

**DECISION ON AN INTERNAL REVIEW APPLICATION UNDER
SECTION 91 OF THE GREYHOUND RACING ACT 2017**

Matter for determination	Decision dated 17 July 2024 of Steward Dean Degan
Internal review decision date	28 October 2024
Internal review decision by	Wade Birch, Chief Operating Officer
Internal review decision summary	Confirm decision of 17 July 2024 to impose a fine to Ms King of \$500.00

REASONS FOR DECISION

1. These are the reasons for decision following an application by Ms Julie King for internal review under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* (“**Act**”) of a decision of Steward Dean Degan of the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (“**Commission**” or “**GWIC**”) made on 17 July 2024. That decision was to impose a fine of \$500 for a breach of Rule 156(q).
2. This is a reviewable decision within the meaning of section 91(1) of the Act. As I was not substantially involved in making the reviewable decision, I have dealt with this application.
3. Under section 91(7) of the Act, an internal reviewer is empowered to:
 - Confirm the reviewable decision the subject of the application; or
 - Vary the reviewable decision; or
 - Revoke the reviewable decision.

Background

4. On 7 July 2024, Ms King nominated the greyhound “Park Up” (“**Greyhound**”) to compete in Race 11 at the Grafton race meeting on 10 July 2024.
5. On 8 July 2024, Ms King submitted a scratching request for the Greyhound, citing the scratching reason as “injured” and the details of the injury as “near side leg wound”.
6. On 10 July 2024, Stewards directed Ms King to have the scratching of the Greyhound verified. Ms King advised that she would bring the Greyhound to the track on 12 July 2024 to confirm the near side leg wound.
7. On 17 July 2024, Stewards finalised the inquiry into the scratching of the Greyhound, charging Ms King with a breach of Rule 156(q), which reads:

156 General offences

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

...

(q) does, attempts to do or causes to be done any improper act for the purpose of preventing a greyhound starting in an Event.

8. Ms King pleaded not guilty to the offence. Stewards found Ms King guilty and issued a fine of \$500.00.

The internal review application

9. On 11 August 2024 Ms King lodged an application for internal review. The internal review has been conducted on the papers.
10. In her application, Ms King submitted that:
 - a. She believed that the decision to scratch the Greyhound was the right decision;
 - b. She had previously presented a greyhound to compete with a laceration to the offside hind leg and that that greyhound had been scratched by the on-track veterinarian and given a seven-day stand down period;
 - c. She is the trainer of the Greyhound, and she made what she considered the right decision for the Greyhound and its owner;
 - d. The veterinarian who examined the Greyhound saw it five days after the Greyhound was scratched, at which time she had already commenced treatment to the Greyhound's injury;
 - e. Ms King couldn't be confident that the Greyhound would be able to race "drug free" since it was being treated for an injury; and
 - f. The fine issued was excessive and did not need to be given at all.

Decision

11. In considering this internal review, I have had regard to the following the clinical findings of the veterinary surgeon.
12. The clinical findings of the veterinary surgeon upon examination conflict with the reasons for the scratching of the Greyhound that were provided by the applicant.
13. In accordance with section 91(7)(a) of the Act, having reviewed all the material, I confirm the original decision made by Steward Dean Degan on 17 July 2024.