



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 17 November 2021

Decision-makers: Director Compliance, Policy & Legal, Matthew Tutt, A/Deputy Chief Inspector, Shaye Barrow and Director Race Day Operations & Integrity, Wade Birch

Name of relevant person: Mr Joseph Sciberras

Track: Wentworth Park

Date: 7 July 2021

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

Charge(s): (1) Mr Sciberras presented the greyhound 'Zambora Rex' ("**Greyhound**") for the purposes of competing in race 10 at the Wentworth Park meeting on 7 July 2021 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance

Prohibited Substance(s): Methylprednisolone

Disciplinary action taken: 4-week suspension

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, 'Zambora Rex' ("**Greyhound**") at the Wentworth Park meeting on 7 July 2021.

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

Mr Sciberras admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

The disciplinary action was conducted in writing in accordance with Mr Sciberras' election.

DECISION:

1. Mr Sciberras is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 10 of the Wentworth Park meeting on 7 July 2021 ("**Event**"). Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.

2. The post-Event swab revealed the presence of methylprednisolone. Methylprednisolone is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the Rules.

3. The Commission charged Mr Sciberras with an offence 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;

...

shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

4. Mr Sciberras 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 Sciberras:

To suspend his registration for a period of 4 weeks.

6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:

- Mr Sciberras has held a trainer registration for approximately 38 years;
- Mr Sciberras had one prior positive swab matter in 2014;
- Mr Sciberras's admission of the charge;
- NSW greyhound racing precedents; and
- Mr Sciberras's submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to his personal circumstances.

7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 10 at the Wentworth Park meeting on 7 July 2021 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....