



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 14 November 2024

Decision-makers: Chief Operating Officer Wade Birch and Senior Steward Zane Turner

Name of relevant person: Mr Mark Howard

Date: 31 August 2024

Rule no: 156(w)

Charge(s): Mr. Howard knowingly accepted a greyhound into his custody in breach of Clause 7 of the Greyhound Transfer Policy.

Plea: Guilty

Disciplinary action taken: 6-month suspension with 4 months wholly and conditionally suspended on the basis Mr Howard does not reoffend under the same or similar rules.

INVESTIGATION:

1. Mr. Howard was, at all relevant times, a registered Owner Trainer with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On 31 August 2024, Mr. Howard accepted a greyhound ("Greyhound") Zipping Osman under his trainer registration from a participant subject to disciplinary action at all material times. The other participant was considered a close associate of Mr Howard, and the transfer was therefore in breach of the Greyhound Transfer Policy.
3. By receiving the greyhound Zipping Osman into his custody whilst the original trainer remained subject to disciplinary action, Mr Howard breached clause 7 of the GWIC Transfer Policy.

DECISION:

4. On Wednesday 6 November 2024 Mr Howard was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 6 November 2024 the decision makers charged Mr Howard with an offence under Rule 156(w) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

Charge - Rule 156(w)

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

(w) fails to comply with a policy or code of practice adopted by a Controlling Body

6. The decision makers proposed a total penalty of a twelve-month disqualification and invited Mr Howard to a hearing to be held on Wednesday 13 November 2024.
7. On 13 November 2024 Mr Howard contacted decision makers and entered a plea of Guilty.
8. At the hearing held on 13 November 2024 Mr Howard;
 - Made verbal submissions
9. Following consideration of Mr. Howard's plea and submissions, the decision makers found the charges proven and determined to impose the following disciplinary action upon him:

Charge 1 – Rule 156(w) 6-month suspension with 4 months wholly and conditionally suspended on the basis Mr Howard does not reoffend under the same or similar rules.

The active suspension period to commence midnight 14 November 2024, and expire at midnight 14 January 2025.

10. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all relevant material and evidence, including:
 - The Commissions objectives pursuant to the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017*, being to:
 - safeguard the integrity of greyhound racing and betting; and
 - maintain public confidence in the greyhound racing industry.
 - Mr Howard's guilty plea and disciplinary history.

.....End.....