



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Warning: This report contains language which some readers may find offensive.

Date of decision:	19 May 2022
Decision-makers:	Director Compliance, Policy & Legal, Matthew Tutt, Director of Race Day Operations & Integrity, Wade Birch, and Senior Steward, Kevin Adams
Name of relevant person:	Mr Darryl John Thomas
Track:	The Gardens
Date:	25 April 2022
Rule no.:	Rule 86(o) x 2
Charge(s):	(1) Mr Thomas did a thing that was improper and constituted misconduct by using abusive language towards a staff member at the track, who was working in an official capacity; (2) Mr Thomas did a thing that was improper and constituted misconduct by engaging in aggressive and intimidatory behaviour towards a staff member at the track, who was working in an official capacity.
Disciplinary action taken:	Charge 1: To disqualify Mr Thomas for a period of 4-months Charge 2: To disqualify Mr Thomas for a period of 7-months with the penalties to be served concurrently.

DECISION:

1. At all relevant times Mr Thomas was a registered greyhound Public Trainer.
2. On 25 April 2022 Mr Thomas approached a staff member at The Gardens Greyhound Club ("**Club**"). The staff member was working in an official capacity at the trial session conducted by the Club.
3. Mr Thomas engaged in aggressive and intimidatory behaviour towards the staff member, which included:
 - engaging in abusive language towards the staff member, telling her to "*fuck off*" on multiple occasions;
 - approaching the staff member and saying words to the effect of "*give me the fucking phone*"; and

- approaching the staff member and attempting to grab a mobile phone from her hand.
4. The decision makers issued a Notice of Charge and Proposed Disciplinary Action (“**Notice**”) to Mr Thomas on 27 April 2022, which issued two charges under Rule 86(o) of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules. Rule 86(o) reads:

A person (including an official) shall be guilty of an offence if the person-

(o) has, in relation to a greyhound or greyhound racing, done a thing, or omitted to do a thing, which, in the opinion of the Stewards or the Controlling Body, as the case may be, is negligent, dishonest, corrupt, fraudulent or improper, or constitutes misconduct;

5. On 19 May 2022 Mr Thomas attended a hearing with the decision makers at The Gardens Greyhound Club alongside his legal representatives.
6. At the hearing, Mr Thomas’ legal representatives made submissions on his behalf in relation to the particulars of Charge One. As a result of these submissions, the particulars of Charge One were amended at the hearing.
7. Following these amendments, Mr Thomas maintained a plea of not guilty to both Charges and his legal representatives made submissions on his behalf in relation to the proposed penalties.
8. The decision makers considered all of the evidence before them, including Mr Thomas’ plea to the Charges and the submissions made on his behalf.
9. The decision makers found the Charges proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Thomas:

Charge 1 (Rule 86(o)): To disqualify Mr Thomas for a period of 4-months;

Charge 2 (Rule 86(o)): To disqualify Mr Thomas for a period of 7-months;

with the penalties to be served concurrently.

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

- Greyhound racing penalty precedents in NSW;
- The length of time Mr Thomas has held a registration;
- Mr Thomas’ disciplinary history - in particular two previous charges of Rule 86(o) in August 2021 and December 2021;
- The statements and oral evidence of a number of witnesses; and
- Mr Thomas’ plea of not guilty to both Charges.

11. Decision makers had reference to the decision imposed on 16 December 2021 against Mr Thomas, which involved a partially suspended portion of a fine. Following consideration, the decision makers determined not to activate the partially suspended portion of that fine.

.....End.....