



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	Monday 16 January 2023
Decision-maker:	Deputy Chief Steward Troy Vassallo
Name of relevant person:	John Jackson
Track:	Richmond
Date:	21 September 2022
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr John Jackson presented the greyhound 'Shakalaka' for the purposes of competing in race 12 at the Richmond meeting on 21 September 2022 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Cobalt
Disciplinary action taken:	To suspend his Owner Trainer license for a period of 10 weeks, commencing Tuesday 17 January 2023 and to expire on Wednesday 29 March 2023.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 3 November 2022, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Shakalaka" at the Richmond meeting on 21 September 2022.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Chemistry Laboratory confirming the presence of Cobalt.

DECISION:

1. Mr Jackson is a registered Owner Trainer and the trainer of "Shakalaka" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 12 of the Richmond meeting on 21 September 2022. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-event swab revealed the presence of Cobalt.
3. Cobalt is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.

4. On Tuesday 10 January 2023 Mr Jackson was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
5. In the Notice issued on 10 January 2023 the decision makers proposed a penalty of a 4-month suspension of his Owner Trainer license and charged Mr Jackson with the 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 invited Mr Jackson to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. At the hearing conducted via Microsoft Teams on Monday 16 January 2023, Mr Jackson:
 - (a) entered a plea of guilty and;
 - (b) made verbal submissions
8. In considering the matter, the decision maker considered Mr Jackson’s plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision maker found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Jackson:

Charge 141 (1) (a): To suspend his Owner Trainer license for a period of 10 weeks, to commence on 17 January 2023 and to expire on Wednesday 29 March 2023.

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision maker considered all evidence, including:
 - Guilty plea (25% reduction)
 - Registration history
 - First offence
 - Professional and personal circumstances

- GWIC penalty guidelines
 - No probable cause of the detection of Cobalt in the sample was established
 - The indicative level of Cobalt reported in the Certificate of Analysis.
9. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 12 at the Richmond meeting on 21 September 2022 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....