

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Warning: This report contains language which some readers may find offensive.

Date of decision:	25 June 2021
Decision-makers:	David OShannessy, Chief Inspector, Dean Degan, Senior Steward & Alice Stafford, Acting Senior Legal Officer
Name of relevant person:	Mr Michael Hooper
Track:	N/A
Date:	23 January 2021
Rule no.:	Rule 86(f)(iv); Rule 86(q)
Charge(s):	<p>(1) Mr Hooper created a series of Facebook posts on 23 January 2021 which included contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting or offensive language towards or in relation to members of Greyhound Racing NSW (“GRNSW”) and Greyhound Breeders Owners & Trainers Association (“GBOTA”);</p> <p>(2) Mr Hooper created a further series of Facebook posts on 23 January 2021 which was considered detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control or promotion of greyhound racing.</p>
Disciplinary action taken:	To be served concurrently: Charge 1: 4-month suspension, with 2 months conditionally suspended for a period of 12 months; Charge 2: 6-month suspension, with 3 months conditionally suspended for a period of 12 months.

DECISION:

1. Mr Hooper has been a registered greyhound trainer for approximately 28 years.
2. On 23 January 2021, Mr Hooper created a series of Facebook posts that included contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting or offensive language towards or in

relation to members of Greyhound Racing NSW (“GRNSW”) and Greyhound Breeders Owners & Trainers Association (“GBOTA”). These included the following:

“I’m sure the Grubby graders in GRNSW will ensure with their so called random box draw he has no hope!!!! Must need to change my surname, or here’s a point, that’s the GRNSW grading department actually complete a fair box draw, without their back end matrix effecting the outcome in favour of their chosen few! FUCKING jealous grubs.”

“Come on pussies. All to scared to comment. Watch me fuck the next race up. Half the field will be in and I’ll refuse to box. These filthy low thieves in GRNSW will pay.”

“Corrupt cunt”.

“Notice you never hear from the low cunt recipients of GRNSW Rorts.” “Just absolutely sick of being fuck by low jealous cunt who work On Oxfords streey [sic].”

“Wait til I fuck a race at the boxes!!!! Then it becomes a public issues. I asked I requested I had meetings I tried NOW you low cunts I will put you on show.”

“Come on Steve from the GBOTA! You were quick to ring during the MDC, ring tomorrow? Especially when you think your doing a good job!!!!!!!!!!”

“You grubs at GRNSW want me to Stop??? Then actually complete a fair box draws!!! I won’t hold me breathe you low pricks”.

“Gee GRNSW your grading policy is superb!!! Dog with 21 wins in a 5th grade at Wenty, yet a dog dog [sic] with 9 wins is FFA. Fucking superb your morons. You stated after 8 graded wins your 4th grade. Hahaha.”

3. On 23 January 2021, Mr Hooper created a further series of Facebook posts which was considered detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control or promotion of greyhound racing. These included the following:

“when Industru [sic] Journalists mention 13-15 are boxes 4-5-6. But those corrupt ignorant fucks in GRNSW keep rorting the draws. Those cunts will suffer, when private investigators find their betting accounts or their dumb moment on the drink placing bets. Like previous GRNSW employees sacked, caught betting. Head grader [name deleted] sacked, financial controller [name deleted] sacked and the bitch. All sacked.”

“Haha, when you have a greyhound who jumps every start and does not wish to go in the boxes, I will fuck up the race. You draw 13-15 bad boxes, due to corrupt box draws in favour of the same trainers every week...”

“...the controlling Aithorities [sic] know exactly what they are doing! It’s corrupt and they the dirty grubs have nothing to prove different.”

“I have a big plan to expose their corrupt actions.”

“...Until someone makes a stance. Takes them on with intelligence based information. Similar to the ABC did, then watch the heads roll and the scared bitches duck for cover...”

4. The Commission charged Mr Hooper with two (2) offences under Rule 86(f)(iv) and Rule 86(q) respectively which read:

A person (including an official) shall be guilty of an offence if the person-

....

- (f) engages in, publishes or causes to be published, broadcasts or causes to be broadcast, the use of any contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting, or offensive language, conduct or behaviour in any manner or form towards, or in relation to-

....

- (iv) any other person having official duties in relation to greyhound racing...

...

- (q) Commits or omits to do any act or engages in conduct which is in any way detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control or promotion of greyhound racing-

5. On 23 April 2021, this matter was heard by the Commission in hearing via audio-visual software. Mr Hooper and his legal representative were present at the hearing. Mr Hooper admitted the charges. During the hearing, Mr Hooper gave oral evidence and submissions were made on his behalf. Further submissions were later provided in writing on behalf of Mr Hooper.
6. The Commission found the charges proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Hooper:

Charge 1: To suspend Mr Hooper for a period of 4 months, with 2 months suspended for a period of 12 months on the condition that he does not breach Rule 86(f) or any similar Rules during that 12-month period;

Charge 2: To suspend Mr Hooper for a period of 6 months, with 3 months suspended for a period of 12 months on the condition that he does not breach Rule 86(q) or any similar Rules during that 12-month period,

With the periods of suspension being served concurrently.

7. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
- Greyhound racing penalty precedents in NSW and other jurisdictions;
 - Mr Hooper's admission of the charges at the earliest opportunity;

- The length of time Mr Hooper has held a registration in the greyhound racing industry, approximately 28 years;
- Mr Hooper's previous disciplinary history for similar offences – including a breach of Rule 86(f)(iii) in 2014, a breach of Rule 86(o) and 86(f)(i) in 2015, and a further breach of Rule 86(ag) in 2017;
- The evidence of continuing Facebook conduct in contradiction of the submissions and evidence provided at the hearing about his steps to cease this same conduct; and
- The oral evidence of Mr Hooper and further submissions made on his behalf in mitigation of penalty.

.....End.....