

GRASS USAGE POLICY

The GBJC is committed to maintaining its grass training facilities in a safe, sustainable, and high-quality condition for trainers, riders, horses, and race day activities.

Due to the significant use of the Club's grass training surfaces, their condition is continuously monitored to ensure they remain safe for training purposes and are presented in the best possible condition for both racing and training activities.

To prevent excessive wear, damage, and deterioration of the grass surfaces, access and usage must be managed through a structured process.

This policy is designed to:

- Provide trainers with reasonable and equitable access to grass gallops.
- Protect the long-term condition of the training surfaces.
- Distribute wear and traffic across the track.
- Maintain safe training conditions.
- Ensure the sustainability of the grass tracks throughout the year.

Markers, cones, and other directional devices may be placed on the track to assist in spreading wear across the full width and length of the surface. Trainers and riders must comply with all directions regarding track positioning and usage.

Grass Track Availability

The Club will endeavour to make the grass training track available as frequently as practical while ensuring its ongoing maintenance, recovery, and presentation.

Depending on track conditions and operational requirements, the grass track available for use may vary from session to session and will be determined by Club management based on track condition, maintenance requirements, and operational considerations.

Scheduled Grass Gallops

Grass gallops will generally be scheduled on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

These days may be varied, suspended, or supplemented at the discretion of Club management.

The availability and location of grass gallops will be determined having regard to:

- Race meeting schedules.
- Maintenance and renovation works.
- Turf recovery rates.
- Seasonal growth patterns.
- Weather conditions.
- Overall wear and tear of the surface.
- Safety considerations for horses and riders.

Seasonal and Weather Considerations

The ability of grass tracks to withstand usage varies throughout the year. During periods of active turf growth, the grass surface is generally capable of sustaining higher levels of use and recovering more quickly.

During cooler months, periods of dormancy, or prolonged wet weather, recovery rates are significantly reduced and the risk of damage to the turf profile increases.

Rainfall immediately before or during scheduled grass gallops can substantially increase the risk of surface damage and may result in the closure of the track.

As a guide, the following rainfall thresholds will be used when determining track suitability during the Dormant Season (May–September). Rainfall received within the preceding 24-hour period will generally be assessed as follows:

Rainfall Received (Previous 24 Hours)	Track Status
0–4mm	Open unless continual rainfall has occurred over preceding days
Greater than 4mm	Closed

These thresholds are intended as a guide only and do not limit the Club's discretion to close or restrict access where track conditions warrant a more conservative approach.

Track Assessment and Decision Making

The condition of the grass training tracks will be assessed following rainfall events to ensure the safety of horses and riders and to protect the long-term integrity of the turf surface.

Wherever practicable, decisions regarding the following day's scheduled grass gallops will be made by the Track Manager and communicated to trainers by email on the preceding day.

Recognising that weather forecasts may change and rainfall events can occur outside of normal working hours, the Track Manager may delegate authority to the Track Supervisor to determine track availability based on actual rainfall recorded by the track's rainfall gauges.

This delegation is intended to maximise opportunities for grass training to proceed where conditions permit, while avoiding decisions based solely on forecast weather conditions. It also allows track suitability to be assessed using actual rainfall data received overnight and prior to the commencement of trackwork.

Surface Preservation

The Club may restrict access to particular sections of the grass training tracks, alter training patterns, relocate gallops, vary the areas available for use, reduce the frequency of grass gallops, or cancel grass training sessions entirely where it considers such action necessary to preserve the condition and integrity of the training and racing surfaces.

The preservation of the grass surfaces for both training and racing purposes shall take precedence over the convenience of access to grass gallops.

Track Closure Decisions

The final decision regarding the availability of the grass training tracks rests solely with Club management.

When determining whether the track is suitable for use, management may consider:

- Recent and forecast rainfall.
- Timing and intensity of rainfall events.
- Surface condition and moisture levels.
- Existing wear and damage.

- Turf recovery capacity.
- Upcoming race meetings.
- Planned maintenance or renovation works.
- Safety considerations for horses and riders.

Management reserves the right to close, restrict, modify, or suspend access to the grass training tracks at any time where it is considered necessary to protect the surface, preserve turf quality, or ensure the safety of horses and riders.

Where a grass training track has been closed or access restricted, trainers with horses nominated for metropolitan race meetings, feature race meetings, or Country Cup races may apply for consideration of alternative grass access by submitting a Special Grass Gallop Request via the Club's approved online application form.

Any such request will be assessed on its individual merits, having regard to the purpose of the gallop, track conditions, the number of horses involved, upcoming racing commitments, and the need to preserve the integrity of the grass surfaces. Approval is not guaranteed and remains at the sole discretion of the Club.

Communication of Track Status

Any closure, restriction, modification, or change to scheduled grass gallops will be communicated to trainers as soon as reasonably practicable via email notification and the track indicator board.

Approved By: Gawler & Barossa Jockey Club Committee

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