



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: Friday 31 May 2024

Decision-maker: Steward Jason Hodder and Chief Steward Troy Vassallo

Name of relevant person: Joseph Scerri

Track: Wentworth Park

Date: 22 March 2024

Rule no.: 141(1)(a)

Charge(s): Mr Joseph Scerri presented the greyhound 'Shanghai Girl' for the purpose of competing in race 6 at the Wentworth Park meeting on 22 March 2024 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance

Prohibited Substance(s): Bethanidine

Plea: Guilty

Disciplinary action taken: To issue a fine of \$1000.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 22 April 2024, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Shanghai Girl" at the Wentworth Park meeting on 22 March 2024.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory confirming the presence of Bethanidine.

DECISION:

1. Mr Scerri is a registered Public Trainer, Studmaster and Breeder and the trainer of "Shanghai Girl" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 6 of the Wentworth Park meeting on 22 March 2024. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-event swab revealed the presence of Bethanidine.
3. Bethanidine is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.

4. On 24 May 2024 Mr Scerri was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
5. In the Notice issued on 24 May 2024 the decision makers charged Mr Scerri 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 Two Month Suspension and invited Mr Scerri to attend a hearing on Friday 31 May 2024 to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. At the hearing conducted via Microsoft Teams on Friday 31 May 2024 Mr Scerri;
 - Entered a plea of guilty; and
 - Made verbal submissions
8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Scerri’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 Scerri:

Charge 141 (1) (a): To issue a fine of \$1000

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Scerri’s guilty plea (25% reduction)
 - Mr Scerri’s registration history with no like prior offences
 - Professional and personal circumstances
 - GWIC penalty guidelines
10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 6 at the Wentworth Park meeting on 22 March 2024 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....