



**Irish Greyhound Board**

**RETURN TO RACING**

**OWNER & TRAINER PROTOCOLS  
WHEN ATTENDING STADIA**

## PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to advise Owners and Trainers of suitable actions, behaviours and protocols to be observed when attending IGB Licenced Stadia for the purposes of racing greyhounds. The measures requested are in the interest of safeguarding Public Health and adherence to same will ensure associated risks of COVID-19 transfer are minimised. In the interests of everybody's health, and to ensure that racing continues, all Owners and Trainers are requested to read this document carefully in advance of travelling to attend a Stadium for the purposes of trialling/racing their greyhound. For the aforementioned reasons it is Imperative there is an acceptance of these measures by all, in addition to full compliance with the instructions of Racing/Security Officials present at Stadia.

## PRIOR TO TRAVEL

**Coronavirus COVID-19**  
Public Health Advice

### Visitors

Protect your loved ones

Don't visit if you have:

- fever (high temperature – 38 degrees Celsius or above)
- cough
- shortness of breath
- loss or change to sense of smell or taste

Wear a face covering when visiting anyone who is more at risk from coronavirus

Wash your hands well and often to avoid contamination

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and bin used tissue

Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Stay safe. Protect each other. [hse.ie](http://hse.ie)

**Coronavirus COVID-19**  
Public Health Advice

### Know the signs

- High Temperature
- Shortness of Breath
- Breathing Difficulties
- Cough

Wash

Cover

Avoid

Clean

Stop

Distance

For 8 out of 10 people, rest and over the counter medication can help you feel better.

If you have symptoms, self-isolate to protect others and phone your GP. Visit [hse.ie](http://hse.ie) for updated factual information and advice or call 1850 24 1850.

Protection from coronavirus. It's in our hands.

**HE** | **Riadas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland

Don't travel if you feel unwell with a high temperature, cough, breathing difficulties, fever or shortness of breath.

It is incumbent on all Owners and Trainers in the current crisis not only to ensure their own personal safety when attending a Racing Stadium, but also to ensure the collective safety of other persons present at the Stadium.

No different to travelling to other service providers, such as supermarkets, pharmacies etc., all Owners and Trainers should take personal safety measures in advance of travelling to a Stadium and note the current use of the following, by bringing with them, where appropriate:

- Disposable Gloves
- Hand Sanitiser
- Face Masks

Owners and Trainers are requested to **bring the absolute minimum racing accessories** when travelling to the stadium. It is recommended that the following list not be exceeded:

- One collar and lead per greyhound.
- One Kennel Muzzle per greyhound.
- One Racing Muzzle and Racing Sheet per greyhound.
- One Kennel Cover. In the event this is not required for racing, you are requested to leave in your vehicle.
- One Parade Cover. In the event this is not required for racing you are requested to leave in your vehicle.
- One pan per greyhound.
- One container of water/electrolyte solution per greyhound. If you would rather administer post-race fluids to your greyhound in your vehicle after racing, then the water/electrolyte solution should be left in the vehicle with the greyhound's pan.
- Petroleum Jelly but only if required

## ARRIVAL AT THE STADIUM

Owners and Trainers are requested to arrive in a timely manner with their greyhounds. Protective masks and gloves brought with you should be put on at this point. Replacement masks and gloves should be brought and frequently changed as the need arises during your visit to the track.

On arrival to the stadium, Owners and Trainers are requested not to congregate for any reasons in the car park or infield areas and observe social distancing at all times. Should a greyhound wish to relieve itself on exit of the vehicle this should of course be facilitated whereupon Owners and Trainers are requested to proceed to the weigh-in without any further delay or discourse with other Owners and Trainers.

**All should comply with directional and information signage on arrival and during weigh-in.**

## AT THE STADIUM



IGB will have hand washing and hand sanitising facilities available within the stadium. Owners and Trainers are requested to avail of these facilities as frequently as possible when at the

Stadium. Social Distancing should at all times and in all places be exercised by Owners and Trainers. Signage will be present at appropriate places to remind everybody of their responsibilities in these areas. In the interests of Public Health, IGB reserve the right to carry out infra-red temperature checks on Owners and Trainers accessing the stadium. Temperature abnormalities will result in access to the stadium being denied.

## **WEIGH-IN**

On arrival to the weigh-in area Owners and Trainers are requested to join a queue that observes social distancing protocols. Access to the weigh room will be in a controlled manner that limits the number of people interacting with the Racing Officials and Stadium employees at any one time. Entry fees will only be accepted by card payment.

In weighing and offering the greyhound for earmark identification Owners and Trainers are specifically requested to give as much distance as possible to the Control Stewards and comply with any instructions from him during the weigh-in procedure to comply with precautionary measures and ensure risks are minimised.

After the weigh-in is completed Owners and Trainers should proceed to kennelling their greyhounds without delay and then leave until the time has come to retrieve the greyhound from the kennel prior to the race. Kennel Locks will have been sanitised prior to kennelling by track staff. Owners and Trainers are requested not to congregate in the kennel area and observe social distancing at all times.

## **RACING**

Owners and Trainers will be granted access to kennels (strictly one person per greyhound) in a manner that ensures social distancing and each greyhound will be prepared for racing with the ancillary items the Owner/Trainer has brought to the track with them (Muzzle, Sheet, Cover, Petroleum Jelly if required). Each kennel lock will be re-sanitised before access to the kennel is given to the Owner/Trainer. When the pre-race checks are being conducted by the Control Steward, social distancing between all Owners and Trainers will be observed at all times. Similarly, during the parade of greyhounds and prior to loading of traps, social distancing will be observed and Owners and Trainers are requested to comply with the instructions of Racing Officials in this regard.

To ensure social distancing, Starting traps will be loaded in the order of 1 – 3 – 5 and 2 – 4 – 6. Owners and Trainers should queue in this order behind starting traps whilst maintaining their social distance with each other and Track Employees. When the race is completed, and when safe to do so, Owners and Trainers are requested to collect their greyhounds in the same order as starting traps were loaded, i.e., in the order of 1 – 3 – 5 and 2 – 4 – 6.

## **PICK-UP AND POST RACE**

The issue of greyhound retrieval by owners and trainers after racing has specifically been identified as an area where social distancing protocols may be compromised. It is imperative that social distancing is observed during greyhound pick-up after the race.

With this in mind, Owners and Trainers are requested that when the race is completed, and when safe to do so, greyhounds are collected in the same order as starting traps were loaded, i.e., in the order of 1 – 3 – 5 and 2 – 4 – 6. Social distancing should be exercised when exiting the track with the greyhound and during wash down of greyhounds. Wash-down Taps will be sanitised after each race.

If an Owner or Trainer has completed their race requirements for the night they should leave

the stadium and make their way home. If there is a requirement to re-kennel a greyhound it should be done as expediently as possible. Owners and Trainers should not congregate when exiting the stadium and observe social distancing at all time prior to leaving the stadium in their vehicle.

## **COVID- 19**

### **THE DOS AND DON'TS WHEN YOU ATTEND A GREYHOUND STADIUM**

To protect yourself and others from coronavirus (COVID-19), think about how the virus is spread. Coronavirus is spread in sneeze or cough droplets. To infect you, it has to get from an infected person's nose or mouth into your eyes, nose or mouth. This can be direct or indirect (on hands, objects, surfaces). Keep this in mind. It will help you remember all the things you need to do to protect yourself and others from the virus.

#### **SOCIAL DISTANCING AT THE STADIUM**

Social distancing is important to help slow the spread of coronavirus. It does this by minimising contact between potentially infected individuals and healthy individuals.

#### **Do**

- keep a space of 2 metres (6.5 feet) between you and other people
- avoid any crowded places
- not shake hands or make close contact with other people, if possible

There is very little risk if you are just passing someone. But try to keep a distance of 2 metres as much as possible.

#### **GOOD HYGIENE AND HAND WASHING AT THE STADIUM**

Follow this advice as strictly as possible and encourage others to follow this advice too.

#### **Do**

- Wash your hands properly and often
- Cover your mouth with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough and sneeze
- Put used tissues into a bin and wash your hands

#### **Don 't**

- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.
- Do not share objects that touch your mouth – for example, bottles, cups.

#### **WASH YOUR HANDS PROPERLY AND OFTEN AT THE STADIUM**

#### **Do**

Wash your hands:

- after coughing or sneezing
- before and after eating
- if you were in contact with someone who has a fever or respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing)
- when you arrive and prior to your departure at the stadium
- before and after you attend to your greyhound for racing
- before having a cigarette or vaping
- if your hands are dirty
- after toilet use

(content from HSE Published Guidelines)