

Public Comments about Greyhound Racing



Your responsibilities as a participant

Talking and writing about greyhound racing is an essential part of the sport. The Commission recognises the value of public comments by industry participants to promote greyhound racing and communicate important information.

Each participant can be seen as an ambassador for greyhound racing. Comments that participants make can impact the industry as a whole.

As an ambassador for greyhound racing, it is important to show respect when speaking or writing publicly about the industry or people involved in it.

Participants are passionate about their sport, but it is important to remember that you are responsible for comments that you make in public. This can include comments that you may make to stewards or race officials at tracks and also posts or comments on social media such as Twitter or Facebook.

Rule 86(f) of the Greyhound Racing Rules prohibits participants engaging in or publishing comments that are offensive or insulting towards stewards, race officials and other people who work in greyhound racing. Rule 86(q) prohibits comments that are detrimental to the greyhound racing industry.

Participants can be penalised if they breach these Rules.

Comments that may breach the rule include:

- statements that are not based on truth, or that are made without a reasonable foundation about a controlling body, a racing official, or the integrity of racing
- discriminatory, racist, abusive, threatening or obscene language or imagery
- language or imagery that is offensive or inflammatory without a reasonable basis
- comments that breach a person's privacy
- comments that constitute a criminal offence or otherwise breaches a law
- comments that may identify matters that are currently the subject of legal proceedings, that would prejudice proceedings or breach a non-publication order.

R86: Offences

A person (including an official) shall be guilty of an offence if the person -

...

(f) engages in, publishes or causes to be published, broadcasts or causes to be broadcast, the use of any contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting, or offensive language, conduct or behaviour in any manner or form towards, or in relation to -

- (i) a Steward;
- (ii) the committee, or a member of the committee, of a club;
- (iii) the Controlling Body, or a member of the Controlling Body; or
- (iv) any other person having official duties in relation to greyhound racing;

...

(q) commits or omits to do any act or engages in conduct which is in any way detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control or promotion of greyhound racing-