



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	Monday 5 June 2023
Decision-maker:	Chief Steward Troy Vassallo and Senior Steward Dean Degan
Name of relevant person:	Steven Burgis
Date:	27 October 2022
Rule no.:	156(f)
Charge(s):	Mr Steven Burgis, a registered Public Trainer, did on 27 October 2022 at the Maitland Greyhound Club engage in misconduct by: (a) First engaging in a verbal altercation with a participant ; (b) Further engaging in a physical altercation with a participant ; and (c) This altercation was considered to amount to misconduct in the opinion of the Controlling Body.
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a 3-month suspension, wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Mr. Burgis not breaching this, or any like, rule. In addition, a fine in the sum of \$1,000 was issued.

INVESTIGATION

1. On 27 October 2022, Mr Steven Burgis attended the Maitland Greyhound Club for the purpose of racing his greyhound "My Paymaster" in race 1.
2. Following the running of race 2, in the vicinity of the kennelling area a verbal altercation then took place between Mr Burgis and a greyhound participant, including some physical contact.
3. A short time later, Mr Burgis entered into a further verbal altercation with the participant in the vicinity of the car park.

DECISION:

1. On Monday 22 May 2023 Mr Burgis was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
2. In the Notice issued on 22 May 2023 the decision makers proposed a penalty of a 4-month suspension, and charged Mr Burgis with an offence under Rule 156(f)(ii) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

Rule 156(f)(ii), Rules

An offence is committed if a person (including an official):

...

f) has, in relation to a greyhound or greyhound racing done something, or omitted to do something, which in the opinion of a controlling body or stewards:

...

(ii) constitutes misconduct or is negligent or improper

3. The Notice invited Mr Burgis to attend a hearing on Monday 5 June 2023 via Microsoft Teams to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
4. At the hearing conducted via Microsoft Teams on 5 June 2023, Mr Burgis and a representative assisting in the inquiry:
 1. entered a plea of guilty to parts a and c of the charge;
 2. entered a plea of not guilty to part b of the charge;
 3. made verbal submissions
 4. entered written submissions
5. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Burgis' pleas and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found that part b of the charge not proven however parts a and c of the charge proven and therefore took the following disciplinary action against Mr Burgis:

Charge 156(f)(ii): To issue a 3-month suspension, wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months. In addition, a fine of \$1000 was issued.

6. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Burgis guilty plea
 - Mr Burgis unblemished disciplinary record

- Mr Burgis personal and professional circumstances
- His contrition and remorse displayed for his conduct
- Purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image and interests of the greyhound racing industry
- Principles of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct.

.....End.....