

PRIZEMONEY BOOST

The Board of the Queensland GRA has approved a prizemoney increase of \$300,000 from February to the end of Jun.

The additional increase has been achieved through better than expected turnover and distribution from Product Co.

Turnover on greyhound racing for the first six months of this financial year has seen an increase of 11.2 percent to the corresponding period.

This is certainly an excellent result and has greyhound racing a clear second to the thoroughbred code in percentage of turnover.

The increase will be distributed as follows:

* \$1000 per meeting (ie \$100 per race) to each of the TAB clubs, of which \$60 is added to 2nd and \$40 to 3rd.

* 4th place prizemoney to be introduced at all TAB meetings.

Brisbane Thursday \$100

Brisbane Monday \$75

Brisbane Friday, Ipswich and Gold Coast meetings \$50

* \$500 per meeting to all non-TAB clubs.

This increase follows on from the Board's injection of \$300,000 in prizemoney from July 2003.

NO FEE

A fee will no longer apply to Owners (only) and Confederacy/Syndicate registrations.

In line with this, Owners and Confederacy/Syndicates will be known as registered persons as opposed to licenced persons.

Persons seeking to become registered Owners (only) or form a Confederacy/ Syndicate will still be required to complete the necessary application, but it will not be necessary to

provide a photo or a National Police Certificate. (The authority reserves the right to request the applicant to provide a National Police Certificate if required).

In approving these amendments, registered persons will not be in a position to train or handle greyhounds.

Persons wishing to do so will be required to either apply for an Attendant's or Owner/ Trainer's licence where the current conditions apply.

Current holders of an Owner's (only) or Confederacy/Syndicate licence will be permitted to handle or train greyhounds until June 30.

The relevant documentation will be forwarded to current licence holders prior to the expiry of their licence outlining the new amendments.

The Board sees this as a positive step in reducing costs to encourage new people becoming involved in the industry.

This announcement follows on from the Board's recent decision of free marking-up and earbranding.

PREVIEW AMENDMENT

Effective February 1 the policy for previewing will be:

* The "Preview Approved" endorsement will no longer be recorded on the greyhound's racing certificate.

* The trainer **MUST** notify stewards verbally at kennelling should they wish to preview their greyhound.

* The decision to preview will be recorded on the greyhound's weight card and weight sheets. These amendments will provide more flexibility to trainers.