

Friday 31 July 2020

Racing Appeals Tribunal dismisses Mr Stiff's appeal

Suspended greyhound racing participant, Shayne Stiff has had his appeal dismissed by the Racing Appeals Tribunal (Tribunal). Mr Stiff had sought to reduce the severity of the penalty imposed by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (Commission) on 9 June 2020 but his appeal was dismissed on 15 July 2020.

Mr Stiff had attended the Bathurst Greyhound Racing Club on 7 September 2019, during which a regional heat of the Million Dollar Chase series was held. Following an incident during race 7, Mr Stiff engaged in abusive and offensive conduct towards a club official and Commission staff in front of members of the public. On 9 June 2020, the Commission took disciplinary action against Mr Stiff for a breach of Rules 86(f)(iv), 86(q) and 86(f)(i) of the Commission's Greyhound Racing Rules and imposed a head penalty of a 9 month suspension to be suspended after a period of four months and issued a fine of \$5000.

Mr Stiff appealed the Commission's [disciplinary decision](#) on severity grounds and sought a stay of the decision. The [stay](#) was refused by the Tribunal on 18 June 2020.

On 15 July 2020, Mr Stiff's appeal on the severity of the penalties was dismissed by the Tribunal, who said there is no place for that type of behaviour in the industry.

"The Tribunal considers, despite all the strong subjective factors, that the most appalling and disgraceful and egregious conduct of this appellant to the welfare and integrity of the industry and looking to the future cannot be less than those penalties which are considered to be appropriate... The penalties considered appropriate by the Commissioners are imposed by the Tribunal...", President of the Tribunal Mr Armati said in his judgment.

The Commission takes a strong stance on misconduct and will continue to take disciplinary action against participants who fail to display respectful behaviour towards officials, Commission staff and other participants.

A copy of the Tribunal's decision can be found [here](#).