

Fireworks Policy

Purpose	GBGB recognises that loud and high-pitched fireworks can have a negative impact on canine health and wellbeing. This Policy aims to safeguard greyhound welfare by minimising the exposure of racing greyhounds to fireworks during race and trial events and during transportation to and from GBGB-licensed racecourses.
Scope	<p>The GBGB Firework Policy is to be followed by all licenced persons responsible for protecting greyhound welfare in relation to fireworks.</p> <p>Racing greyhounds may be exposed to firework displays in various locations, including at their residential kennels, during transportation and while at a racecourse. This Policy identifies the periods throughout the year where there is an increased risk of exposure to fireworks and states the additional mitigation that needs to be applied to uphold greyhound welfare during those periods.</p> <p>If unavoidable exposure to fireworks does occur while greyhounds are at a racecourse, this Policy sets out the emergency measures that racecourses and trainers must follow to minimise any potential negative welfare outcomes for the greyhounds onsite.</p>
Risk assessment of exposure to fireworks for racing greyhounds	<p>During high-risk periods, racecourses should look to schedule trial events, racing times and meetings to avoid any local displays or exposure. The necessity for levels of mitigation action changes from racecourse to racecourse depending on their local population profile.</p> <p>HIGH-RISK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 5th of November (Guy Fawkes Night), where racing is scheduled to continue past sunset. • The Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings of the nearest weekend to the 5th of November where racing is scheduled to continue past sunset. • Known major public firework displays or other local events taking place adjacent to a stadium, which may occur at any other time of the year. <p>MEDIUM-RISK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evenings of the other weekends around 5th November, where racing is scheduled to continue past sunset. • 31st December where racing is scheduled to continue past sunset. • Key events such as Diwali, Chinese New Year, etc. in areas where the local population profile applies. <p>LOW-RISK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank holidays and weekends throughout the year. • Key events such as Diwali, Chinese New Year, etc. in areas where the local population profile does not suggest the likelihood of displays.
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no conventional fireworks displays at a GBGB licensed racecourse while greyhounds are present at the racecourse.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For racecourses with resident greyhounds nearby, special efforts shall be made to identify and understand the risk in advance of firework displays near the stadium so that efforts can be made to minimise the impact of fireworks on these greyhounds. • If unexpected firework noise occurs, stadia management and the veterinarian on duty must consult as to how to minimise the impact on the greyhounds and should consider cancelling meetings where noise levels are high or sustained. The following emergency measures must be taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All greyhounds must be held within the kennel area until the management are confident that the display is over. ○ If greyhounds are out on the track when the noise starts, they must return to the kennel area immediately. The race should not go ahead unless the greyhounds have already been placed in the traps before the firework noise begins. ○ The track veterinarian shall be consulted as to whether racing may continue once the display is over, based on the perceived impact of the display on the dogs and the period the greyhounds have already been kennelled. ○ Kennel staff shall implement measures within the kennels to minimise the impact of noise on the greyhounds. This may include playing other sounds in the kennels such as radio or music to mask firework noise, providing additional bedding or draping blankets over kennel doors to allow hiding. Close monitoring of all greyhounds is key throughout the period of noise. ○ Kennel staff and the track veterinarian shall take note of any greyhound(s) showing signs of anxiety and/or fear. These dogs shall be examined carefully by the veterinarian and withdrawn from racing if deemed necessary by the track veterinarian. ○ If racing does continue after the display, all greyhounds shall be inspected by the veterinarian before being deemed fit to race. ○ No greyhound shall be permitted to leave the kennel area while the fireworks are going off (i.e., being moved into vans). ○ For greyhounds already in vans, trainers shall stay with them and implement measures to minimise the impact of the fireworks on the greyhounds (e.g., close the doors, turn on the engine, radio, etc.). Once all greyhounds are loaded, the trainer may leave to remove the greyhounds from the situation.
<p>Additional recommendations for racecourses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stadia management should engage with their local authority and adjacent businesses to improve their knowledge of local firework displays so that unexpected exposure to displays is minimised. • Racecourses should avoid holding conventional firework displays outside times of GBGB licensed activities where there are residential properties, kennels, horses or farm livestock immediately adjacent to the stadium. This reflects their understanding of the impact of conventional fireworks on other domestic animals and wildlife.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racecourse management should remain aware of the risk of negative effects on health and welfare should greyhounds be exposed to the debris and remnants of any spent fireworks that may have travelled into the stadium.
Relevant Rules of Racing	<p>Rule 152 – Breach of Rules – How committed</p> <p>Rule 102A – General arrangements for meetings</p>
Last amended	October 2023