

# PREFERRED BOX DRAWS FAQs

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| <p><b>What is a ‘preferred box draw’?</b></p>                                   | <p>At present, box draws are selected randomly. Nominations are entered into a computer program which randomly assigns each greyhound to a particular box in a race.</p> <p>“Preferred box draw” nominations work a bit differently. When a trainer nominates their greyhound for a race, they indicate whether their greyhound prefers an inside box close to the rail, a middle box, or an outside box. Boxes are then assigned based, as much as possible, on the preferences indicated by the trainers.</p>  |
| <p><b>Why is GRNSW running a trial of preferred box draws?</b></p>              | <p>GRNSW and GWIC are committed to reducing greyhound race injuries.</p> <p>Preferred box draws have been trialled extensively in New Zealand and other states in Australia and there is evidence to indicate that races with these draws result in fewer race injuries.</p> <p>The reason for this is that there are fewer collisions and less interference in preferred box draw races, as the greyhounds run according to their natural preference.</p> <p>This is a trial and the results will be analysed. Decisions on the future of preferred box draws will be made on the information from the trial.</p>   |
| <p><b>How and where to declare a greyhound’s trait at nomination stage?</b></p> | <p>At the time of nominating a greyhound for a Preferred Box Draw event, trainers are required to declare the trait of their greyhound. These traits are categorised into three different groups: Rail (R), Straight (S) and Wide (W). The trainer must provide GWIC by way of email (<a href="mailto:PBD@gwic.nsw.gov.au">PBD@gwic.nsw.gov.au</a>) the trait of their greyhound(s) prior to nomination closing time. If a trait has not been sent by close of nominations, the designated Steward will determine the greyhound’s trait. Once received, and prior to the box draw commencing, a designated Steward will review the trait that has been declared to ensure it is indicative of the greyhound’s actual trait. If it is not, the Steward will contact you by telephone to discuss and determine an appropriate trait. If a trait cannot be agreed upon, consideration may be given to permitting the withdrawal of the greyhound(s) from the event.</p> |

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| <b>Can preferred box draws affect the outcome of a race?</b>                          | Not in itself. The purpose of a preferred box draw is to allow all greyhounds in a race to run on their merits, without interference. This should result in the fairest possible outcome.  |
| <b>Will all races have preferred box draws?</b>                                       | No. Preferred box draws are being trialled only in specific races at specific tracks. Trainers must nominate into these events to be considered.   |
| <b>Which races will have preferred box draws?</b>                                     | Preferred box draws races will be conducted at Dapto and Wentworth Park. Two 5 <sup>th</sup> grade 297 metre races will be set aside at each Dapto meeting for preferred box draw races. At Wentworth Park, three races at each provincial graded meeting will be set aside for preferred box draw races – over 280 metres and 520 metres.   |
| <b>When will the trial start?</b>   | Preferred box draw racing commenced at Dapto on 3 August 2023, and will take place at Wentworth Park from 16 August 2023.  |
| <b>What if I don't know which box my greyhound prefers?</b>                           | <p>Many trainers prefer to see their greyhound draw an inside box, as this is closer to the rail. But not all dogs like to run close to the rail. Some dogs run towards the rail no matter which box they start from, some run straight ahead, and some prefer to run wider and avoid the crowd.</p> <p>Trainers have a strong understanding of how their greyhounds have raced to date. The focus is predominantly on the racing action at the start of the race.</p> <p>A greyhound's trait cannot be changed until after 3 starts. A trainer cannot declare a different trait for the greyhound's first 3 starts for a Preferred Box Draw event. Following its third starts, the Stewards may then alter its trait to reflect its racing trait. In the event that a trainer does declare a different trait subsequent to its third start, then it will be reviewed by the Stewards.</p> |
| <b>What if I don't want my greyhound to participate in a preferred box draw race?</b> | Trainers are not required to nominate their greyhounds for preferred box draw races if they don't want to. There are lots of other races and venues where you can nominate if you do not wish to participate.  |
| <b>What happens after the trial is finished?</b>                                      | GRNSW will collect the data from the trials and determine whether preferred box draw racing should be introduced more widely in NSW.   |