

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	11 March 2023
Decision-makers:	Director of Race Day Operations and Integrity, Wade Birch and Deputy Chief Steward, Troy Vassallo
Name of relevant person:	Stephen Fairbairn
Track	Goulburn
Date:	27 May 2022
Rule no:	Rule 156(f)(ii)
Charge(s):	Mr Stephen Fairbairn engaged in improper conduct with fellow greyhound racing participants Larry Warren and Garry Algie.
Plea:	Not Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	3-month suspension, 1 month of which is conditionally suspended for a period of 12 months.

DECISION:

1. On 27 May 2022, Mr. Stephen Fairbairn attended the Goulburn Greyhound Club.
2. On the same date Mr. Fairbairn reported to Stewards that he had been involved in a verbal altercation with Mr. Larry Warren and Mr. Gary Algie which escalated into a physical altercation.
3. After conducting interviews with the relevant parties, Stewards issued the following charge against Mr. Stephen Fairbairn.

Charge 1 – Rule 156(f)(ii)

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

(f) has, in relation to a greyhound or greyhound racing, done something, or omitted to do something, which, in the opinion of a Controlling Body or the Stewards:

(ii) constitutes misconduct or is negligent or improper;

1. Mr. Stephen Fairbairn, as the holder of a Public Trainer registration, did something, which in the opinion of the Stewards constitutes improper conduct, in that, on Friday 27 May 2022, on the grounds of the Goulburn Greyhound Club, he did

initiate a verbal altercation with fellow greyhound racing participants Mr. Larry Warren and Mr. Garry Algie.

4. Mr Fairbairn entered a plea of not guilty to the charge and provided submissions in response to the charge.
5. After considering the submissions provided, Stewards found Mr. Fairbairn guilty of the charge as particularised.
6. Mr Fairbairn was then provided with an adjournment following a request from his legal representative to allow for the preparation of penalty submissions.
7. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision-makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr. Fairbairn's not guilty plea;
 - Mr. Fairbairn's relatively short period in the industry;
 - That Mr. Fairbairn initiated the verbal altercation without provocation, and
 - The need for general deterrence

.....End.....