

IRISH COURSING CLUB

COURSING RULES

(Part 6)

As revised and approved by the Club at a General Meeting of the Club and approved by Bord na gCon in accordance with the Greyhound Industry Act, 1958 in August, 1988, And including amendments passed in 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001.2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2024, 2025.

PART 6 COURSING

85.-Park Dimensions And Provision For Hares. (As amended AGM 1992 and AGM 1993, 2013).

- A- The length of a Coursing Park should be reckoned from where the greyhounds are slipped to where the hare escapes. The following minimum measurements for Coursing Parks are recommended:
- 1 Day Meetings: 350 yards long, 120 yards wide: width at escape 15 yards.
 - 2 Day Meetings: 400 yards long, 150 yards wide: width at escape 20 yards.
- B-A licence to hold a Coursing Meeting at any Park in Ireland shall not be granted until same is inspected and approved of by an authorised person who shall report to the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club.
- C-Application shall be made to the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club for inspection of parks and such applications shall be accompanied by a fee as prescribed in Appendix A(5). Where the report states that the park does not actually comply with the conditions laid down by this Rule but that the club is genuinely endeavouring to bring the park up to the required standard, a provisional licence may be granted for the ensuing season, but no park that is not the required dimensions, or that is not considered satisfactory in every respect shall be passed for a two-day meeting.
- D-Stocks of hares shall be inspected by an authorised person not later than five days before the meeting.
- E-Any club using untrained or defective hares shall be liable to suspension at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- F-Covered shelter shall be provided for hares during training and on the day of the meeting.
- G-It shall be an offence for a club to course a hare more than once on any day of coursing or trials. Any club attempting to do so shall be liable to be suspended forthwith, and reported to the Executive Committee, who shall fine such club €6 for the first offence reported and if the offence is repeated, withdraw consent to the holding of any further meetings by the club concerned for such period as they consider fit.
- H -The escape must consist of natural bank or properly constructed made- up fence. Canvas may not be used unless covered over by evergreens or some such natural materials, nor must the hares escape into a chute or box. or be confined to the use of one or two apertures for escape, The entire front of the escape shall be so made that hares can go through at regular intervals or in several places.
- I - The minimum hare requirement for clubs to run a meeting on any day shall be -one hare per course plus a surplus of ten.
- J -(i) Two-day fixtures shall have a maximum of 144 entries.
(ii) One-day fixtures, including Sundays, shall have a maximum of 72 entries.
(III) The number of courses on anyone day shall not exceed 72 except in the case of the National Meeting.
- K-Immediately after the conclusion of a coursing meeting, every hare shall be earmarked by a Control Steward or Control Stewards following which each hare shall be released back to the wild as soon as is practicable and under the supervision of a Control Steward or Control Stewards. Any hare so earmarked and released, may not be taken up and coursed at any subsequent park meeting.

See also 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.

86.-Location of Control Stewards' Shelter.

Greyhounds shall be examined by the Control Steward in the Stewards Shelter or in a shelter not more than ten yards from the Slippers' shelter.

87.-Deductions from Entry Fee.

No club shall deduct more than the sum designated per appendix A(6) per entry form in any stake at an enclosed meeting. This Rule shall not apply to any "open" meeting where the entrance to the grounds is free. In the latter case, the club may deduct a sum as per Appendix A(6) from such entry.

88-Use of Drugs Prohibited (As amended 1990, 1995, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2017)

Full details can be found on separate booklet.

89.-Duties of the Secretary and the Stewards.

- A- The Stewards, Acting Stewards or Ex officio Stewards alone, shall decide any disputed question by a majority of those present, subject to an appeal to the Executive Committee.
- B-No Steward shall have a right to vote in any case relating to his own greyhounds.
- C- The Secretary shall declare before the draw how the prizes are to be divided; and he shall give a statement of expenses, if called upon to do so, by any six of the subscribers within fourteen days after the meeting.
- D-No stakes shall be paid until fourteen days after the completion of the meeting; but all stakes shall be paid within thirty days unless there is an objection.
- E-A member or members of the Executive Committee or the Control Steward or the Stewards of the Meeting may Enquirer into the bona fides of any greyhound competing at a meeting at which they are present or may make an investigation that may be necessary regarding owners or nominators of greyhounds in any case of suspicious running.
- F-When a greyhound, in the opinion of three members of the Executive Committee or officials of the Club or the Stewards of the Meeting, or in that of the Judge, is unfit to compete in a course, or is otherwise ineligible, it shall be ordered to be drawn.
- G-If a greyhound is slipped before its ineligibility is noticed, such greyhound shall be disqualified and the course awarded to its opponent.
- H-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 (see Betting Rules, Appendix G).
- J-If the ineligibility mentioned above is noted subsequent to the first round, the dog last beaten will be the one to take his place in the next round.

90.-Ex Officio Stewards.

- A- (1) The Acting Stewards of the meeting shall be at least three in number and they shall include the Secretary of the club, a club committee member, the representative member of the club and, where possible, a Veterinary Surgeon in addition to the Executive Committee Members present. The names of the Acting Stewards shall be published on the programme, which shall also carry a notice to the effect that "Members of the Executive Committee present shall also act as Stewards." For duties see appendix F.
- (2) The stewards of the meeting shall only consult with and accept the decision of the Veterinary Surgeon or Surgeons officially appointed by the club to the meeting.
- B-If, following the complaint of three members of the Executive Committee, any officials of the Club, or six persons who are members of an affiliated coursing club, it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee that the officers of any club have knowingly or through negligence accepted improper entries, or that the officers and stewards have improperly conducted the proceedings of any coursing meeting, the Executive Committee may impose a fine in accordance with Appendix A(7) for a first offence on the officers and members of the club so charged and on proof of the repetition of any such offence or offences, the Executive Committee may suspend or abolish the club or take other disciplinary action against it

91.-Judges and Slippers (As amended 1994, 2003, 2009, 2025.).

- A-No judge or Slipper may officiate, save as is provided for in Rule 92, at a public Coursing Meeting unless he holds a licence for the current season issued by the Irish Coursing Club at its discretion. A judge or slipper may not hold a position on the Executive Committee. For annual fee for Judges and Slippers, see Appendix C(2). All licences issued by the Executive Committee under these regulations shall be non-transferable and shall be valid up to and including the first of August following the date of issue. The Club may refuse to renew a licence to any person for any adequate reason.
- B-No person shall be granted a Judge's licence unless he is a competent horse rider. The Executive Committee may, before granting a licence, require applicant to pass a test of ability to fill the position, before such members as they may appoint at a place or places which they may select for such examination.

92.-Election of Judge and Slipper.

- A-Subject to an amending direction of the Executive Committee, the Judge and Slipper shall be appointed by the promoting club, or if a club so wishes, the appointment may be made by the Executive Committee.

B-When a Judge, Slipper or Control Steward is unavoidably absent, or prevented from attending or finishing the meeting, the committee and the Stewards (or the members of the Executive Committee present) may appoint a person present whom they consider competent to fill the absent official's place.

93.-Definition of a Sapling,

A greyhound whelped between 1st January and 31st December (inclusive) in anyone year, shall be deemed a sapling to the end of the coursing season which commences in the year in which it is whelped. A sapling shall not be eligible for entry in any stake except a sapling stake, which may not be for more than four runners. A sapling stake may only be held in the period from the 1st January to the end of the current coursing season.

94.-Definition of a Puppy.

A sapling shall be deemed a puppy after the termination of the coursing season which began in the year in which it was whelped, and shall remain a puppy to the end of its first season of running. A greyhound which was whelped prior to the 1st January of the year preceding the commencement of the running season is not to be considered a puppy.

95.-Description of Entry. (Amended 2016)

Every subscriber to a stake shall name his greyhound before the time fixed for closing the entry, giving the names of the sire and dam of the greyhound entered. All greyhounds must be microchipped in compliance with the Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015. A subscriber shall be required to produce an Identity Card at slips and any greyhound whose markings do not correspond with those given on the Identity Card shall be disqualified and, if through any omission or oversight, it is allowed to compete without complying with this ruling, it shall, if it be so proved to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee, on an objection, be disqualified.

96.-Payment of Entry Money.

A-All moneys due for nominations taken shall be paid at or before the time fixed for closing the entry, whether the stakes fill or not. No entry shall be valid unless the amount due for it has been paid in full.

B-For Produce and other Stakes, where a forfeit is payable, no declaration shall be necessary; the non-payment of the remainder of the entry money at the time fixed for that purpose shall be considered a declaration of forfeit.

C- The Secretary of the meeting shall be responsible for the entry money for all greyhounds whose names appear on the card and the collection of any money so due shall be a matter for the club concerned.

D- The Executive Committee may however, at their discretion on the facts having been reported to them and having heard the defaulter if he wishes to appear before them any representations, if any, made on his behalf being considered, declare any person so complained of as a defaulter, publish his name as a defaulter in "Sporting Press" or in any other newspaper and authorise or prohibit clubs from accepting entries from any person in default unless and until the claim or claims made against such person are settled or paid

97.-Acceptance of Entries. (amended 2015 and 2016)

A.1-All entries in stakes shall be accepted in accordance with the conditions prescribed.

A.2-. All greyhounds must be microchipped in compliance with the Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015.

B-A club shall have the right to decline an entry provided that the committee of such club has good and sufficient reasons for doing so, such as, that the nominator is in default, or has given trouble in the matter of payment of fees, or is, in their opinion and belief, an undesirable person.

C-The club concerned need not state their reasons for doing so, except to the Executive Committee, if called upon by them for an explanation.

D-Preference in the acceptance of entries may be given to members of a club (except in Trial Stakes and Open or Cup events).

E-Any entry once accepted, provided it is in order, shall not be cancelled without the permission of the owner, on the one side or the club on the other.

F-A club shall not make the payment of membership fees a condition of the giving or accepting of an entry in any Stake on the Card.

G-Stakes advertised as Members Stakes shall be Stakes confined to bona fide members of the coursing club advertised as holding such events.

H-No entries are to be accepted by clubs until a meeting is advertised in "Sporting Press."
(advertisement to include date, time and venue for holding of draw)
I-Entry form to include notice regarding Rule 88.

98.-Alteration of Name.

- 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 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.
- D-No name may be altered more than once. For fee to alter the registered name of a greyhound, see Appendix B(4).
- E-A sire or dam used for breeding shall not be given a change of name subsequent to first breeding registration.

99.-Prefix of "Ns".

- A-Any subscriber taking an entry in a stake shall prove to the satisfaction of the Stewards, if called upon by them to do so, that any greyhound entered by him is bone fides his own property. If a subscriber enters a greyhound not his own property, the greyhound so entered shall be disqualified, except that the Executive Committee may permit 'ns' entries in Cup events in which the nominators named are responsible for the entry fee to the club running such an event, whether they nominate a greyhound or not.
- B-A permanent nominator shall be responsible for the payment of his entry and the filling of same, unless six months' notice is given to the club concerned with the running of the event, prior to the commencement of the coursing season.
- C-Entries with the prefix "ns" are permissible only in stakes with permanent nominators.
- D-A nominator must be a member of his nearest coursing club
- E-No greyhound, unless purchased absolutely and unconditionally by a subscriber, or leased for the entire unexpired period of its running career by a subscriber, or belonging to two persons, unless they are declared partners, shall be held as bone fides the property of a subscriber or subscribers. A copy of the lease of a greyhound registered or re- registered, must be lodged with the Keeper of the Stud Book at the time of such registration or re-registration.

100.-Death of a Subscriber.

The death of a subscriber shall only affect his engagements if it occurs before the draw, and then only if the identity of a new owner desiring to run the greyhound cannot be established in law.

101.-Draw and Order of Running. (As amended A.G.M. 1992, 2007, 2015, 2025)

- A-Immediately before the greyhounds are drawn for any meeting, and before 9o'clock on every subsequent evening during the continuance of such meeting, the time and place of putting the first brace of greyhounds into slips on the following morning shall be determined. A card or counter bearing a corresponding number shall be assigned to each entry. These numbered cards or counters shall then be placed together and drawn indiscriminately except as provided in Rule 102. Such classification once made in a Stakes, shall not be disturbed throughout the meeting except for the purpose of guarding, or on account of byes or where dogs and bitches are drawn separately, in which case the dogs shall be drawn first and the bitches next, the first bitch drawn meeting the last dog if the number of dogs are uneven. Dogs and bitches may be drawn separately in a nominator event. A club shall not vary their method of draw without the prior permission of the Executive Committee.
- B- The draw for a coursing meeting shall be held at least three days before the day of the meeting, unless by special permission of the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club. Date, time and venue of draw to be included in coursing club meeting advertisement.
- C- The order of running shall be arranged at the draw, but if on the second or any subsequent day a stake or stakes are added to the card of a meeting at which an important Cup event is being held, the order of running may, with the approval of the Stewards, or Executive Committee members present at the meeting, be changed so as to enable the chief event or events on the card to be run off at the most suitable time, and any such added or minor events shall not interfere with what the Stewards and Executive Committee members present consider the best way of running out the important events on the programme.

D-Reserves to a maximum of two for an eight dog stake, four for a sixteen or thirty-two dog stake and six for a sixty-four dog stake may be permitted, except in the case of the Derby and Oaks, where the winners of all Reserve Dog and Bitch Trial Stakes and cohort known as 'best performers', which are not already engaged in the Derby and Oaks shall be listed as reserves, (as per Rule 163 (C)), under the following conditions:

- (i) -The reserves shall be drawn at the same time as the draw for the meeting is made marked by the letters A, B, C, D and they shall be listed on the programme with the full particulars and code letters and shall be called in that order
- (ii)-Vacant places shall not be filled by reserves if they are not nominated and declared as reserves at the time of draw. If a greyhound not included at the time of draw wins a stake, it shall be declared ineligible.
- (iii)-No owner or partnership with a greyhound in the stake may have a reserve in the same stake, even if there is no other reserve available, except in the case of the National Meeting and nominator event.
- (iv)-A greyhound shall not be entitled to a bye if its original opponent has been replaced by a reserve in accordance with this directive during the first round of the stake.
- (v)-As a vacancy occurs at slips and not earlier, the first reserve will take its place in slips.
- (vi)-Reserves must take their place on the programme in the following manner. The dog drawn as first reserve shall replace the first absentee, the second reserve shall replace the second absentee, etc. No absentee will be replaced by a reserve except in accordance with this directive.
- (vii)-A reserve once accepted to run shall be subject to the same rules as if it were originally part of the draw.
- (viii)-Absent entries including selected reserves once accepted run shall be subject to the penalties under Rule 122 which debars them from competing within twelve days of the meeting.
- (ix)-All entries shall be numbered on the coursing card. For the convenience of patrons, both the number and name of the dog must be given when announcement of the acceptance is made over public address.
- (x)-In stakes where dogs and bitches are drawn separately, dogs must run against dogs and bitches must run against bitches when reserves are called on as far as possible.

102.-Guarding. (Amended 2002, 2017)

A-Where an owner or partnership has two greyhounds entered in the Stakes they shall be guarded in the draw, one in the top half and the other in the bottom half of the draw. (Rule 163E applies with regard to National Meeting).

B-Where an owner has two dogs in a Stake, there shall be a preliminary draw to decide which will be placed in the top half and which will be placed in the bottom half of the programme, prior to the draw being made, due care must be taken to ensure compliance with Rule 101 (A) in regard to dogs and bitches.

In the case of the National Meeting, there shall then be a further draw to decide what position in the draw such guarded greyhounds would occupy in the top half of the draw.

C-If however more than two entries in a Stake are taken in one name, they, if bona fide the property of the same owner or partnership, shall be guarded throughout (See Rule 73). This shall be arranged, if possible, by bringing up greyhounds from below to meet those which are to be guarded.

D- This shall not, however, deprive any greyhound of a natural bye to which he may be entitled, either in the draw or running through the stake. The withdrawal at any time of a greyhound from a Stake shall not deprive a greyhound of a bye, accidental or natural, to which it would have been entitled had the withdrawn greyhound remained in the Stake.

E-Greyhounds whose position have been altered in consequence of guarding or of byes shall return to the original position in the next round, if guarding does not prevent it.

F-Greyhounds running in the name of a nominator shall not be guarded.

G- All finals at national meeting to be run out irrespective of ownership status and Rule 163 E applies.

103.-Cup Holders.

Any owner or owners who have won a stake to which a Cup is attached shall be entitled to an entry in such event until the Cup or trophy is won, provided an entry is sent by the owner or nominator within seven days of the publication of the programme of the meeting in the "Sporting Press", or at any later date prior to the draw, provided that the full number of entries have not already been received. The original conditions under which a trophy is competed for shall be adhered to, unless altered by the consent of the parties interested.

104.-Byes.

- A-A natural bye shall be given to the lowest available greyhound in each round. No greyhound shall run a second such bye in any stake unless it is unavoidable. (2008)
- B-When a greyhound is entitled to a bye, either natural or accidental, his owner or nominator may run any greyhound he selects, to assist in the course. (See 107b).
- C-In a bye course, natural or accidental, if the greyhound runs a single-handed bye, and if, following a judge's decision to have the course re-run for any reason, a second greyhound shall not be put in for the re- run course. (2008)
- D-No greyhound shall run any bye earlier than his position on the card entitles him to do.
- E-A natural bye shall be run at the end of the round in which it occurs.
- F-The slip and course in a bye shall be the same as in a course in which a decision is required, and the judge shall decide whether enough has been done to constitute a course, or whether it must be run again, and in the latter case the judge shall give the order.
- G-If at the commencement of any round in a stake, one greyhound in each course of that round has a bye, those byes shall not be run, but the greyhounds shall take their places for the next round as if the byes had been run.
- H-A bye shall be run before a greyhound can claim the advantage of it.
- J-Byes or participation in winnings through being entitled to byes shall count as courses won.
- K-A greyhound must run his bye course to be entitled to the prize money for the next round.

105.-Stewards. (As amended 1993 and A.G.M 1995).

A-Slip Steward

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

- (1)- To see that 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;
- (2)- To report to the stewards, without any delay, any greyhound that does not come to the slips in time;
- (3)- To report to the Stewards any act on the part of the slipper, nominators, owners or their representatives, which he may consider should be brought to their knowledge. If a nominator, owner, or his representative refuses to comply with the directions of the Slip Steward, or uses abusive or insulting or threatening language towards him, he shall at once be reported to the Executive Committee A Slip Steward may not act as both Slip Steward and Flag Steward at a coursing meeting.

B-Control Steward. The Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club may, at his discretion, or on the direction of the President, or the Executive Committee, appoint or authorise a Control Steward to attend and act at any meeting held under I.C.C. Rules, and the club holding the meeting may collect the sum in accordance with Appendix A(6) per entry from the owners of all greyhounds entered at the meeting to defray expenses.

C-Acting Stewards. See appendix F.

106.-Postponement of a Meeting.

A meeting appointed to take place on a certain day may, if a majority of the committee and the stewards consider the weather unfit for coursing, be postponed from day to day but if the running does not commence within the current week, all nominations shall be void, unless the President and Secretary of the I.C.C., acting for the Executive Committee, shall otherwise direct.

107.-Taking Greyhounds to the Slips (As amended AGM. 1995).

- A-Every greyhound shall be brought to the slips in its proper turn, without delay, and wearing the proper collar and muzzle. Any greyhound competing in a stake and not wearing its proper collar and muzzle shall be subject to a penalty at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- B-If, according to the report of the Slip Steward, a greyhound is absent for more than three minutes from the time the preceding brace are in slips, its opponent shall be entitled to claim the course, subject to the discretion of the stewards, and shall, in that case run a bye except in the first round where a reserve is available, in accordance with Rule 101 D.
- C-If both greyhounds be absent at the expiration of three minutes, the stewards shall have power to disqualify both or to fine their owners. The owner, trainer or attendant shall be answerable for his greyhound being put into slips at the right time and on the correct side. Penalty in accordance with Appendix A(9).

D-No allowance shall be made for mistakes; but if the wrong greyhounds shall have run together in any round and the mistake is not discovered until another round has been run, no objection may be made, and the course shall stand as run.

E-No greyhound shall be put into slips for a deciding course within twenty minutes after its course in the previous round, without the consent of the owner.

108.-Control of Greyhound in Slips

A-The control of all matters connected with slipping the greyhounds, or permitting them to be placed in slips, shall rest with the stewards of a meeting

B-Owners, trainers or attendants after delivering their greyhounds into the hands of the slipper, may follow close after them, but not so as to inconvenience the slipper, or in any way interfere with the greyhound.

C-In open coursing an owner, trainer or attendant, after putting his greyhound in slips, may go forward to catch his greyhound, but shall keep well clear of the run of the hare, and shall go forward on the same side as his greyhound is in the slips, except where the stewards may decide that it is advisable for both parties to go forward on the same side. Anyone infringing this Rule may be fined a sum in accordance with Appendix A(10) at the discretion of the stewards.

D-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 all bets on that course shall be void (see Appendix G).

109.-Greyhounds to Wear Collars.

A-All greyhounds shall wear collars of a minimum width of 2 ½ ". The collar shall be red for the left hand side and white for the right hand side of the slips.

B- The upper greyhound on the card shall be placed on the left hand and the lower greyhound on the right hand of the slips.

C-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 (see Appendix G)

110-The length of Slip. (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.

111-Control of Greyhound in Slips.

If one greyhound gets out of slips, the slipper shall not let the other go. ' In any case of slips breaking, and either or both greyhounds getting away in consequence, the slipper may be fined at the discretion of the stewards. The slipper shall only use slips of a type approved by the Executive Committee. Carrying or lifting greyhounds off their feet, or holding them in a manner likely to cause hurt or injury, shall be prohibited.

112-Decision of the Judge.

A- The Judge shall be subject to such general rules as may be laid down by the Irish Coursing Club for his guidance. He shall, on the termination of each course, immediately and publicly deliver his decision. He shall not recall or reverse his decision after it has been declared but no decision shall be delivered until the judge is perfectly satisfied that the course is absolutely terminated.

B- The flags and signals in use are as set out in Appendix E.

113-Principles of Judging.

The Judge shall decide all courses upon the one uniform principle that the greyhound which does most towards driving the hare to cover during the continuance of the course is to be declared the winner. The principle shall be carried out by estimating the value of the work done by each greyhound, as seen by the Judge, upon a balance of points, according to the scale hereafter laid down, from which also are to be deducted certain specified allowances and penalties.

114-The Points of the Courses: (Amended 2013 and 2015)

A- The points of courses shall be.

- (1) Speed-which shall be estimated as one, two or three points, according to the degree of superiority shown.
- (2) The Go-bye- Two points, or if gained on the outer circle, three points.
- (3) The Turn-one point

- (4) The Wrench-Half a point.
- B-In estimating the value of speed to the hare, the Judge shall take into account the several forms in which it may be displayed, viz."
- (1) Where in the run up a clear lead is gained by one of the greyhounds, one, two or three points may be given, according to the length of lead, apart from the score for a turn or wrench. in awarding these points, the judge shall take into consideration the merit of a lead obtained by a greyhound which has lost ground at the start, either from being unsighted, or from a bad slip, or which has had to run the outer circle.
 - (2) Where one greyhound leads the other so long as the hare runs straight, but loses the lead from her, bending decidedly in favour of the slower greyhound of her own accord, the one greyhound shall score one point for the speed shown, and the other greyhound one point for the first turn.
 - (3) Under no circumstances may speed without subsequent work be allowed to decide a course, except where great superiority is shown by one greyhound over another, in a long lead to cover.
 - (4) If there is no turn in a course or if the judge for any reason decides that he cannot separate the greyhounds on merit and he adjudges the course an undecided one, they shall be sent back to slips. Should the owners or nominators of the two dogs subsequently agree to decide the winner by the toss of a coin, this must be done in the presence of the Control Steward and the Judge.. A greyhound beaten on the toss of a coin is eligible to compete in a consolation stake for greyhounds beaten in a particular round. This rule is not in conflict with Rule 120.
 - (5) If a greyhound, after gaining the first six points, still keeps possession of the hare by superior speed, he shall earn double the prescribed allowance for the subsequent points made before his opponent begins to score.
 - (6) Definitions of the points of courses
 - (a) The Go-bye shall be where a greyhound starts a clear length behind his opponent, and yet passes him in a straight run, and gets a clear length before him.
 - (b) The **Turn** shall be where the hare is brought round at not less than a right angle.
 - (c) The Wrench: Where she only leaves her line to suit herself and not from the greyhound pressing her, no points shall be allowed.

115-Allowance in Courses.

The following allowances shall be made for accidents to all greyhounds during a course, but in every case they shall only be deducted from the other greyhounds score.

A-Where a greyhound loses ground at the start through a bad slip, the judge shall decide what amount of allowances shall be made, on the principle that the score of the foremost greyhound is not to begin until the second has had an opportunity of joining in the course, and the judge may decide the course or declare the course to be undecided or no course as he may think fit,

B-Where a hare is very decidedly in favour of one of the greyhounds, after the first or subsequent turns, the next point shall not be scored by the greyhound unduly favoured, or only half his points allowed, according to circumstances. No greyhound shall receive any allowance for a fall or an accident except as provided for in Rule 119, or when he falls pressing his hare, in which case his opponent shall not count the next point made.

C-If one dog goes unsighted or where one remains unsighted and the other turns the hare, the course will be awarded to the greyhound turning the hare.

This Rule does not override Rule 115 A, if a hare is not turned or the other dog has not an opportunity to join in the course.

In explanation of unsighted courses above, it should be noted that if both dogs go unsighted and the hare is, as a result not turned during the course, both must go back to slips at the usual point in the meeting. Again, if both dogs are unsighted initially or at any time during the course and where one remains unsighted and the other subsequently turns the hare before it goes into the escape, that dog will be awarded the course. The same principles apply to judging in open coursing.

116-Penalties

A-Where a greyhound, from his own defect, refuses to follow the hare from slips shall lose the course.

B-Where a greyhound willfully stands still in a course, or departs from directly pursuing the hare, no points subsequently made by him shall be scored; and if the points made by him unto that time be just equal to those made by his antagonist in the whole course, he shall thereby lose the course; but where one or both greyhounds stop with the hare in view, through inability to continue the course, it shall be decided according to the number of points gained by each greyhound during the whole course.

C-if a greyhound refuses to fence where the other fences, any points subsequently made by him shall not be allowed; but if he does his best to fence and is foiled, the course shall end there. Where the points are equal, the superior fencer shall win the course.

D-A dog which has been disqualified by the judge at two coursing meetings, not necessarily in the same season, for refusing to follow, automatically stands disqualified for the season, and if he is subsequently disqualified he will stand disqualified from running at all coursing meetings.

117-Second Hare.

If a second hare be started during a course and one of the greyhounds follows her, the course shall end there.

118-Greyhound Getting Loose.

It shall be an offence, for which a fine may be imposed by the Executive Committee, for any person to allow a greyhound to get loose and join a course in which he is not competing. The course shall not necessarily end when a third greyhound joins in.

119-Interfering With A Greyhound.

If, in the opinion of the judge, there has been outside interference with the running of a course, he shall withhold his decision pending consultation with the stewards, who shall have the authority to permit him to award the course to either greyhound. Any person deemed to have interfered with the running of a course shall render himself amenable to the jurisdiction of the stewards.

120-No Course-Undecided Course (Amended 2010, 2018).

A-(1) There shall be a "no course" when by accident or by the shortness of the course the greyhounds

are not tried together, and if one be then drawn the other must run a bye, unless the judge, on being appealed to, shall decide that he has done enough to be exempted from it.

(2) An undecided course shall be one where the judge considers the merits of the greyhounds equal, and if either is then drawn, the other cannot be required to run a bye, but the owners shall at the time declare which greyhound remains in.

(3) The judge shall signify the distinction between a "no course" and an "undecided course" by waving his hand in the direction of the slips for a , "no course" and taking off his hat in the case of an "undecided course."

(4) After an "undecided" or "no course", if the greyhounds before being taken up get on another or the same hare, the judge shall follow, and shall decide in favour of one, if he considers that there has been a sufficient trial to justify his doing so.

(5) A "no course" or an "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 course", it 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.

(6) If it is the last course of the day, fifteen minutes shall be allowed after both greyhounds are taken up.

(7) In the event of an "undecided" course or a "no course" arising at an Open coursing meeting, then 15 minutes shall be allowed from when greyhound(s) are taken up as timed by 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 as in Rule 120 (5) above.

B-Termination of Course. In a bye course in open coursing, the judge shall draw the flag of the competing greyhound to indicate the Course has terminated. A greyhound handled before the flag is drawn is automatically suspended.

121- Impugning an Official and Explanation of Official. (As amended AGM 2024).

No person shall address an official, be that slipper or judge, other than through the executive member present at a meeting and/or the control steward on any matter relating to a course, a decision of a course, or any other matter relating to a course, or post negative comments on social media in relation to an official.

- A person who is alleged to have contravened Rule 121 shall be offered the option to sign a declaration that that person will comply with the provisions of the rule thereafter (*matter is dealt with on a summary basis*).
- In the event the affected person not opting to sign the notice of declaration, then the matter will be brought before the Officials Monitoring Committee, as appointed by the

Executive Committee, for adjudication.

- In the event of a person repeating a breach of Rule 121, the matter shall go directly before the Officials Monitoring Committee for adjudication with the following sanctions available: warning, severe warning, period of suspension, or exclusion.
- Any decision of the Officials Monitoring Committee may be appealed to the Executive Committee.
- Any decision of the Officials Monitoring Committee or the outcome of an appeal to the Executive Committee may be published in the Sporting Press and/or the ICC website.
- Any matter arising from a complaint received by the executive member or control steward, in relation to an official shall be referred to the Officials Monitoring Committee for review and/or adjudication as per Directive 11 (b).

122-Withdrawal of a Greyhound. (As amended AGM 1992, 1993, 2000, 2017 & 2024).

- A-(1) Any greyhound on the grounds on the day of the meeting which in the opinion of the owner or agent is unfit to course through distress, illness or injury must be presented to the acting stewards when permission to withdraw the greyhound is being Sought.
- (2) Where a greyhound has not been taken to the meeting, because of overnight distress, illness or injury, at any time prior to the meeting at which the said greyhound is scheduled to course, the owner shall submit to the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club without delay a statement setting out the reasons why the greyhound was unable to take its place in slips. The Identity Card of the greyhound must accompany the explanation.
- (3) In all cases the registered owner or joint owners of the greyhound are the person or persons responsible for complying with instructions and Rules in relation to distressed, injured or ill greyhounds.
- (4) Where a Veterinary Certificate is produced in the circumstances set out above, it must clearly amplify the reason for certifying that the greyhound is unfit to compete. Certificates not complying with the above instructions shall be returned for further information and/or clarification.
- (5) The acting Veterinary Surgeon may seek a second opinion if another Veterinary Surgeon is available on the grounds. Where the Veterinary Surgeon certifies the dog fit to course, he shall take his place in the next round.
- (6) The final decision will be made by the acting stewards of the meeting.
- (7) 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 10 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. If a dog which is so debarred is entered for and competes at or is not withdrawn from that other meeting or meetings before the draw takes place, the owner shall automatically be fined, if a satisfactory explanation is not submitted, a sum as specified in Appendix A (11). 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.
- (8) Any greyhound otherwise absent is ineligible to compete within 10 days from final day of coursing meeting until the owner's explanation for the absence has been received and accepted by the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club. If the explanation is accepted, then the greyhound is authorised to compete, which shall be notified to the Control Steward. If such authorisation is not granted and the greyhound competes within ten days at a Coursing meeting, the greyhound stands **disqualified** from the event and **forfeit** all **trophies** and **prizemoney** won. All greyhounds beaten by the disqualified greyhound are promoted by one round and awarded benefits associated with revision.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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 ten 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.

(11) See also Rule 89 F. Greyhound withdrawn on direction of stewards.

B-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 that 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 10 days from the final day of the meetings from which it was deemed ineligible to compete.

C-In cases other than injury or illness where an owner is consistently late for slips or fails to course his dogs in other circumstances and if it appears that the said owner or agent is bringing the sport into disrepute, he may be called before a meeting of the Executive Committee to explain these actions and the case may be dealt with in accordance with Rule 288- Discreditable Conduct.

123. Impugning Judge. (Removed 2024 – see Rule 121)

124-stakes Not Run Out (Amended 2017).

A-When two greyhounds remain in for the deciding course, the stakes shall be considered divided if they belong to the same owner, or partners, except in the case of any event held at the national meeting where all finals are to be run out.

B-In the case of a division between three or more greyhounds, of which two or more belong to the same owner, these latter shall be held to take equal shares of the total amount received by their owner in a division.

C-If-three greyhounds remain in a stake and two are the property of the same owner and the third greyhound is entitled to a bye, the owner of the two greyhounds can run them against one another

and allow the winner to meet his opponent's greyhound in the final, or he may withdraw anyone of his two greyhounds and run the other against the greyhound entitled to the bye.

D-If the owner shall decide to withdraw one of his greyhounds, the two then remaining in shall run the final course.

F-When there is a compulsory division, all greyhounds remaining in the stake that is being run, even where one is entitled to a bye, shall take equal shares providing the next round has not been started.

G-In the event of a greyhound being withdrawn from a final owing to accident or illness, his opponent shall be declared the winner.

125 Winners of Stakes Running Together.

If two or more greyhounds shall each win a stake, and have to run together for a final prize or challenge cup, should they not have run an equal number of ties in their respective stakes, the greyhound which has run the smaller number of courses shall run a bye, or byes to put itself upon an equality in this respect with its opponent.

126-Objections (As amended A.GM. 1994).

A-An objection to a greyhound may be made to anyone of the stewards of a meeting at any time before the stakes are paid over, upon the objector lodging in the hands of such steward, or the secretary, a sum of money in accordance with Appendix A(4), which shall be forfeited if the objection proves frivolous, or if he shall not bring the case before the next meeting of the Executive Committee or give notice to the stewards previous thereto of his intention to withdraw the objection,

B-Expenses in consequence of an objection shall be borne as the Executive Committee may direct.

- C-Should an objection be made which cannot at the time be substantiated or disproved, the greyhound may be allowed to run under protest, the stewards retaining the winnings until the objection has been withdrawn, or heard and decided.
- D-If the greyhound objected to be disqualified, the amount to which he would otherwise have been entitled shall be divided equally among the greyhounds beaten by him and if a piece of plate or prize has been added, and won by him, only the greyhounds which he beat in the several rounds shall have a right to contend for it.

127-Defaulters.

- A-No person to whom Rule 28 as hereinafter has been applied, or who is a defaulter in payment of stakes, entries, forfeits, bets, fines, or for money due under an arrangement for a division of winnings, or for penalties imposed by the stewards of any meeting for the infraction of rules or for any payment required by a decision of the Executive Committee, or for subscriptions due to any club duly affiliated to the Irish Coursing Club or any money due to the Irish Coursing Club or its subsidiaries shall be allowed to enter or run a greyhound in his own or any other person's name, or attend any coursing meeting or the draw of any meeting or have any greyhound accepted for registration. In addition the Executive Committee may impose a fine and may publish the names of defaulters in "Sporting Press."
- B-As regards bets, however, this Rule shall only apply when a complaint is lodged with the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club within six months after the bet becomes due. On receipt of such complaint the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club shall give notice of the claim to the person against whom it is made, with a copy of this Rule, and if he should not pay the bet, or appear before the next meeting of the Executive Committee, and resist the claim successfully, he shall be considered a defaulter.
- C-Any person not making payments of fines imposed within the time limits therefor (or such extended time or times) or as the Executive Committee may direct shall not be entitled to register any greyhounds until all such payments are made.

128-Judge or Slipper Interested.

If a judge or slipper be in any way beneficially interested in the winnings of a greyhound or greyhounds, the owner and nominator in each case, unless they can prove satisfactorily that such interest was without cognisance, shall forfeit all claim to the winnings and if any nominator or owner of a greyhound shall give, offer or lend money, or anything of value to any judge or slipper, such nominator or owner shall not be allowed to run greyhounds in his own or any other person's name during any subsequent period the Executive Committee may decide upon.

129-Bets.

Betting Rules shall be as approved from time to time by the Executive Committee and shall be published in 'Sporting Press'.

130-Officials' Fees.

Every club running a coursing meeting shall pay such officials' fees on the day of the meeting together with agreed incidental and travelling expenses as may be prescribed from time to time by the Executive Committee

APPENDIX A (As amended A.G.M. 1993, 1994, 1997 & 1998)

1. Payment of affiliation fee by coursing clubs
 - a. Park Clubs €65.
 - b. Open clubs €65
 - c. Associate Clubs €6
2. Payment of affiliation fee by Greyhound Race Track Executives.
 - a. Tracks situated in Dublin, Belfast, Cork or Limerick €65
 - b. Tracks situated In any other part of Ireland €38
3. Fee for Meetings-
 - a. Coursing meetings €1.27 per day.
 - b. Race Meetings: Tracks situated In Dublin, Belfast, Cork or Limerick €2.50
 - c. Tracks situated in any other part of Ireland 95c
4.
 - a. Deposit for appeal, Rule 49- €127.
 - b. Deposit by person lodging an objection -Rule 126A -€127

- c. Fee when making complaint -Rule 46- €127
- 5. Application to Inspect new coursing parks €8. Rule 85C.
- 6. a. Deductions from entry fees for stakes at a Park Meeting 60c.
- b. Deductions from entry fee for stakes at an Open Meeting €1.25 Rule 87
- 7. Fine under Rule 90 B not to exceed €65.
- 8. Penalty under Rule 107 A for taking dog to slips without proper collar £127.
- 9. Penalty If both dogs are absent Rule 107 C. Each owner €6.
- 10. Fine for Infringement of Rule 108C by going forward on wrong side after putting greyhounds in slips £€63
- 11. Fine where a greyhound competes within 12 days of a meeting from which he was absent €127

APPENDIX C - OFFICIAL FEES (As amended 1999)

Application fee for Judges licence Rule 91 €28

Application fee for Slippers licence Rule 91 €28

APPENDIX E - Flags and Signals.

Red Flag-indicates the red collar has won the course.

White Flag-indicates the white collar has won the course.

Blue Flag-indicates, with the flag of the dog left in, it is a bye course.

Yellow Flag-indicates an undecided course is being run off.

Black Flag-indicates a dog' Is being run under protest or objection.

Green Flag-indicates, with the flag of the dog left in, a reserve runner.

No Course-wave of hand in direction of slips.

Undecided-Judge takes off his hat.

Disqualified-acquaint flag steward verbally and announce disqualification by flag and public address system.

Withdrawal of a greyhound-acquaint flag steward verbally and announce winner by flag and public address system.

Termination of Course-In a bye course in open coursing, the judge shall draw the flag of the competing greyhound to indicate the course has terminated. A greyhound handled before the flag is drawn is automatically suspended.

These Rules shall be published in every clubs' coursing card.

APPENDIX F Duties of Acting Stewards of a Meeting.

The Rules of the Irish Coursing Club are the basis for duties of acting stewards at a coursing meeting. Their duties shall include inquiries into any infringement of the Rules.

1. Inquiries by Stewards at Meetings: The stewards acting at any coursing meeting shall have power at such meetings or within seven days after the conclusion thereof, to investigate and inquire into any infringement of these Rules committed or attempted, or alleged to have been committed or attempted or suspected to have been committed or attempted at the meeting in relation to which such stewards are acting and to investigate and inquire into all complaints and reports of dishonesty, wrongdoing, discreditable conduct, betting misconduct or irregularity, or disorderly conduct alleged to have taken place at the said meeting. In conducting any inquiry under this Rule, the stewards shall give to the person whose conduct is in question such notice as in the circumstances may be reasonable of the holding of such inquiry and of the nature thereof and a fair opportunity of appearing before the stewards at such inquiry to explain and give evidence as to his conduct.
- 2 Powers of Stewards to Inflict Penalties: Arising out of any investigation made under these Rules the stewards of the meeting may at their discretion caution any owner, agent or trainer.
- 3 Reporting Decision of Stewards to I.C.C.: If the stewards of a meeting impose a penalty under Rule 32 here or they shall within three days report their decision in writing to the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club.
- 4 Withdrawal of Greyhounds: Greyhounds shall not be withdrawn at meetings without the permission of the acting stewards, who may act in consultation with the appointed veterinary officer.
- 5 Grounds Fit: Stewards shall decide if grounds are fit for coursing.
- 6 Other Powers of Stewards: Make decisions in special circumstances, e.g., if a horse is not available for the Judge.

Rules 29,30,31, 32, 33, 90, 105 and 122 apply.

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 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

event 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.

- (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 which 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.