



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	4 May 2022
Decision-makers:	Director Compliance, Policy & Legal Services, Matthew Tutt and Director Race Day Operations & Integrity, Wade Birch
Name of relevant person:	Mr Peter John Spiteri
Track:	Richmond
Date:	29 January 2022
Rule no.:	83(2)(a) ¹
Charge(s):	Mr Spiteri presented the greyhound 'Rapallo' (" Greyhound ") for the purposes of competing in race 5 at the Richmond meeting on 29 January 2022 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Methylprednisolone
Disciplinary action taken:	To suspend Mr Spiteri's registration for a period of four (4) weeks.

Investigation

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 9 March 2022, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-Event urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Rapallo' ("**Greyhound**") at the Richmond meeting on 29 January 2022.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratories, confirming the presence of methylprednisolone.

DECISION:

1. Mr Spiteri is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 5 of the Richmond meeting on 29 January 2022. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-Event swab revealed the presence of methylprednisolone. Methylprednisolone is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules ("**Rules**").
3. On 13 April 2022 Mr Spiteri 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.

¹ 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.

4. In the Notice issued on 13 April 2022 the decision makers charged Mr Spiteri 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 eight (8) weeks suspension and invited Mr Spiteri to attend a scheduled hearing to enter into a plea in relation to the charge and to make submissions in relation to the charge and the proposed penalty.

6. On Friday 29 April 2022 Mr Spiteri attended the scheduled hearing with the decision makers and entered a plea of guilty, Mr Spiteri also submitted written submissions and gave forthright evidence at the hearing.

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

Charge (83(2)(a)): To suspend Mr Spiteri's registration for a period of four (4) weeks.

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

- Greyhound racing penalty precedents in NSW;
- The length of time Mr Spiteri has held a trainer registration, being since 1997, a period of approximately 25 years;
- Mr Spiteri's disciplinary history – he does not have any like matters on his record;
- Mr Spiteri's plea of guilty at the earliest opportunity;
- Mr Spiteri's written submissions, which included:
 - a letter from his veterinarian dated 16 March 2022 confirming the prescription of methylprednisolone for the greyhound;
 - confirmation of a negative clearance swab for the greyhound undertaken on 19 March 2022;
 - Mr Spiteri's plea of guilty;
 - Mr Spiteri's contribution to the greyhound industry; and
 - Mr Spiteri's disciplinary history and lack of charges for a positive substance during his 25 years of being a trainer.
- Mr Spiteri's forthright evidence at the hearing.

9. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 5 at the Richmond meeting on 29 January 2022 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....