



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: Monday 20 March 2023

Decision-makers: Deputy Chief Steward Troy Vassallo, Stewards Paul Van Gestel and Geoff Page

Name of relevant person: Nicholas Saloum

Track: Richmond

Date: 28 October 2022

Rule no.: 141(1)(a)

Charge(s): Mr Nicholas Saloum presented the greyhound 'On The Blink' for the purposes of competing in race 10 at the Richmond meeting on 28 October 2022 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substances.

Prohibited Substance(s): Arsenic, Strychnine, Tramadol & O-Desmethyltramadol

Disciplinary action taken: To suspend his license for a period of 7 months, commencing on Tuesday 21 March 2023 and expiring on Friday 20 October 2023.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 7 December 2022, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, "On The Blink" at the Richmond meeting on 28 October 2022.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Science Centre confirming the presence of Arsenic, Strychnine, Tramadol & O-Desmethyltramadol.

DECISION:

1. Mr Saloum is a registered Public Trainer and the trainer of "On The Blink" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 10 at the Richmond meeting on 28 October 2022. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-event swab revealed the presence of Arsenic, Strychnine, Tramadol & O-Desmethyltramadol.

3. Arsenic, Strychnine, Tramadol & O-Desmethyltramadol are prohibited substances under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
4. On Wednesday 1 March 2023 Mr Saloum was issued with a notice of charge ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 1 March 2023 the decision makers charged Mr Saloum with the 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 invited Mr Saloum to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. At the hearing, Mr Saloum entered a plea of guilty and made verbal submissions.
8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Saloum'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 Saloum:

Charge 141 (1) (a): To suspend his license for a period of 7 months, commencing on Tuesday 21 March 2023 and expiring on Friday 20 October 2023.

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Saloum's guilty plea (25% reduction)
 - Mr Saloum's 30-year registration
 - This was Mr Saloum's second offence relating to a prohibited substance matter
 - Having regard to the penalty conditions imposed in the prior case, an additional 1-month suspension was imposed.
 - The number and nature of the substances detected.

- GWIC penalty guidelines;
 - Submissions made by Mr Saloum to explain the detection of each substance.
9. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 10 at the Richmond meeting on 28 October 2022 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....