



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 23 June 2021

Decision-makers: Alice Stafford, A/Senior Legal Officer, David OShannessy, Chief Inspector & Dean Degan, Senior Steward

Name of relevant person: Mr John Callaghan

Track: Maitland

Date: 1 February 2021

Rule no.: Rule 83(2)(a)

Charge(s): (1) Mr Callaghan presented the greyhound 'Phoenix Rules' ("**Greyhound**") for the purposes of competing in race 8 at the Maitland meeting on 1 February 2021 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

Prohibited substance(s): Prednisone & prednisolone

Disciplinary action taken: 9-week suspension

REPORT:

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Phoenix Rules' ("**Greyhound**") at the Maitland meeting on 1 February 2021.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory confirming the presence of prednisone and prednisolone.

After considering the evidence, the Commission charged Mr Callaghan with a breach of Rule 83(2)(a) of the Commission's Greyhound Racing Rules ("**Rules**") given that the pre-race urine sample taken from the Greyhound confirmed the presence of the prohibited substance prednisone and prednisolone.

Mr Callaghan admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

The disciplinary action was conducted in writing in accordance with the participant's election.

DECISION:

1. Mr Callaughan is a registered greyhound public trainer and breeder and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 8 at the Maitland meeting on 1 February 2021 (“Event”). Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-Event swab revealed the presence of prednisone and prednisolone, which is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the Rules.
3. The Commission charged Mr Callaughan 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;
 - (b) presented for a satisfactory, weight or whelping trial or such other trial as provided for pursuant to these Rules; or
 - (c) presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a period of incapacitation or prohibition being varied or revokedshall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.
4. Mr Callaughan admitted the charge, provided written submissions and elected to have the disciplinary proceeding conducted in writing.
5. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Callaughan:

To suspend his registrations for a period of 9 weeks.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Callaughan has held a trainer registration for a period of approximately 26 years;
 - Mr Callaughan’s admission of the charge at the earliest opportunity;
 - Mr Callaughan’s disciplinary history, including 2 prior prohibited substance matters;
 - Mr Callaughan’s candid disclosures as to the likely source of the prohibited substance;
 - Mr Callaughan’s submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to his good character and record, the likely source of the prohibited substance being from an eye ointment administered by Mr Callaughan, and his regret and remorse;
 - NSW greyhound racing penalty precedents;
 - The prizemoney which will be affected by the taking of this disciplinary action.
7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 8 at the Maitland meeting on 1 February 2021 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....