



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 5 May 2020
Decision-maker: Chief Executive Officer, Judith Lind
Name of relevant person: Mr Alexander Verhagen
Track: Gunnedah
Date: 8 September 2019
Rule no.: Rule 83(2)(a)
Charge(s): (1) Mr Verhagen presented the greyhound 'Lady Brae' ("Greyhound") for the purposes of competing in race 10 at the Gunnedah meeting on 8 September 2019 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.
Prohibited substance(s): Cobalt
Disciplinary action taken: 12-week suspension

REPORT:

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from the Racing Analytical Services Laboratory, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Lady Brae' ("Greyhound") at the Gunnedah meeting on 8 September 2019, revealing cobalt at a mass concentration of greater than 200 nanograms per millilitre.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Chemistry Laboratory, confirming the presence of cobalt at a mass concentration of greater than 200 nanograms per millilitre.

After considering the evidence, the Commission charged Mr Verhagen with a breach of Rule 83(2)(a) of the Commission's Greyhound Racing Rules ("**Rules**") given that the pre-race urine sample taken from the Greyhound confirmed the presence of the prohibited substance cobalt above the threshold imposed by Rule 83(10) of 100 nanograms per millilitre.

Mr Verhagen was legally represented and admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

The disciplinary action was conducted in writing in accordance with the participant's election.

DECISION:

1. Mr Verhagen is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound was presented for race 10 at the Gunnedah meeting on 8 September 2019 (“Event”) and a pre-Event urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-Event swab revealed the presence of cobalt at a mass concentration of greater than 200 nanograms per millilitre. Cobalt, at a mass concentration greater than 100 nanograms per millilitre is a prohibited substance under Rule 83(10) of the Commission’s Greyhound Racing Rules.
3. The Commission charged Mr Verhagen under Rule 83(2)(a), which reads:
 - (2) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound-
 - (a) nominated to compete in an Event;
 - (b) presented for a satisfactory, weight or whelping trial or such other trial as provided for pursuant to these Rules; or
 - (c) presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a period of incapacitation or prohibition being varied or revokedshall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.
4. Mr Verhagen admitted the charge, provided written submissions and elected to have the disciplinary proceeding conducted in writing.
5. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Verhagen:

To suspend his trainer registration held with GWIC for a period of 12 weeks.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Verhagen has been a registered trainer in the industry for approximately 17 years;
 - Mr Verhagen has no history of any prohibited substance matters;
 - NSW greyhound racing penalty guidelines and precedents;
 - Mr Verhagen’s admission of the charge at the earliest opportunity;
 - Mr Verhagen’s written submissions in mitigation of penalty, including his significant contributions to the industry and local community, his good character and his personal and financial circumstances.
7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 10 at the Gunnedah meeting on 8 September 2019 pursuant to Rule 83(4).

.....End.....