



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: Friday 28 June 2024

Decision-makers: Chief Steward Troy Vassallo, Senior Steward Dean Degan

Name of relevant person: Michael Hooper

Rule no.: R165(c)(a)(iii)

Charge(s): Charge – 165(c)(a)(iii)

Mr. Hooper did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence by engaging in an activity which constitutes misconduct.

Plea: Not Guilty

Disciplinary action taken: To issue a seven-month suspension, with two months wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of twelve months subject to Mr. Hooper not breaching this, or any like, rule in the twelve-month period.

The period of suspension is to commence Tuesday 2nd July 2024 and expire Monday 2nd December 2024

DECISION:

1. Mr. Hooper was, at all relevant times, a registered Public Trainer and Breeder with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On Friday 8 March 2024 Mr. Hooper contacted Greyhound Racing New South Wales (GRNSW) by way of telephone and spoke to a GRNSW employee
3. During the phone call Mr. Hooper used language which was offensive towards an official of the control body.
4. On Monday 13 May 2024 Mr. Hooper attended a Stewards Inquiry held into the matter.

5. On Monday 3 June 2024 Mr. Hooper was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”). The Notice issued a charge against him for breach of the following Greyhound Racing Rule:

Charge - Rule 165(c)(a)(iii), Rules

An offence is committed if a person (including an official):

...

(a) engages in contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting or offensive conduct or behaviour in any manner or form towards, or in relation to:

...

(iv) a Club, or an officer, employee or member of a Club;

6. The Notice proposed a penalty of an eight-month suspension and invited Mr. Hooper to attend a hearing on Thursday 6 June 2024 and to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. On Wednesday 5 June 2024 Decision Makers adjourned the matter and a new hearing date of Monday 24 June 2024 was confirmed.
8. At the hearing conducted on Monday 24 June 2024 Mr. Hooper;
 - Entered a plea of not guilty; and
 - Made verbal submissions.
9. After considering Mr. Hooper’s plea and verbal submissions, the decision-makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against him:

Charge – To issue a seven-month suspension, with two months wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of twelve months subject to Mr. Hooper not breaching this, or any like, rule in the twelve-month period.

The period of suspension is to commence Tuesday 2nd July 2024 and expire Monday 2nd December 2024

10. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision-makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr. Hooper’s Not Guilty plea
 - Mr. Hooper’s registration history and poor disciplinary record relative to conduct related matters
 - Precedent penalties
 - Personal and professional circumstances
 - Principles of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct.

.....End.....