



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

<b>Date of decision:</b>	20 December 2024
<b>Decision-maker:</b>	Senior Steward Zane Turner and Acting Chief Steward Dean Degan
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Christopher Edwards
<b>Track</b>	Dubbo
<b>Date:</b>	23 September 2024
<b>Rule no.:</b>	141(1)(a)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	Mr Christopher Edwards presented the greyhound 'Hard To Resist' for the purpose of competing in race 9 at the Dubbo meeting on 23 September 2024 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
<b>Prohibited Substance(s):</b>	Betamethasone
<b>Plea:</b>	Guilty
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	To issue a fine of \$500 as well as impose a 4-week suspension, which will be wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Mr. Edwards not reoffending under the same or similar rules in this period.

**INVESTIGATION**

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 1 November 2024, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Hard To Resist" at the Dubbo meeting on 23 September 2024.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory confirming the presence of Betamethasone.

**DECISION:**

1. Mr. Edwards is a registered Owner Trainer and the trainer of "Hard To Resist" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 9 of the Dubbo meeting on 23 September 2024. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-event swab revealed the presence of Betamethasone.

3. Betamethasone is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the Rules
4. On 6 December 2024 Mr. Edwards was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 6 December 2024 the decision makers charged Mr. Edwards with an 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 proposed a penalty of a two-month suspension and invited Mr. Edwards to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. On 19 December 2024 Mr. Edwards contacted decision makers and:
  - a) entered written submissions;
  - b) entered a plea of guilty

8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr. Edward'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. Edwards:

**Charge 141(1)(a):** To issue a fine of \$500 as well as impose a 4-week suspension, which will be wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Mr. Edwards not reoffending under the same or similar rules in this period.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
  - a) Mr. Edward's Guilty plea (25% reduction)
  - b) Mr. Edwards's disciplinary record, with no prior prohibited substance offences
  - c) GWIC penalty guidelines
10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 9 at the Dubbo meeting on 23 September 2024 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....