



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	Tuesday 16 May 2023
Decision-maker:	Chief Operating Officer Wade Birch and Manager, Racing Integrity Jamie Palmer
Name of relevant person:	Christopher Cooney
Track:	Wagga
Date:	3 March 2023
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr Christopher Cooney presented the greyhound 'Regal Torana' for the purposes of competing in race 7 at the Wagga meeting on 3 March 2023 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Guaifenesin
Plea:	Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a suspension of four weeks, commencing midnight Tuesday 16 May 2023 and ending Midnight Tuesday 16 June 2023

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 4 April 2023, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Regal Torana" at the Wagga meeting on 3 March 2023.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory confirming the presence of Guaifenesin.

DECISION:

1. Mr Cooney is a registered Owner Trainer and the trainer of "Regal Torana" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 7 of the Wagga meeting on 3 March 2023. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-event swab revealed the presence of Guaifenesin.

3. Guaifenesin is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
4. On Wednesday 10 March 2023 Mr Cooney was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
5. In the Notice issued on 10 March 2023 the decision makers charged Mr Cooney with an offence under Rule 141(1)(a) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

Rule 141(1), Rules

(1) The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound:

(a) nominated to compete in an Event;

...

must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

...

(3) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound presented contrary to subrule (1) of this rule shall be guilty of an offence.

6. The Notice proposed a penalty of a suspension of two months duration and invited Mr Cooney to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. On Thursday 11 May 2023 Mr Cooney contacted the decision makers, entering a guilty plea and made verbal submissions.
8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Cooney’s plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Cooney:

Charge 141 (1) (a): To issue a suspension of four weeks.

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Cooney’s guilty plea (25% reduction)
 - Mr Cooney’s registration history with no prior offences
 - GWIC penalty guidelines
 - Mr Cooney’s forthright evidence
9. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 7 at the Wagga meeting on 3 March 2023 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....