



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 25 November 2021

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

Name of relevant person: Mr Ryan Jones

Date: 15 July 2021, 24 July 2021, 19 August 2021

Rule no.: Rule 104(6)(c)

Charge(s):

- (1) On 15 July 2021, at the Dapto meeting, Mr Jones directly engaged in betting transactions on races in which he acted as a swab official;
- (2) On 24 July 2021, at the Dapto meeting, Mr Jones directly engaged in betting transactions on races in which he acted as a swab official;
- (3) On 19 August 2021, at the Dapto meeting, Mr Jones directly engaged in betting transactions on races in which he acted as a swab official.

Disciplinary action taken:

Charges 1 to 3: 9-month disqualification

DECISION:

1. Mr Jones was registered as an Owner, Attendant and Race Official at all material times.
2. On 15 July 2021, 24 July 2021 and 19 August 2021, Mr Jones was engaged in work as a swab official at the Dapto racecourse. A swab official is an important integrity role for any race meeting.
3. Mr Jones placed multiple bets on greyhounds engaged to race in the race meetings on 15 July, 24 July and 19 August 2021.
4. On 15 September 2021, soon after it became known to the Commission that bets were placed by Mr Jones, Mr Jones was stood down from his position with the Dapto racecourse pending the outcome of the GWIC inquiry.
5. On review of the evidence, GWIC charged Mr Jones with three charges under Rule 104(6)(c) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

Rule 104, Rules

(6) An official officiating in a capacity that may have an affect on the result of an Event shall not-

...

(c) directly or indirectly engage in any betting transaction on that event.

6. On 25 November 2021, Mr Jones attended the hearing and entered a plea of guilty to the three charges. Mr Jones made oral submissions at the hearing, in response to the charges.

7. The Commission found the charges proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Jones:

Charges 1 to 3: To disqualify him for a period of 9 months;

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered the appropriate starting point to be in excess of a 12-month disqualification. This penalty was reduced to 9 months, taking into consideration the evidence and submissions, including:

- Mr Jones' plea of guilty at the earliest opportunity,
- The length of time Mr Jones has held a registration in the greyhound racing industry, being since 2013, approximately 8 years;
- Mr Jones' disciplinary history – he has no prior offending;
- The integrity of the swabs in question – analysis completed found that the swabs taken by Mr Jones were not compromised;
- Mr Jones' submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to the circumstances of the offending and his personal circumstances, which will not be repeated here for privacy reasons.

9. Noting that Mr Jones was stood down from his employment from 15 September 2021 pending the outcome of the GWIC inquiry, the decision-makers determined to impose a 9-month disqualification, backdated to 15 September 2021. The effect of this is that Mr Jones' period of disqualification will expire at 11:59pm 14 June 2022.

10. The Commission noted in the matters of *Jarvis* and *Roese* that penalties for officials found guilty of breaching rules relating to betting whilst working as an official would be significant. The Commission considers that matters where race officials place bets whilst working in an official capacity to be particularly serious and the need for the Commission to ensure integrity remains paramount. Having regard to the seriousness of these matters a starting point of a 12-month disqualification is the benchmark when dealing with future matters involving similar conduct.

.....End.....