



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: Thursday 18 July 2024
Decision-maker: Chief Operating Officer Wade Birch and Steward Ben Boyce Mortlock
Name of relevant person: Matthew Baldwin
Track: Richmond Straight
Date: 23 January 2024
Rule no.: 141(1)(a), 148(2), 139(6) & (7)
Charge(s):

Charge 1 - Rule 141(1)(a)

Mr Matthew Baldwin presented the greyhound 'I'm Better' for the purposes of competing in race 5 at the Richmond Straight meeting on 23 January 2024 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

Charge 2 – Rule 148(2)

Mr. Baldwin did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by being found in possession of a prohibited substance when an inspection was conducted at his registered kennel premises on 14 April 2024.

Charge 3 – Rule 139(6) & (7)

Mr. Baldwin did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by being found in possession of a permanently banned prohibited substance when an inspection was conducted at his registered kennel premises on 14 April 2024.

Prohibited Substance(s): Charge 1 - Mitragynine and 7-Hydroxymitragynine

Charge 2 – Apomorphine

Charge 3 - Myo-inositol trispyrophosphate (ITPP)

Plea: Charge 1 – Not Guilty

Charge 2 – Guilty

Charge 3 - Guilty

Disciplinary action taken: To impose a 24-month disqualification, backdated to the commencement of the existing interim suspension, 4 June 2024, and to therefore expire 4 June 2026.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 17 April 2024, the Commission investigated the results of a post-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, "I'm Better" at the Richmond Straight meeting on 23 January 2024.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory confirming the presence Mitragynine and 7-Hydroxymitragynine

DECISION:

1. Mr. Baldwin is a registered Owner Trainer and the trainer of "I'm Better" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 5 at the Richmond Straight meeting on 23 January 2024. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-race swab revealed the presence of Mitragynine and 7-Hydroxymitragynine.
3. Mitragynine and 7-Hydroxymitragynine is a permanently banned prohibited substance under Rule 139(1)(j).
4. On Sunday 14 April 2024 Mr. Baldwin, at his registered kennel address was found to be in possession of:
 - A syringe containing a white solid which was found to contain Apomorphine; and
 - A vial labelled 'Pentosan Gold' which was found to contain Myo-inositol trispyrophosphate (ITPP)
5. On 5 July 2024 Mr Baldwin was issued with a notice of charge ("**Notice**")
6. In the Notice issued on 5 July 2024 the decision makers charged Mr Baldwin with a breach of the following Greyhound Racing Rules:

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.

Rule 148(2)

(2) A person must not provide, acquire, attempt to acquire, administer, attempt to administer or allow to be administered to a greyhound, any prohibited substance, exempted substance or other substance (including other medication, medicine, injectable substance, supplement, herbal product or therapeutic good), that is not labelled, prescribed, dispensed and obtained in accordance with relevant Commonwealth, state and territory legislation.

7. The Notice invited Mr Baldwin to attend a hearing to be held on Wednesday 24 July 2024 to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
8. On Wednesday 17 July 2024 decision makers charged Mr Baldwin with a further breach of the following Greyhound Racing Rule:

Rule 139(6) and (7), Rules

(6) If any permanently banned prohibited substance is found at any premises used in relation to greyhound racing, any registered person who owns, trains or races or is in charge of a greyhound or greyhounds at those premises is deemed to have the substance or preparation in their possession.

(7) An offence is committed if a person is deemed to be in possession of a relevant substance or preparation pursuant to subrule (6).

9. On Tuesday 16 July and Wednesday 17 July 2024, Mr Baldwin contacted decision makers and;
 - Entered a plea of not guilty to Charge 1; and
 - Entered pleas of guilty to Charge 2 and Charge 3
10. In determining the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Baldwin's plea, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and issued the below penalty;

Charge 1 – To impose a 24-month disqualification

Charge 2 – To issue a \$150 fine

Charge 3 – To impose a 14-month disqualification

With the Disqualification charges to be served concurrently and backdated to the commencement of the existing interim suspension, 4 June 2024, and to therefore expire 4 June 2026.

11. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:

- Mr Baldwin's pleas
- Mr. Baldwin's 5 year registration history
- Mr. Baldwin's disciplinary history, noting he has no prior breaches of any like rule;
- No explanation was established for the detection of the permanently banned prohibited substances

12. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 5 at the Richmond Straight meeting on 23 January 2024 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....