2026 Australian Cup Carnival

The 2026 Australian Cup consists of a series of three weeks of greyhound racing which will be conducted under the Greyhound Racing Victoria rules of racing.

Week 1: Saturday February 14 – Group 1 Temlee, Group 1 Zoom Top & Australian Cup Heats
Week 2: Saturday February 21 – Australian Cup Semi-Finals, Fanta Bale Heats, GRV Vicbred Maiden Semi-Finals & Rookie Rebel Prelude.
Week 3: Saturday February 28 – G1 Australian Cup Final, G1 Fanta Bale Final, G1 Rookie Rebel Final, Listed Australian Cup Consolation, Listed GRV Vicbred Maiden Series Final

PRIZEMONEY BREAKDOWNS

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	TOTAL
Sportsbet Temlee	**75,000**	**20,000**	**10,000**	**5,000**	**110,000**
Sportsbet Zoom Top	**75,000**	**20,000**	**10,000**	**5,000**	**110,000**
Sportsbet Rookie Rebel	**75,000**	**20,000**	**10,000**	**5,000**	**110,000**
Sportsbet Australian Cup	**300,000**	**80,000**	**40,000**	**20,000**	**440,000**
Sportsbet Fanta Bale Stayers	**100,000**	**30,000**	**15,000**	**7,500**	**152,500**

THE SELECTION CRITERIA - Temlee, Rookie Rebel & Zoom Top

The MGRA aims to assemble the best quality field of 8 greyhounds, where in the opinion of the selection panel, all runners have a realistic chance of winning the race. Given the subjective nature of form assessment, the metrics to be considered are deliberately broad, to allow the panel full discretion to compile the field. These metrics include, but are not limited to the following:

- Career record
- Group and metropolitan racing performances
- Recent form
- Winning times
- Record at The Meadows

Additionally, the panel can consider non-form metrics such as whether a greyhound's inclusion adds to the promotion of the event and the sport in general.

RACE CONDITIONS

2026 Sportsbet Australian Cup

Heats: Saturday February 14, 2026
Semi-Finals: Saturday February 21, 2026
Final: Saturday February 28, 2026

1. Nominations for the 2026 Australian Cup (Event) series close with GRV on Friday 6 February 2026 at 10:00am

2. The GRV grader, in conjunction with Melbourne Greyhound Racing Association representative(s) will divide these nominations into three (3) categories noting **MAIDENS ARE INELIGIBLE** -

(a) Greyhounds selected to compete in the Group 1 Temlee (Best 8 by Invitation) by an MGRA selection panel *and*
(b) The top 64 greyhounds nominated, excluding the invited runners for the G1 Temlee, as determined by the Special Event Ranking System (Grading Guideline section 14), will be automatically entered in a maximum of eight (8) Heats of the Australian Cup to be conducted on the 14th of February 2026 *and*
(c) The remaining nominations will be eligible to be drawn as reserves (maximum of 16) for the heats to be conducted on the 14th of February 2026.

3. Greyhounds nominated and drawn into the Australian Cup Heats & Temlee who are scratched after the close of nominations on Friday 6 February 2026 at 10:00am, but prior to the box draw, will incur a 10-day stand down period from the date of the event in accordance with LR 49.3.

4. The number of Heats to be conducted on Saturday 14 February 2026 will be determined subject to the number of nominations remaining after the top eight (8) greyhounds have been adjudged to compete in the Group 1 Temlee, however this number will not exceed eight (8).

5. Seeded/Guarded selection method will apply to the Heats to be conducted on the 14th of February 2026 – that is

(a) Top 25% of greyhounds to be seeded and distributed evenly amongst the number of heats – basically the top two greyhounds in each heat will be 'seeded'
(b) Bottom 75% of greyhounds to be randomly drawn into heats
(c) Guarding of owners and trainers will apply for all greyhounds, including the top 25% where possible.

6. The fields for the Australian Cup semi-finals will be comprised of the following -

(a) Those drawn into the semi-finals shall notionally be the top three (3) placegetters from the Australian Cup Heats, but in the case of lower than eight (8) heats being conducted; greyhounds finishing fourth in each of the heats will, subject to their time recorded, become eligible for inclusion into the semi-finals.
(b) Greyhounds selected to compete in the 'Temlee' (event to be conducted on February 14, 2026) will be automatically drawn into the Australian Cup series semi-finals.

7. Eight (8) greyhounds and two (2) reserves from the semi-finals will progress into the Australian Cup Final to be held on 28 February 2026

8. Greyhounds will be eligible to compete in the Australian Cup Consolation if they have competed in any of the Australian Cup semi-finals or but having not made the G1 Sportsbet Australian Cup Final.

9. Selection for the Australian Cup Consolation will be determined by finishing position in the semi-finals, with higher-placed semi-finalists given priority and semi-final times used to order greyhounds with the same placing. Once all eligible semi-finalists have been considered, greyhounds eliminated in the heats may be selected, with heat finishing position determining priority and heat times used to order greyhounds with the same placing. Nomination(s) must be lodged with GRV by 10.30am Wednesday 25 February 2026.

10. A greyhound under any order of prohibition that will not allow it to compete at The Meadows, at the time of nominations closing for the 2026 Australian Cup (Event) series will be deemed ineligible and not drawn into the field. Any greyhound under any order of prohibition that will not allow it to compete at The Meadows in the Semi-Finals on Saturday February 21, at the time of the box draw at 2pm on Wednesday 18 February, will be deemed ineligible and not drawn into the field. GRV will promote the next available greyhound based on the Australian Cup heat results.

11. The provisions of Greyhound Racing Victoria LR 44 (Vic) in its entirety, should be clearly noted by all participants nominating for the series.

RACE CONDITIONS

2026 Sportsbet Australian Cup Carnival – The Temlee, Rookie Rebel & Zoom Top

By submitting a nomination for any of these events, the connections of the greyhound acknowledge that they have read and considered the Conditions of Entry for the **TEMLEE/ROOKIE REBEL/ZOOM TOP** as stated below.

1. No travel or other expenses will be paid by the Melbourne Greyhound Racing Association or Greyhound Racing Victoria for the connections of greyhounds selected to compete in these events.

2. The connections agree to the use of themselves and their greyhound's name and photographs for promotional or advertising purposes of the Melbourne Greyhound Racing Association or Greyhound Racing Victoria or any organization approved by either body arising by it being selected to compete in any of these events.

3. The Victorian Greyhound Racing Victoria Rules of Greyhound Racing incorporating Australian Greyhound Racing Rules shall apply to these events.

4. The Melbourne Greyhound Racing Association and Greyhound Racing Victoria reserve the right to alter and/or amend these conditions.

5. A greyhound under any order of prohibition that will not allow it to compete at The Meadows, at the time of nominations closing will be deemed ineligible and not drawn into the fields.

Temlee Final: Saturday February 14, 2026

1. Connections of greyhounds nominated to participate in the Australian Cup series will be automatically in consideration for a place in the final Temlee field – Australian Cup nominations close at 10am on Friday 6 February 2026.
2. A full list of the nominations for the Australian Cup series will be posted by the club on Friday 6 February 2026.
3. Following the close of nominations, a panel comprising of representatives from the Melbourne Greyhound Racing Association (MGRA) & Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) will select the eight (8) runners plus two (2) reserves to be invited to compete in the **2026 G1 Temlee (525m).**
4. The panel may select any greyhound using the **Selection Criteria** outlined on Page 1 of the Conditions.
5. The eight (8) runners plus two (2) reserves will be announced by the MGRA at a to be confirmed time, date, and location but no later than Tuesday 3 February 2026.

Zoom Top Final: Saturday February 14, 2026

1. Connections of greyhounds wanting to compete in the **2026 Zoom Top (730m)** need to submit their nominations to GRV Racing Services (03) 8329 1111 before 10am on Friday 6 February 2026.
2. A full list of the nominations for the **2024 Zoom Top (730m)** will be posted by the club on Friday 6 February 2026. Following the close of nominations, a panel comprising of representatives from the Melbourne Greyhound Racing Association (MGRA) & Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) will select the eight (8) runners plus two (2) reserves to be invited to compete in the **2025 Zoom Top (730m).**
3. The panel may select any greyhound using the **Selection Criteria** outlined on Page 1 of the Conditions.
4. The eight (8) runners plus two (2) reserves will be announced by the MGRA at a to be confirmed time, date, and location but no later than Tuesday 4 February 2025.

Rookie Rebel Final: Saturday February 22, 2025

1. Connections of greyhounds wanting to compete in the 2024 Rookie Rebel (600m) need to submit their nominations to GRV Racing Services (03) 8329 1111 before 10am on Monday 23 February 2026.
2. A full list of the nominations for the **2025 Rookie Rebel (600m)** will be posted by the club on Monday 23 February 2026.
3. Following the close of nominations, a panel comprising of representatives from the Melbourne Greyhound Racing Association (MGRA) & Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) will select the eight (8) runners plus two (2) reserves to be invited to compete in the **2025 Rookie Rebel (600m).**
4. The panel may select any greyhound using the **Selection Criteria** outlined on Page 1 of the Conditions.
5. The eight (8) runners plus two (2) reserves will be announced by the MGRA at a to be confirmed time, date, and location but no later than Tuesday 24 February 2026.

For more information, please contact MGRA Racing & Media Manager Corey Smith – csmith@grv.org.au

THE 2026 EVENT TIMELINE