



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: Monday 31 July 2023

Decision-maker: Steward Louise Warren, Chief Steward Kevin Adams

Name of relevant person: Garry Coles

Track: Goulburn

Date: 21 April 2023

Rule no.: 141(1)(a)

Charge(s): Mr Garry Coles presented the greyhound 'Rebel Garth' ("Greyhound") for the purposes of competing in race 9 at the Goulburn meeting on 21 April 2023 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance

Prohibited Substance(s): Theobromine

Plea: Guilty

Disciplinary action taken: To issue a suspension of ten weeks, to commence midnight Monday 31 July 2023 and end Midnight Tuesday 10 October 2023.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 29 May 2023, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Rebel Garth' at the Goulburn meeting on 21 April 2023.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Science Centre confirming the presence of Theobromine.

DECISION:

1. Mr Coles is a registered Public Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of 'Rebel Garth' ("Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 9 of the Goulburn meeting on 21 April 2023. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-event swab revealed the presence of Theobromine.
3. Theobromine is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.

4. On 18 July 2023 Mr Coles was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
5. In the Notice issued on 18 July 2023 the decision makers charged Mr Coles 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 Coles to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. At the hearing conducted on Monday 31 July 2023, via Microsoft Teams, Mr Coles:
 - (a) entered a plea of guilty; and
 - (b) made verbal submissions.

8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Coles’s plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Coles:

To issue a suspension of ten weeks, to commence midnight Monday 31 July 2023 and end Midnight Tuesday 10 October 2023.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Coles’ guilty plea (25% reduction);
 - Mr Coles’ registration history with no prior offence in a similar matter; and
 - GWIC penalty guidelines.
10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 9 at the Goulburn meeting on 21 April 2023 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....