



**GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION**  
**DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

<b>Date of decision:</b>	Tuesday 17 October 2023
<b>Decision-maker:</b>	Senior Steward Kevin Adams and Steward Shane O'Shea
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Len Haaring
<b>Track:</b>	Gunnedah
<b>Date:</b>	12 August 2023
<b>Rule no.:</b>	141(1)(a)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	Mr. Len Haaring presented the greyhound 'Hayman Beach' ("Greyhound") for the purposes of competing in race 12 at the Gunnedah meeting on 12 August 2023 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.
<b>Prohibited Substance(s):</b>	Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre.
<b>Plea:</b>	Guilty
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	To issue an 8-week suspension, to commence Midnight Thursday 19 October 2023 and expire Midnight Thursday 14 December.

**INVESTIGATION**

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 13 September 2023, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre event urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Hayman Beach' at the Gunnedah meeting on 12 August 2023.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Chemistry Laboratory confirming the presence of Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre.

**DECISION:**

1. Mr Haaring is a registered Public Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of 'Hayman Beach' ("Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 12 of the Gunnedah meeting on 12 August 2023. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.

2. The pre-event swab revealed the presence of Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre.
3. Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre is a prohibited substance under Rule 140(f) of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
4. On 6 October 2023 Mr Haaring was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
5. In the Notice issued on 6 October 2023 the decision makers charged Mr Haaring with an offence under Rule 141(1)(a) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

**Rule 141(1), Rules**

(1) The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound:

(a) nominated to compete in an Event;

...

must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

...

(3) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound presented contrary to subrule (1) of this rule shall be guilty of an offence.

6. The Notice proposed a penalty of a four-month suspension and invited Mr Haaring to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. At the hearing conducted via Teams on Tuesday 17 October 2023, Mr Haaring:
  - (a) entered a plea of guilty; and
  - (b) made verbal submissions
8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Haaring’ plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Haaring:

To issue an 8-week suspension, to commence Midnight Thursday 19 October 2023 and expire Midnight Thursday 14 December.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
  - Mr Haaring’s guilty plea (25% reduction);
  - Mr Haaring’s twenty-two-year registration and unblemished record;
  - Mr Haaring’s co-operation and forthright evidence and contribution to the industry;

- The decision-makers were able to determine a probable cause for the elevated Cobalt levels detected in the sample
- GWIC penalty guidelines.

10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 12 at the Gunnedah meeting on 12 August 2023 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....