



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: Thursday 29 August 2024

Decision-makers: Chief Operating Officer Wade Birch

Name of relevant person: Michael Hooper

Rule no.: R156(f)(ii)

Charge(s): Charge – 156(f)(ii)

Mr. Hooper did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence by engaging in an activity which constitutes improper conduct.

Plea: Guilty

Disciplinary action taken: To issue a suspension of 16 weeks, with 9 weeks wholly and conditionally suspended for 24 months conditional on Mr Hooper not breaching this, or any like, rule during this period.

With the penalty to commence Friday 30 August 2024 and
expiring Friday 18 October 2024.

DECISION:

1. Mr. Hooper was, at all relevant times, a registered Public Trainer with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On Thursday 11 July 2024, Mr. Hooper attended the Dapto Greyhound Club.
3. Following the running of Race 8, in the vicinity of the catching pen, Mr. Hooper became involved in a verbal altercation with another participant which required the intervention of an officer of the Controlling Body. This altercation was repeated a short time after, requiring further intervention to deescalate.
4. On Tuesday 20 August 2024 Mr Hooper was issued with a notice of Stewards Inquiry, directing him to attend a hearing on Thursday 29 August 2024.
5. On Thursday 29 August 2024 Mr Hooper was issued a Notice of Charge and Proposed Disciplinary Action ("**Notice**"). The Notice issued a charge against him for breach of the following Greyhound Racing Rule:

Charge - Rule 156(f)(ii), Rules

An offence is committed if a person (including an official):

f) has, in relation to a greyhound or greyhound racing done something, or omitted to do something, which in the opinion of a controlling body or stewards:

(ii) constitutes misconduct or is negligent or improper

6. The Notice proposed a penalty of an 9 month disqualification and invited Mr Hooper to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge and proposed penalty.
7. At the hearing conducted at the 2/111 Elizabeth Street Sydney on Tuesday 22 May 2024, Mr Hooper;
 - Entered a plea of guilty; and
 - Made verbal submissions
8. Following considering of Mr Hooper's plea and submissions, the decision-makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against him:

Charge – To issue a suspension of 16 weeks, with 9 weeks wholly and conditionally suspended for 24 months conditional on Mr Hooper not breaching this, or any like, rule during this period.

With the penalty to commence Friday 30 August 2024 and expiring Friday 18 October 2024.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision-makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr. Hooper's Guilty plea
 - Mr. Hooper's registration history.
 - Purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure for the image and interests of the greyhound racing industry

.....End.....