



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 11 February 2021

Decision-makers: Sarah McClure, Senior Legal Officer, David OShannessy, Chief Inspector & Dean Degan, Senior Steward

Name of relevant person: Mr John Antonelli

Track: Grafton

Date: 10 August 2020

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

Charge(s): (1) A greyhound under Mr Antonelli's trainership, 'Sail Bye' ("**Greyhound**") was presented for the purposes of competing in race 3 at the Grafton meeting on 10 August 2020 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

Prohibited substance(s): Theobromine

Disciplinary action taken: 4-week suspension; commenced on date of service on 15 February 2021

REPORT:

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Sail Bye' ("**Greyhound**") at the Grafton meeting on 10 August 2020.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory, confirming the presence of theobromine.

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

Mr Antonelli admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

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

DECISION:

1. Mr Antonelli is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 3 at the Grafton meeting on 10 August 2020 ("Event"). Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-Event swab revealed the presence of theobromine. Theobromine is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the Rules.
3. The Commission charged Mr Antonelli 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 Antonelli 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 Antonelli:

To suspend his trainer registration for a period of 4 weeks.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Antonelli has held a trainer registration for approximately 58 years;
 - Mr Antonelli has one prior prohibited substance matter in his disciplinary history involving metformin which was dealt with by way of a fine in early 2020;
 - Mr Antonelli's admission of the charge at the earliest opportunity;
 - NSW greyhound racing penalty precedents;
 - The prizemoney which will be affected by the taking of this disciplinary action;
 - Mr Antonelli's submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to his good character and lengthy registration, contributions to the greyhound racing industry, personal and financial circumstances, review of and amendment to his animal husbandry practices.
7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 3 at the Grafton meeting on 10 August 2020 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....