



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	Thursday 13 June 2024
Decision-maker:	Senior Steward Dean Degan and Steward Ken Storck
Name of relevant person:	Jacob Northfield
Track:	Casino
Date:	9 April 2024
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr. Jacob Northfield presented the greyhound 'Miss Gledhill' ("Greyhound") for the purposes of competing in race 10 at the Casino meeting on 9 April 2024 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.
Prohibited Substance(s):	Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre.
Plea:	Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue an 8-week suspension, to commence Friday 21 June 2024 and expire Friday 16 August 2024.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 8 May 2024, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre event urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Miss Gledhill' at the Casino meeting on 9 April 2024.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Chemistry Laboratory confirming the presence of Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre.

DECISION:

1. Mr Northfield is a registered Public Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of 'Miss Gledhill' ("Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 10 of the Casino meeting on 9 April 2024. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-event swab revealed the presence of Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre.

3. Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre is a prohibited substance under Rule 140(f) of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
4. On 30 May 2024 Mr Northfield was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
5. In the Notice issued on 30 May 2024 the decision makers charged Mr Northfield with an 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 proposed a penalty of a four-month suspension and invited Mr Northfield to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. On 3 June 2024, Mr Northfield contacted decision makers and:
 - (a) entered a plea of guilty; and
 - (b) provided written submissions

8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Northfield’s plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Northfield:

To issue an 8-week suspension, to commence Friday 21 June 2024 and expire Friday 16 August 2024.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Northfield’s guilty plea (25% reduction);
 - Mr Northfield’s 13 year registration history, with no like prior offences, and
 - GWIC penalty guidelines.

10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 10 at the Casino meeting on 9 April 2024 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....