

A Consultation on Proposed Regulatory Reform

Phase 2

Introduction

- 1.1 As outlined in the first phase of public consultation on regulatory reform (December 2014) Bord na gCon recognises the importance in implementing the highest standards of integrity and compliance controls in all aspects of its regulatory structure and are currently considering a number of regulatory reforms as outlined in this paper.
- 1.2 Public consultation is one of the key regulatory tools employed to improve transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of regulation that Bord na gCon have committed to following the publication of the 2014 Indecon Report on the Irish greyhound industry. As Bord na gCon embarks on the implementation of various recommendations contained in this report, Bord na gCon actively seeks the opinions of interested and affected groups.

Scope of Consultation

- 2.1 This second phase of public consultation seeks views from those involved in the greyhound industry with the objective of gathering information to facilitate the drafting of higher quality regulation in relation to the proposals put forward in this document. All responses will be appropriately considered.
- 2.2 The consultation period will run for 4 weeks from 28th August 2015 to 25th September 2015.
- 2.3 Please respond before the closing date of Friday 25th September 2015. Please send responses to feedback@igb.ie. If you do not have access to email, please respond to:

Public Consultation on Regulatory Reform
Regulation Department
Bord na gCon
Greenpark
Dock Road
Limerick

3. **Abuse of Officials:**

As indicated in the first phase of Consultation on Proposed Regulatory Reform (December 2014)- Bord na gCon seeks to introduce a provision to the Racing Regulations that will ensure that anti-harassment and abuse of Bord na gCon Racing Officials, Authorised Officers, Employees and Agents are safeguarded. At present unlike other Sports Governing Bodies (SGBs) there are no industry specific protection regulations or sanctioning power for those officials who are subject to such behaviour except our national legislation providing for the health and safety of people in the workplace; the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Acts 2005 and 2010.

Any abuse, harassment and/or any improper conduct against those working in connection with regulation of the Irish Greyhound Racing Industry as outlined above is a very serious issue and necessitates industry specific protection under law in order to ensure that safety and welfare of those officials working at the helm of the various stadia operations or any other land or premises licensed, regulated or operated by Bord na gCon is paramount. In order to align with best practice in other SGBs in particular those categorised as racing authorities, the acceptable standard of protection include but are not limited to the following areas;

- 1) Any violent or improper conduct towards Racing Officials, Authorised Officers, Employees and Agents;
- 2) Any abuse of offensive or obscene language and (or) behaviour towards Racing Officials, Authorised Officers, Employees and Agents;
- 3) Any threatening behaviour both verbal and physical towards Racing Officials, Authorised Officers, Employees and Agents;
- 4) Any transmission of offensive remarks by text, email or any form of social media towards Racing Officials, Authorised Officers, Employees and Agents;
- 5) Any discriminatory actions towards Racing Officials, Authorised Officers, Employees and Agents on the established lawful grounds;
- 6) Any person that has aided and abetted the commission of any breach of these regulations.

It is envisaged that any legislation introduced may include but is not limited to penalties such as a warnings, request to leave stadia, refusal from entering stadia, monetary fines, notification to the Garda Síochana and or/any the sanctioning powers available in the Greyhound Industry Act 1958 and the Control Committee legislation 2008/2009.

We request stakeholders submit their views on such regulatory protection taking into account fairness of procedures and the forum all racing participants have available via the recently launched complaints policy of the IGB 2014. <https://www.igb.ie/top-nav-corporate/news/new-irish-greyhound-board-complaints-policy--procedure/>

4. **Duty to keep record of medication:**

Bord na gCon proposes a new regulation to introduce a duty to keep records of all medication administered to a greyhound and the purchasing traceability of such medicines. These records must be available for inspection or production when required. The imposition of such a duty would have significant benefits in the areas of integrity, intelligence, education and welfare for all industry stakeholders and the regulatory authority.

It is anticipated that these records must be kept for a specified periods and must be made available for inspection when requested. An example of such a record may include at minimum the following information:

- name of the greyhound;
- date of commencement and prescribed duration of any medication or treatment;
- name of the medication or treatment used;
- route and dosage per day of the medication or treatment;
- name of the person administering the medication or treatment;
- Supply and use of the medication including the name of the person authorising or prescribing the medication or treatment

Bord na gCon wishes to establish stakeholders views on whether additional information to that proposed should be recorded, and if so what this information might be. It also wishes to establish how best to minimise the administration of this requirement and whether it would be of assistance for Bord na gCon to issue uniform medical record booklets to assist this undertaking?

5. **Kennelhand Licence:**

Bord na gCon wishes to introduces a formal process whereby anyone who is appointed by the original licensed party to handle their greyhound at a track and/or any other licensed activity on their behalf is formally nominated. This mechanism is required to ensure a higher level of security, integrity and traceability at licensed premises and will prevent a situation arising whereby a greyhound is handled by someone who is not traceable to the licensed party. It is also proposed that these provisions be included in the conditions attached to a Trainers Licence and that persons seeking these authorisations be fit and proper individuals.

Bord na gCon wishes to establish industry views on this proposal. In particular should there be a maximum number of persons associated with each licensed party and also should owners/trainers have the option to nominate another person to present their greyhound?

6. **Use of mobile phones/electronic apparatus:**

As a further integrity and safety measure, Bord na gCon wishes to introduce a new rule to the Racing Regulations prohibiting the use of mobile phones at various restricted areas at stadia and while parading. In this regard mobile phones would be prohibited within the confines of the Kennel area and while a greyhound is being attended to by an individual (including parading of the greyhound).

Bord na gCon wishes to establish whether there are any issues arising for the industry stakeholder with implementing such a prohibition.

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