



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

<b>Date of decision:</b>	Thursday 15 February 2024
<b>Decision-maker:</b>	Chief Steward Troy Vassallo and Steward Paul Van Gestal
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Nathan Lazarus
<b>Track:</b>	Richmond
<b>Date:</b>	30 January 2023
<b>Rule no.:</b>	141(1)(a)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	Mr. Nathan Lazarus presented the greyhound 'Old Mate Sam' ("Greyhound") for the purpose of competing in race 3 at the Richmond meeting on 30 January 2023 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.
<b>Prohibited Substance(s):</b>	Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre.
<b>Plea:</b>	Guilty
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	To issue a 3-month suspension, to commence Friday 16 February 2024 and expire Thursday 16 May 2024.

**INVESTIGATION**

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 1 March 2023, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre event urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Old Mate Sam' at the Richmond meeting on 30 January 2023.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Chemistry Laboratory confirming the presence of Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre.

**DECISION:**

1. Mr Lazarus is a registered Owner Trainer and the trainer of 'Old Mate Sam' ("Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 3 of the Richmond meeting on 30 January 2023. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.

2. The pre-event swab revealed the presence of Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre.
3. Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre is a prohibited substance under Rule 140(f) of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
4. On 6 February 2024 Mr Lazarus was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
5. In the Notice issued on 6 February 2024 the decision makers charged Mr Lazarus 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 four-month suspension and invited Mr Lazarus to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. At the hearing conducted via Teams on Thursday 15 February 2024, Mr Lazarus:
  - (a) entered a plea of guilty; and
  - (b) made verbal submissions
8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Lazarus’ plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Lazarus:
  - To issue a 3-month suspension, to commence Friday 16 February 2024 and expire Thursday 16 May 2024.
9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
  - Mr Lazarus’s guilty plea (25% reduction);
  - Mr Lazarus’ short registration history;
  - GWIC penalty guidelines.

10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 3 at the Richmond meeting on 30 January 2023 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....