

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

<b>Date of decision:</b>	16 June 2022
<b>Decision-makers:</b>	Director Race Day Operations & Integrity, Wade Birch and Senior Steward, Kevin Adams
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Mr Vincent Spiteri
<b>Track:</b>	Wentworth Park
<b>Date:</b>	12 March 2022
<b>Rule no.:</b>	83(2)(a) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Charge(s):</b>	Mr Spiteri presented the greyhound 'Sally's Reward' (" <b>Greyhound</b> ") for the purposes of competing in race 4 at the Wentworth Park meeting on 12 March 2022 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
<b>Prohibited Substance(s):</b>	Caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	To issue Mr Spiteri a fine in the sum of \$2000.00 and to suspend Mr Spiteri's registration for a period of 10-weeks, wholly suspended for a period of 12-months, subject to Mr Spiteri not breaching Rule 141(1) or any like Rule in that period.

**Investigation**

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 26 April 2022, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-Event urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Sally's Reward' ("**Greyhound**") at the Wentworth Park meeting on 12 March 2022.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Science Centre confirming the presence of caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine.

**DECISION:**

1. Mr Spiteri is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 4 of the Wentworth Park meeting on 12 March 2022. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-Event swab revealed the presence of caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine. Caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine are prohibited substances under Rule 1 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules ("**Rules**").

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

3. On 7 June 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.

4. In the Notice issued on 7 June 2022 the decision makers charged Mr Spiteri with an 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 sixteen (16) weeks suspension and invited Mr Spiteri to attend a scheduled hearing to enter a plea in relation to the charge and to make submissions in relation to the charge and the proposed penalty.

6. On Friday 10 June 2022 Mr Spiteri attended the scheduled hearing with the decision makers and entered a plea of guilty.

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

**Charge (Rule 83(2)(a)):**

To issue Mr Spiteri a fine in the sum of \$2000.00, and to suspend Mr Spiteri’s registrations for a period of 10-weeks wholly suspended for a period of 12-months, subject to Mr Spiteri not breaching Rule 141(1) or any like Rule in that period.

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 1977, a period of approximately 45-years;
- Mr Spiteri’s disciplinary history – noting he has no prior breaches of any like rule.
- Mr Spiteri’s plea of guilty at the earliest opportunity.
- Other mitigating factors, including Mr Spiteri’s exemplary disciplinary record, extensive association with the greyhound industry and genuine remorse.

9. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 4 at the Wentworth Park meeting on 12 March 2022 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....