



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	16 February 2022
Decision-makers:	Director Compliance, Policy & Legal, Matthew Tutt, A/Deputy Chief Inspector, Shaye Barrow and Director Race Day Operations & Integrity, Wade Birch
Name of relevant person:	Mr David Richardson
Track:	Grafton
Date:	29 August 2021
Rule no.:	Rule 83(2)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr Richardson presented the greyhound 'Barsandi' (" Greyhound ") for the purposes of competing in race 7 at the Grafton meeting on 29 August 2021 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance;
Prohibited Substance(s):	Desmopressin
Disciplinary action taken:	8-week suspension

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Barsandi' ("**Greyhound**") at the Grafton meeting on 29 August 2021.

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

Evidence, plea and submissions

On 18 November 2021 Mr Richardson was issued with a notice of proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**"), setting out the proposed disciplinary action to be taken and the grounds in support of that proposed disciplinary action. Mr Richardson was also provided with a brief of evidence.

On 14 January 2022 Mr Richardson responded to the Notice, providing written submissions and a completed Election Notice. Mr Richardson elected to plead guilty to the charge. Mr Richardson's submissions stated, in summary:

- Mr Richardson treats the Greyhound with medication that contains desmopressin;
- Mr Richardson provides the medication to the Greyhound to ensure her welfare and wellbeing;

- He expressed confusion, as the Greyhound has never returned a positive result prior to this matter;
- Mr Richardson’s explanation for the positive result was that the Greyhound did not consume the medication when he provided it to her, but instead consumed it on race day without his knowledge;
- Mr Richardson also made submissions as to the financial and emotional impact a suspension may have on him.

The decision makers have considered the evidence, as well as Mr Richardson’s plea and submissions and issue the following decision.

DECISION:

1. Mr Richardson is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 7 of the Grafton meeting on 29 August 2021 Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-Event swab revealed the presence of desmopressin. Desmopressin is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the Rules.
3. The decision makers charged Mr Richardson with an offence 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;
 - ...
 shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.
4. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Richardson:
 - To suspend his registrations for a period of 8 weeks;
5. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Greyhound racing penalty precedents in NSW;
 - The length of time Mr Richardson has held a trainer registration, being since 1988, a period of approximately 34 years;
 - Mr Richardson’s disciplinary history – importantly, a breach of Rule 83(2)(a) in 2019 in which a different prohibited substance was detected;
 - Mr Richardson’s admission of the charge at the earliest opportunity; and
 - Mr Richardson’s submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to the circumstances of the offending and his remorse.
6. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 7 at the Grafton meeting on 29 August 2021 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....