

**GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

Date of decision:	19 December 2023
Decision-makers:	Chief Commissioner Brenton (Alby) Taylor
Name of relevant person	Mr John Donald Wright
Date:	N/A
Rule no.:	Section 58 (1)(b), <i>Greyhound Racing Act 2017</i>
Charges:	The Commission alleged that Mr Wright is not a fit and proper person to be registered.
Plea:	No plea entered
Disciplinary action taken:	To disqualify Mr Wright until 26 January 2027.

DECISION:

Background

1. Mr Wright is a registered Attendant, having first become registered in June 2021.
2. In September 2022 the Commission was advised that Mr Wright had been charged with a number of criminal offences. As a result of this information, the Commission commenced an investigation into Mr Wright's fitness to be registered as a participant in the greyhound racing industry.
3. On 27 September 2022, pursuant to Rule 169 (5)(c) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, Mr Wright was suspended on an interim basis pending finalisation of the Commission's inquiry.
4. Mr Wright subsequently appealed the Commission's decision to impose an interim suspension.
5. On 11 October 2022, the Racing Appeals Tribunal dismissed Mr Wright's appeal.
6. On 26 July 2023, the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory found Mr Wright guilty of seven criminal offences and sentenced him to an intensive corrections order totaling 74 months, with the penalties cumulated in such a manner that the intensive corrections order is to end on 26 January 2027. Mr Wright was also ordered to perform 300 hours of community service and was fined \$25,500.
7. On 3 October 2023, the Commission formally notified Mr Wright of its intention to take disciplinary action ("**Notice**") pursuant to section 58 (1)(b) of the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* ("**Act**").

Decision

8. In the Notice of 3 October 2023, the Commission advised Mr Wright of its intention to take disciplinary action and invited him to respond by 17 October 2023. The Notice also advised Mr Wright that, if the Commission did not receive a response from him , I may proceed to make a decision based on the material available. Mr Wright did not respond to the notice.
9. The Commission subsequently provided Mr Wright with two further opportunities to respond but received no response.
10. As a result, I have determined this matter without the benefit of submissions from Mr Wright.
11. The Commission charged Mr Wright pursuant to section 58(1)(b) of the Act, which provides:

58 Grounds for taking disciplinary action

(1) The Commission may take disciplinary action under this Division against or in respect of a relevant person if the Commission is of the opinion that the person--

...

(b) is not a fit and proper person to be registered (having regard in particular to the need to protect the public interest as it relates to the greyhound racing industry).

12. Relevantly, section 47(1) of the Act requires the Commission to exercise its registration functions so as to ensure that any person registered by the Commission is a person who, in the opinion of the Commission, is a fit and proper person to be registered.
13. The Commission’s Fit and Proper Person Framework provides information to both participants and decision makers about how the Commission will administer section 47(1) of the Act. Criterion 7 of the Framework states that an application for registration will be refused where the applicant is serving an intensive correctional order.
14. Similarly, this has application in circumstances where an existing participant is sentenced to an intensive correctional order, and the Commission considers that they are not a fit and proper person to participate in the industry while that intensive corrections order is in place.
15. For these reasons I have determined, pursuant to section 59(1)(d) of the Act, to disqualify Mr Wright for the term of his intensive corrections order, being until 26 January 2027. Mr Wright’s disqualification will expire at 11:59pm on 26 January 2027.

.....End.....