

GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

CRITERIA GUIDELINES

2017 GREYHOUND OF THE YEAR (GOTY)

1. Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) awards 'Greyhound of the Year' in three categories (Sprinter, Stayer and Greyhound of the Year) in recognition of outstanding performances by eligible greyhounds during the racing year (1 July to 30 June)
2. GRV also awards Sprinter of the Year for the best eligible greyhound(s) based on performances in races conducted over less than 570 metres during the racing year and Stayer of the Year, which recognises the best eligible greyhound(s) based on their performances in races conducted over 570 metres or more during the racing year
3. The GOTY Awards are open to any greyhound, including International or interstate owned or bred greyhounds, that have been domiciled in the State of Victoria for a period of not less than four consecutive calendar months during the year of the award.
4. In selecting a greyhound for a GOTY Award, the GOTY voting panel will consider the greyhound's racing performances on Australian race tracks only for the year.
5. GRV may, in its ultimate discretion, deem a greyhound ineligible to receive a GOTY Award, including -
 - a. if the greyhound has:
 - i. returned a positive swab to a prohibited substance, or
 - ii. been found guilty of marring or failing to pursue during the year; or
 - b. if any trainer of that greyhound during the year:
 - i. has been found guilty of a serious offence during the year, or
 - ii. has been charged with a serious offence that may, if substantiated, bring the sport of greyhound racing into disrepute, or
 - iii. is subject of a serious animal welfare related investigation (such as an investigation into cruelty, abuse, or death) that may, if the investigation results in a charge being laid, bring the sport of greyhound racing into disrepute, or
 - iv. has had a greyhound return a positive swab to a prohibited substance,

irrespective of whether an inquiry or appeal has been completed or is pending at the date of the GOTY voting panel's decision on which greyhound should be awarded GOTY or the announcement of the Victorian Greyhound of the Year Award event.

The GOTY Voting Panel

6. The GOTY voting panel will comprise up to seven people selected by GRV from the following sections of the greyhound industry:
 - Greyhound racing media representatives
 - A representative from the Victorian Greyhound Owner, Trainers, Breeders Association
 - A representative from each of the two Victorian metropolitan Greyhound Racing Clubs
 - A representative from the GRV racing and grading department.
7. The GOTY voting panel may also include a representative approved by the GRV Board and agreed on by the remaining GOTY voting panel members where there is a vacancy on the panel and a suitable representative from the listed sections of the greyhound industry cannot be agreed upon within a reasonable time.
8. In addition to the voting members, The GRV General Manager Racing shall assume the role of Chairman of the GOTY voting panel. The Chairman brings nominations to the GOTY voting panel, but does not vote on the GOTY Awards.
9. If any member of the voting panel resigns, or is unable to continue their role during the voting year, then GRV will select another person to fill such role.
10. Having a GOTY voting panel of less than seven members does not invalidate a decision of the voting panel. Decisions of the GOTY voting panel are final.

Selecting the winners of the GOTY Awards

11. Nominations for a GOTY Award go through a three-stage process with the GOTY voting panel:
 - a. Confirmation of nomination
 - b. Short listing
 - c. Voting by the individual GOTY voting panel members.

Confirmation of nomination

12. The voting panel will meet as required to propose nominees for a GOTY Award.

13. The GOTY voting panel will vote on each prospective nomination. A nomination for a GOTY Award will be confirmed if the nomination receives a positive vote of at least 66% of the votes cast by the voting panel members.

Short listing

14. After the end of the year, the GOTY voting panel will meet to shortlist the confirmed nominations for a GOTY Award.
15. The Panel will vote on the confirmed nominations until they have shortlisted three final contenders for each GOTY Award category.

Voting

16. The GOTY voting panel will meet to each cast a vote for one of the shortlisted nominations in each GOTY Award category:
 - a. Each voting member will select a Sprinter of the Year (based on performances in races over less than 570 metres);
 - b. Each voting member will select a Stayer of the Year (based on performances in races over 570 metres or more); and
 - c. Each voting member will select a Greyhound of the Year from the shortlisted nominations based on performances over all distances.
17. GOTY voting panel members will cast their votes by way of a secret ballot. Each member will cast a vote for one greyhound in each category and place each of their votes in a separate sealed envelope.
18. The sealed envelopes will be signed across the seal by the GOTY voting panel Chairman, witnessed by the GOTY voting panel members.
19. The Chairman will secure the envelopes until the Greyhound of the Year Award event.
20. On the night of the Greyhound of the Year Award event, the GOTY voting panel Chairman, and one other person nominated by GRV, will open the envelopes and count the votes to determine the GOTY Awards.
21. For the avoidance of doubt, for the GOTY 'Year' means the racing calendar year (1 July to 30 June).

Presentation of Award

22. The GOTY award recipients will be announced and medal presented at the Greyhound of the Year Award event.

Revocation

23. The GOTY Awards are given at the complete discretion of the Greyhound Racing Victoria Board and may be revoked by the Board.
24. The Board will automatically consider revocation of a GOTY Award if the Board forms the belief that a recipient has engaged in conduct that may bring discredit to the GOTY Award, Greyhound Racing Victoria or the sport of Greyhound racing.
25. The GOTY voting panel may also seek revocation of a GOTY Award by the Board, if the majority of the Panel believe that the recipient has engaged in conduct which may bring discredit to the GOTY Award. The GOTY voting panel will form its own view and make a recommendation to the Board as to whether the panel believes the GOTY Award should be revoked.
26. Where the Board or GOTY voting panel is considering revocation, the Chief Executive Officer of Greyhound Racing Victoria will notify the recipient. That person will be offered an opportunity to make a written or oral presentation to the panel or Board, whichever is relevant, as to why the GOTY Award should not be revoked.
27. In making its decision the Board may consider any information including recommendations of the GOTY voting panel, if any, and any information provided by the recipient. The decision of the Board is final.
28. If the Board revokes an award of a GOTY Award, the recipient will be notified and must return the GOTY Award (including all components) as soon as practicable and not more than 30 days after receiving the notification.