



**GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION**  
**DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

***Warning: This report contains language which some readers may find offensive.***

**Date of decision:** 22 September 2021

**Decision-makers:** Chief Inspector, David OShannessy, Senior Steward, Dean Degan & Acting Senior Legal Officer, Alice Stafford

**Name of relevant person:** Mr Dave Irwin

**Track:** Wentworth Park

**Date:** 27 January 2021

**Rule no.:** Rule 86(g); Rule 86(p); Rule 86(f)(iv)

**Charge(s):** (1) On 27 January 2021 Mr Irwin threatened a GWIC official during a race meeting at the Wentworth Park Greyhound Racing Club;

(2) On 27 January 2021, Mr Irwin disobeyed a direct order given by a GWIC official during a race meeting at the Wentworth Park Greyhound Racing Club;

(3) On 27 January 2021, Mr Irwin used insulting and offensive language towards a GWIC official during a race meeting at the Wentworth Park Greyhound Racing Club;

**Disciplinary action taken:**

Charge 2: \$200 fine

Charge 3: \$500 fine, wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of 12 months on the condition that Mr Irwin does not breach Rule 86(f) or any similar Rules during that 12-month period.

**DECISION:**

1. At all relevant times, Mr Irwin was a registered greyhound Public Trainer.
2. On 1 May 2020 GWIC, in conjunction with Greyhound Racing NSW (“**GRNSW**”) implemented Covid-19 Racetrack Procedures. Instructions for how kennelling should be undertaken was described in the “Pre-kennel Sequence”. This relevantly read:
  - a. All Stewards, kennel staff and vets to wash their hands and use hand sanitiser between each greyhound or wear gloves.

- b. Avoid touching your face at all times.
  - c. Vet check (outside where practicable).
  - d. Trainer will lift or walk their greyhound onto the vet table and step back promptly at least 1.5 metres once the designated club official takes hold of the greyhound and whilst the vet examination is conducted. Alternatively, if trainer consents, club official may take the lead at base of ramp and walk the greyhound onto table. The trainer will then be permitted to retrieve the greyhound from the vet table when requested by the club official, or from the ground level after it is walked down from the table.
  - e. ID (outside where practicable).
  - f. Weigh in (outside where practicable). Kennel is allocated at race bay – new computerised 'No Contact' system.
  - g. Greyhound placed in kennel.
  - h. Trainer exits through back door.
3. On 27 January 2021, Mr Irwin attended the Wentworth Park Greyhound Racing Club with the greyhound 'Nangar Freedom' ("**Greyhound**") which was trained by him and nominated to compete on that date.
  4. During the kennelling process, Mr Irwin entered the kennel block with the Greyhound and approached the veterinary examination table for pre-kennelling inspection by the rostered GWIC veterinarian.
  5. Mr Irwin was directed by the GWIC veterinarian to step back from the Greyhound, which he continued to hold by the collar and back half of the Greyhound. Mr Irwin refused to do so and told the GWIC veterinarian to "*fuck off*".
  6. Mr Irwin was then again asked by the GWIC veterinarian step back from the Greyhound, to which he again refused to do so and told the GWIC veterinarian to "*go and get fucked*".
  7. Mr Irwin then threatened to take the Greyhound directly to the kennel and bypass having the Greyhound inspected.
  8. A GWIC Steward then approached and advised Mr Irwin that he would not be able to kennel the Greyhound without an inspection and asked for the veterinarian inspection to proceed so that kennelling could proceed.
  9. The GWIC veterinarian complied with the request from the GWIC Steward to undertake the exam, during which time Mr Irwin again refused to comply with the Covid-19 Racetrack Procedures.

#### **CHARGES:**

10. On review of the evidence in this matter, the Commission charged Mr Irwin with breaches of Rule 86(g), Rule 86(p) and Rule 86(f)(iv) of the Rules. These rules respectively read:

##### **Rule 86**

A person (including an official) shall be guilty of an offence if the person-

...

(f) engages in, publishes or causes to be published, broadcasts or causes to be broadcast, the use of any contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting, or offensive language, conduct or behaviour in any manner or form towards, or in relation to-

...

(iv) any other person having official duties in relation to greyhound racing

...

(g) wilfully assaults, obstructs, impedes, abuses, interferes, threatens or insults the Controlling Body, any member of the Controlling Body, a club, any member of the committee of a club, any Steward or any other official of the Controlling Body or a club in or at any place including in or in the vicinity of the place where an inquiry is to take place, is taking place or has taken place

...

(p) disobeys or fails to comply with the lawful order of a Steward or other person or body having official duties in relation to greyhound racing

11. Mr Irwin was represented, provided written submissions in response to the charges and elected to have the matter dealt with on the papers.

**PENALTIES:**

12. The Commission found charge 1 not proven and charges 2 and 3 proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Irwin:

Charge 2 (Rule 86(p)):	To issue Mr Irwin a fine in the sum of \$200.00;
Charge 3 (Rule 86(f)(iv)):	To issue Mr Irwin a fine in the sum of \$500.00, wholly suspended for a period of 12 months on the condition that Mr Irwin does not breach Rule 86(f) or any similar Rules during that 12-month period.

13. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence and submissions, including:

- The objective seriousness of Mr Irwin’s conduct;
- The length of time Mr Irwin has held a trainer registration in the NSW greyhound racing industry, being since 2015, approximately 6 years;
- Mr Irwin’s disciplinary history – he has no like matters on his record;
- Mr Irwin’s denial of all three (3) charges; and
- The submissions made on Mr Irwin’s behalf.

.....End.....