

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	3 June 2022
Decision-makers:	Director Race Day Operations & Integrity, Wade Birch and Senior Steward, Dean Degan
Name of relevant person:	Mr Robert Littlefield
Track:	Goulburn
Date:	11 March 2022
Rule no.:	83(2)(a) ²
Charge(s):	Mr Littlefield presented the greyhound 'Devil King' (" Greyhound ") for the purposes of competing in race 1 at the Goulburn meeting on 11 March 2022 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine
Disciplinary action taken:	To suspend Mr Littlefield's registrations for a period of ten (10) weeks, wholly suspended for twelve (12) months, subject to Mr Littlefield not breaching Rule 141(1) or like Rule in that period of twelve (12) months. To issue Mr Littlefield a fine in the sum of \$2,000.00.

Investigation

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 20 April 2022, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-Event urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Devil King' ("**Greyhound**") at the Goulburn meeting on 11 March 2022.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory, confirming the presence of caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine.

DECISION:

1. Mr Littlefield is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 1 of the Goulburn meeting on 11 March 2022. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-Event swab revealed the presence of caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine. Caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and

² This is the applicable rule in force at the time of the offence. Rule 141(1) of the Greyhound Racing Rules as published 1 May 2022 is the comparative rule.

theobromine is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules (“Rules”).

3. On 30 May 2022 Mr Littlefield was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“Notice”) in relation to the charge, setting out the proposed disciplinary action to be taken and the grounds in support of that proposed disciplinary action. The Notice also provided a brief of evidence for the charge.

4. In the Notice issued on 30 May 2022 the decision makers charged Mr Littlefield with the 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.

5. The Notice proposed a penalty of a sixteen (16) weeks suspension and invited Mr Littlefield to attend a scheduled hearing to enter a plea in relation to the charge and to make submissions in relation to the charge and the proposed penalty.

6. On 2 June 2022 Mr Littlefield attended the scheduled hearing with the decision makers and entered a plea of guilty.

7. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Littlefield:

Charge (83(2)(a)): To suspend Mr Littlefield’s registrations for a period of ten (10) weeks, wholly suspended for twelve (12) months, subject to you not breaching Rule 141(1) or like Rule in that period of twelve (12) months.

Charge (83(2)(a)): To issue Mr Littlefield a fine in the sum of \$2,000.00.

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

- Greyhound racing penalty precedents in NSW;
- The length of time Mr Littlefield has held a trainer registration, being since 1967, a period of approximately 57 years;
- Mr Littlefield’s unblemished disciplinary history – he does not have any like matters on his record during his 57 year involvement in greyhound racing;
- Mr Littlefield’s plea of guilty at the earliest opportunity;
- Mr Littlefield’s submissions regarding the likely source of the positive substances.

9. The decision makers considered there to be extenuating factors in mitigation of the penalty in this matter. For these reasons, despite no fine being issued as a penalty for caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine positive swabs by the Commission in the past, the decision makers considered this matter to be appropriate. The decision makers

specifically noted Mr Littlefield's 57 year involvement in greyhound racing and his submissions as to the likely source of the positive swab as significant mitigating factors.

10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 1 at the Goulburn meeting on 11 March 2022 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....