.

57 PENALTIES

Subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, clubs which do not adhere to the preservation regulations in relation to the release of the required number of hares at the stated time, may have their licences to run a meeting, in the following season withdrawn, or a lesser penalty inflicted, following investigation by the Executive Committee

58 APPOINTMENT OF JUDGE AND SLIPPER

The Executive Committee have recommended that if more than one person applies for the position of judge or slipper for your meeting, there should be a secret vote among members for the appointment. It was further recommended that the judge or slipper to first receive 50% of the votes of members voting, plus 1 vote, is the person who should be appointed and it is not necessary for a judge or slipper to be proposed and seconded in order to be eligible for election

59 MEMBERSHIP FEE

It is not necessary in the case of entry to stakes (other than stakes confined to members, and so published in Sporting Press) to be a member of the club concerned, if the owner is already a member of a club near his residence. (See rules for membership fee) It is not permissible to confine any stake, other than members stakes, to members.

The membership fee increased to €20 (EC 2024)

60 MEMBERSHIP

Membership cards should be available for inspection by the Control Steward prior to a dog going to slips.

61 ASSOCIATE CLUBS

This Directive relates to Associate Open Coursing Clubs who engage in Open Coursing under S.I. No. 550/2005 – Wildlife (Wild Mammals) (Open Seasons) Order, 2005 (“the 2005 Open Seasons Order”)

This Directive shall have the same weight as the Rules made by the Irish Coursing Club and is binding on all Associate Open Clubs.

An "ASSOCIATE OPEN COURSING CLUB" is an Open Coursing Club which has duly paid the affiliation fee and insurance subscription pursuant to Rule 4 of the Irish Coursing Club Rules. Upon compliance with Rule 4, such Clubs are affiliated to the Irish Coursing Club but do not attract voting rights at any Irish Coursing Club provincial AGM or the Irish Coursing Club national AGM.

A "REGULATED COURSING MATCH" is defined in the Wildlife Act, 1976 as "*a coursing match held in accordance with the rules for such matches which are for the time being both published and approved by the Irish Coursing Club pursuant to the Greyhound Industry Act, 1958.*"

Associate Open Clubs shall abide by the Rules of the Irish Coursing and the following Rules in particular are

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drawn to the attention of Associate Open Coursing Clubs:

- (i) **MUZZLING** Greyhounds shall be muzzled at open coursing meetings. The muzzles used in coursing events shall be as approved by the Executive Committee. Owners shall provide their own muzzles. Control Stewards have full and final say over the fitting of a muzzle prior to course. The Control Steward will ensure that each greyhound is wearing its correct collar and muzzle. These will again be checked by the Slip Steward. In the event of any dispute with the Slip Steward regarding the collars or the fitting of the muzzle, the Control Steward shall be the final arbiter. Control Stewards must ensure that all muzzles are in good condition and particularly ensure that the underneath section of the muzzle has not been interfered with in any way.
- (ii) All rules relating to wearing of collars and principles of judging to be adhered to.

All Associate Open Clubs who intend to engage in Open Coursing under the 2005 Open Seasons Order must:

- (i) Notify the Irish Coursing Club of their officials (Judges, Slippers and Nominated Control Stewards) before their first meeting of the season. This information can be emailed to the Irish Coursing Club. A Control Steward can be someone nominated from within the membership of the Associate Open Club who will have responsibility of checking greyhound identities and ensuring the Rules are adhered to.
- (ii) Notify the Irish Coursing Club by email of their intention to engage in Open Coursing before the Associate Open Club goes out open coursing on their preserves on any given day.
- (iii) Maintain an up to date report log book (supplied by the Irish Coursing Club) which will contain details of information from each day of Open Coursing.
- (iv) Return the log book to the Irish Coursing club at the end of the Open Season or sooner if requested by the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club.
- (v) Associate Open Clubs are not required to have a minimum number of entries.

62 NOTICES FOR PROGRAMMES

The following notices should be inserted on programmes for all meetings

1. UNAUTHORISED PHOTOGRAPHY

Unauthorised photography is strictly forbidden at this meeting

2. STEWARDS OF MEETING

List stewards of meeting and add Members of the Executive Committee present shall also act as stewards of the meeting"

3. WITHDRAWAL OF GREYHOUNDS

No greyhound shall be withdrawn without the permission of the stewards.

4. TRIAL STAKE CONDITIONS -NATIONAL MEETING

It will be accepted that a greyhound eligible to compete is a declared runner unless advised to the contrary. Thus it will be necessary and very essential to notify the Irish Coursing office immediately a greyhound becomes a non-runner for any reason, so that the next qualified greyhound may be notified

5. RIGHT OF ADMISSION

The Committee reserves the right to refuse admission and to remove any person from the grounds

6. DISCLAIMER NOTICE

The Club disclaims any liability in respect of any vehicle or contents of such vehicle left in the car park and is not responsible for any article left in their custody

7. It is a condition of entry at this coursing meeting that owners/trainers/handlers agree to be bound by Rule 88.

63 AGM Report and Copy Accounts.

The following must be forwarded to the Secretary, ICC, each year-

Rule 135. A report of the annual general meeting and a list of officers and committee appointed by each club, shall be sent to the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club not later than May 1 each year.

Rule 151C. A copy of the clubs Accounts shall be forwarded annually to the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club.

64 BOOKMAKERS

It is recommended that each coursing club endeavour have at least 1 bookmaker attending their coursing meeting.

BETTING RULES (As amended A.G.M. 1989)

- 1. Long odds bets shall stand when made after the Draw provided the dog is placed in slips under the

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slipper's control whether or not the dog leaves slips.

2. If a greyhound listed as a runner be withdrawn from the first round only of an even! before it comes under the slipper's control, bets placed on such greyhound shall be refunded and if the odds on such greyhound immediately before the first course in such round be as set out hereunder, the liability of the bookmaker in respect of long odds bets on the winner of the event shall be reduced as follows.-

Odds	Reduction by Bookmaker
Odds on	€0.50 in €
Evens up to 3/1	€0.25 in €
Over 3/1 and under 8/1	€0.12', in €
8/1 and over.	Nil

The amount staked will not be subject to any reduction.

As regards long odds on doubles, trebles and accumulators in any round of an event, unless each dog comes under the slipper's control for the first course the bet will be void The reduction will not apply to doubles, trebles or accumulators

3 In the event of a final not being run for any reason, payment of long odds will be as for a divide.

4 The owner or nominator of a greyhound in a Stake in which there is long odds betting shall give notice of withdrawal (in writing) to the Secretary of a Club running the Meeting at least a half hour before the advertised time for the commencement of coursing under penalty as set out in Appendix which will be forwarded to the Executive Committee, who will decide on its allocation.

Explanatory Notes. (1)

(a) In the event of more than One dog being withdrawn from the first round of a stake, only the shortest priced dog shall be considered for the purposes of such reduction

(b) Under no circumstances can there be more than one case of a reduction in anyone stake

(c) The market price involved of the dog withdrawn shall be ascertained by Bond na gCon or Irish Coursing Club Official after consultation with the Bookmakers.

5. A-Once a greyhound is placed under the slipper's control, all short odds bets on that greyhound shall stand notwithstanding the fact that such greyhound may fail to break slips or fail to chase the hare.

B-A black flag shall be hoisted with the flag of the greyhound running under protest, and no bets shall be made on such a course. Any person not complying with this rule may be removed from the coursing field, and reported to the Executive Committee

C-Any greyhound found to be beyond control in slips may, by order of the stewards, be taken out of the slips and disqualified after consultation with the judge and slipper and all bets on that course shall be void. This section is not in conflict with Sections A and F.

D-Should the greyhounds by any neglect or oversight be allowed to run in the wrong collars, the greyhound to whom the judge awards the course shall be the winner and all short odds shall be paid accordingly.

E-When, after a no course or an undecided course, one of the greyhounds has been officially drawn and the greyhounds are again, by mistake, put into slips and run a course, the arrangements agreed shall stand, whatever the judge's decision may be, and all bets on the course shall be void.

F-Disqualification of a greyhound in a course shall not cause short-odds betting on such course to be void.

Explanatory note regarding multiple bets, i.e., doubles, trebles and divides.

When a divide or winner declared occurs, the bookmaker will treat it as a dead heat, with the backers entitled to receive the full odds to half the stake. However, all dogs in a multiple bet must come under the control of the slipper in their first course after the bet is struck in order for the bet to stand, otherwise there is no bet and the stake is returned to the backer.

65 Animal Remedies.

In accordance with the Animal Remedies Act 1993, the sale of any substance or combination which is intended for administration for animals, can only be sold from fixed premises. Please ensure that such remedies are not sold at your coursing meeting

JUDGES AND SLIPPERS

1 RENEWAL OF LICENCE

Judges and slippers should apply in time for renewal of licences. Such applications will be considered only at the meeting of the Executive Committee held prior to the commencement of the new season.

2 CONDUCT ON FIELD

Judges must detach themselves from the public and refrain from speaking to them. Further, they should ignore remarks from spectators and not get involved in any arguments. If a judge gives a reaction to any

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remark from the public, they will keep on passing remarks and he will find himself more deeply embroiled in discussion.

Judges should give their decisions also without having to wait for discussion with stewards. They should divorce themselves from other activities and be seen to be impartial

3 KNOWLEDGE OF RULES

The success or failure of a meeting can depend on judges and slippers. It is necessary to have rules implemented in full at all times.

4 PUNCTUALITY (Amended 2013)

The judge and slipper should be on the grounds at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start.

5 BEHAVIOUR

The Executive Committee direct that there should be neither smoking or drinking by officials during the periods in which they are on duty at a meeting.

6 ATTIRE

It is important that Judges and Slippers be well attired and that Judges be well mounted.

7 OFFICIALS INTERESTED

Judges and slippers should ensure that no greyhound, their property, or part-owned, is run at the meeting at which they are officiating

8 FINALS OF EVENTS

Slippers are exhorted to ensure that there are turns in the final of events.

9 WEARING OF PROPER COLLARS

There shall be a strict adherence to the rule debarring owners from running their dogs until they have provided a proper collar. The slip stewards shall insist on proper collars being worn

10 CATCHING OF DOGS FOLLOWING THEIR COURSE

According to the Rules, the greyhounds should be disqualified if they are caught before the flag is pulled. It was decided to instruct judges not to permit handlers on the field while coursing is in progress

11 GIVING OF DECISIONS

It is essential that a judge gives proper signals clearly and unmistakably. After a decision is given, a judge may not, in any circumstances, reverse it.

Judges should not indicate their decision until the hare has gone home.

It is important that there be general consistency in Judge's decisions, particularly in courses in which there is no turn. The decision should be in favour of the greyhound which is on line of the hare.

12 RULE 116 -PENALTIES

A greyhound "fighting" could be considered to *depart from directly pursuing the hare*.

This could be construed as breaking off and is the same as a greyhound breaking off from pursuing the hare. He could then be disqualified as in the case of Rule 116D and the course awarded against him in accordance with Rule 116B. Greyhounds fighting should be dealt with under these Rules

13 INTERFERENCE WITH COURSE

If a hare is off line once the dogs are slipped, the judge or other persons should not attempt to alter its course as the action may, unintentionally, lean towards favouritism to one of the dogs

14 RIDE WITH THE HARE

All judges are directed to ride with the hare and not judge a course from one position. In other words, they move in line with the hare towards the escape.

15 ALTERATION OF DECISION -"NO COURSE"

There have been cases where judges giving a *no course* decision have subsequently allowed the competing owners of the greyhounds to toss a coin. This is breaking Rule 112 which indicates that *once a judge has given his decision, he shall not reverse or change it*

16 UNSIGHTED COURSES

In the case of the unsighted rule, there is no variation allowed. If one dog courses the hare and the other does not for any reason, then it is a question of awarding the course to the dog that coursed the hare

17 FAILURE TO COURSE HARE

At a judge's discretion (in certain circumstances) the penalty for failure to course the hare may be disqualification.

18 'NO COURSE' AND 'UNDECIDED' COURSE

The fact that greyhounds run two 'no go' courses does not automatically merit disqualification under the Rules. If there are two 'no goes' (and it must under the Rules concern two greyhounds), then discretion may be used by the judge. In the event of a 'no go' course where the hare is not sighted and the dogs are put back to slips, if one is withdrawn for any reason the other must run its bye course. This is only in accordance with the judge's previous decision, where he felt that the greyhounds had not done sufficient to merit a course. He is altering his decision if he subsequently allows one greyhound to go into the next round without running its course. A 'no course' and 'undecided course' may be run off immediately if claimed on behalf of both greyhounds before the next brace are put into slips, or in the case of a 'no go' if so ordered by the judge when neither greyhound has coursed the hare. Otherwise it shall be run again after the next five courses unless unavoidably it stands over until the next morning, when it shall be the first course run; if it is the last course of the day fifteen minutes shall be allowed after both the greyhounds are taken up. *In the event of an Undecided Course or No Course at an Open meeting, 15 minutes shall be allowed from when greyhound(s) are taken up as timed by the Control Steward or sooner if ordered by the Judge or if claimed on behalf of both greyhounds (and the five course rule is set aside).*

19 CORRECTION OF PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS

When public address or flag stewards make an announcement which varies with Judge's decision, e.g. *an undecided course* when it was *back to slips*, he must approach them with a view to having a correction made

20 KEEPING PEOPLE OFF COURSING FIELD

Handlers should not be allowed to move onto the field until the hare has gone home. Offenders should be publicly warned.

21 TURNING BACK TO COURSING

A judge should view every course, even a bye course, until the hare has gone home

22 SLIPPERS -CONDITIONS OF SLIPS

A slipper should ensure that his slips are in perfect order paying particular attention to the cord. It is considered advisable to have a second pair of slips available

23 LENGTH OF SLIPS (Amended 2013)

The length of slip should ensure that the hare is turned in the half moon/playground area. The slipper shall not slip the dogs, if in his opinion, the hare is unfit to be coursed.

24 LIFTING OF DOGS

The Executive Committee wish to draw slipper's attention to the undesirable practice of lifting dogs in slips. Many owners have complained about this. Firm action will be taken in future against slippers who are adversely commented upon for this practice.

25 INTERFERENCE WITH SLIPPERS

To avoid complaints from the public about undue interference with the slipper in the carrying out of his duties, only the slip steward should be with the slipper in the hut. Slippers must use their own judgment on the quality of the hares for a meeting and they must not be advised by slip stewards or any other officials.

26. COMMUNICATE WITH HARE HUSBANDRY TEAM (Amended 2013)

Judges and Slippers to communicate with boxing area prior to and during the meeting.

APPENDIX A

Questions for Judges and Answers

QUESTIONS

- 1: Red collar goes up the field four lengths in front and is well ahead on points when he fails, turns back and is caught by his handler while white collar continues to chase the hare. Indicate which dog will get the flag?
- 2: Red collar is five lengths in front at the point where the hare is normally turned but there is no turn and as the dogs go towards the escape red collar pauses and white just shades him at the mouth of the escape.
Who would you give the flag to and why?
- 3: White collar has a bye and the owner opts to run without a dog being left in. White collar fails to chase the hare and in an attempt to get him qualified for the next round the owner produces a second dog in the back to slip course. What action would you take as Judge?
- 4: Red collar is leading by two lengths and 15 yards out from the expected point of the turn you fall off your horse and cannot see what happened from there until the hare escapes. What decision would you make?
- 5: White collar has taken the first turn by one length and the horse suddenly bolts and because of your attention to the horse, you take no further part in judging the course. What action do you take?
- 6: What is the best vantage point on the field from which to judge a course?
- 7: The red collar is withdrawn after a 'no course'. Must the white collar be put up again?
- 8: Red collar has led by one length and taken the first turn when a third dog joins in. After the dog has joined in white collar puts up six successive turns without a reply from red collar and the hare escapes. What flag do you give and why?
- 9: Just as the slipper has slipped the two dogs a second hare appears and red collar chases one hare and white collar chases the other. What decision do you give?
- 10: In what circumstances would a judge recall or reverse his decision after it is delivered?
- 11: May a greyhound be withdrawn in an undecided course before the coin is tossed to see which is the winner?
- 12: Who must be present for the toss of the coin in an undecided course where the owners decide to toss?
- 13: A hare goes into the escape and the judge awards an undecided course. The hare then returns to the field or another hare appears and is chased by one or both dogs. Should the Judge now judge this course?
- 14: Two dogs run unsighted. White sights the hare and gets a wrench before red, which then gets four points without reply from white. To which collar would you give the flag?

ANSWERS

1. White Collar.
2. Red collar, he has shown the superior speed.
3. Dogs must re-run a bye alone.
4. Send the dogs back to slips. If you felt the dogs had done enough consider it as an undecided course—thereby allowing the owners to toss as both did enough to constitute a course.
5. Back to slips.
6. In line with the hare in flight.
7. Yes.
8. White Collar. The course does not necessarily end when a third greyhound joins in. Rule 118.
9. Back to slips. Rule 117.
10. Never. Rule 112.
11. Yes. Rule 120 A (2).
12. Control Steward and Judge. Rule 114 B (4).
13. No. The Judge has already given his decision. This does not conflict with Rule 120 which deals with the situation before a decision is given.
14. Red.