



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

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

Date of decision:	23 August 2022
Decision-makers:	Director Race Day Operations & Integrity, Wade Birch, Senior Steward, Dean Degan, Senior Inspector, Pete Austin.
Name of relevant person:	Mr Aaron King
Track:	N/A
Date:	July 2022
Rule no.:	Rule 165(c)
Charges:	(1) Mr King used contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting or offensive language in his communication with an employee of Greyhound Racing New South Wales.
Disciplinary action taken:	To suspend Mr King's registrations for a period of 6-months, wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of 12-months subject to Mr King not breaching Rule 165(c) or any like Rule in that period; To issue a fine in the sum of \$1000.00.

BACKGROUND

1. Mr King was, at all relevant times, a registered Owner and Attendant with the Commission.
2. On 26 July 2022, Mr King telephoned Greyhound Racing New South Wales ("**GRNSW**") in relation to his greyhound 'Spooky Rebel' ("**Greyhound**") and the Casino Event scheduled for Thursday 28 July 2022.
3. Mr King spoke with a GRNSW staff member about his concerns. During the telephone conversation, Mr King said words to the effect of "*We've been waiting three fucking weeks mate*" and "*Good on you mate, good on you...you fucking wanker.*"

DECISION:

4. On 12 August 2022 Mr King 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. In the Notice, the decision makers charged Mr King with a breach of Rule 165(c) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

Rule 165(c), Rules

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

...

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

...

(ii) any officer, employee or member of a Controlling Body;

NOTE: *Controlling Body means a relevant body or entity, provided for by legislation as having control of greyhound racing or an aspect of it in a state or territory of Australia or New Zealand. In some greyhound racing jurisdictions, there may be more than one Controlling Body.*

5. The decision makers invited Mr King to attend a hearing on 23 August 2022 to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charges and the proposed disciplinary action.
6. On 12 August 2022 Mr King entered an early guilty and made written submissions in respect to the charge.
7. On 23 August 2022 Mr King attended the scheduled hearing with the decision makers. Mr King reiterated his plea of guilty to the Charge and made further verbal submissions.
8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr King's plea and submissions. The decision makers found the Charge proven. They took the following disciplinary action against Mr King:

Charge (Rule 165(c)):

To issue a fine in the sum of \$1000.00

To suspend Mr King's registrations for a period of 6 months, wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of 12-months subject to Mr King not breaching Rule 165(c) or any like Rule in that period.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Greyhound racing penalty precedents in NSW;
 - The length of time Mr King has been registered with the Commission, being since 2019, a period of approximately 3 years, a relatively short period in the industry;
 - Mr King's admittance of the charge at the earliest opportunity;
 - Mr King's lack of any prior disciplinary history;
 - The decision makers made reference to the Penalty Guidelines however also used their discretion in determining appropriate penalty in respect to the nature and severity of the misconduct.

.....End.....