

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

<b>Date of decision:</b>	23 November 2020
<b>Decision-maker:</b>	Interim Chief Executive Officer, Steven Griffin
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Mr Christopher Cathcart
<b>Track:</b>	Richmond
<b>Date:</b>	17 July 2020
<b>Rule no.:</b>	Rule 83(2)(a)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	(1) Mr Cathcart presented the greyhound 'June Twenty Six' (" <b>Greyhound</b> ") for the purposes of competing in race 4 at the Richmond meeting on 17 July 2020 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.
<b>Prohibited substance:</b>	Arsenic
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	6-week suspension; deferred commencement to 26 November 2020 under Rule 95(5)

**REPORT:**

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from the Racing Analytical Services Limited, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'June Twenty Six' ("**Greyhound**") at the Richmond meeting on 17 July 2020.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Chemistry Laboratory, confirming the presence of arsenic at a mass concentration of 970 nanograms per millilitre ("**ng/mL**").

After consider the evidence, the Commission charged Mr Cathcart with a breach of Rule 83(2)(a) of the Commission's Greyhound Racing Rules ("**Rules**") given that the post-race urine sample taken from the Greyhound confirmed the presence of the substance arsenic above the threshold imposed by Rule 83(11) of 800 ng/mL.

Mr Cathcart admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

The disciplinary action was conducted in writing in accordance with the participant's election.

## DECISION:

1. Mr Cathcart is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 4 at the Richmond meeting on 17 July 2020 (“Event”). Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-Event swab revealed the presence of arsenic at a mass concentration level of 970 ng/mL. Arsenic at a mass concentration greater than 800 ng/mL is a prohibited substance under Rule 83(11) of the Rules.
3. The Commission charged Mr Cathcart 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;
    - (b) presented for a satisfactory, weight or whelping trial or such other trial as provided for pursuant to these Rules; or
    - (c) presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a period of incapacitation or prohibition being varied or revokedshall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.
4. Mr Cathcart admitted the charge, provided written submissions and elected to have the disciplinary proceeding conducted in writing. Mr Griffin, Interim CEO, took over as decision-maker of the matter in November 2020, partway through the proceedings, having provided Mr Cathcart a reasonable opportunity to object to this change.
5. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Cathcart:

To suspend his trainer registration for a period of 6 weeks.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
  - Mr Cathcart has held a trainer registration for approximately 9 years;
  - Mr Cathcart has no history of prohibited substance matters;
  - Mr Cathcart’s admission of the charge at the earliest opportunity;
  - The low level of arsenic detected in the sample;
  - The prizemoney which will be affected by the taking of this disciplinary action;
  - NSW greyhound racing penalty precedents;
  - Mr Cathcart’s submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to his good character, personal and financial circumstances, his review of his animal husbandry practices and remorse.

7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 4 at the Richmond meeting on 17 July 2020 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....