

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	9 December 2024
Decision-makers:	Chief Operating Officer Wade Birch, Senior Steward Zane Turner
Name of relevant person:	Ronald Gittoes
Track:	N/A
Date:	9 December 2024
Rule no.:	Rule 156
Charge(s):	Charge 1 – R156(f)(ii) Mr Gittoes has acted improperly, by failing to check-in or provide end of life or retirement notifications his greyhounds. Charge 2 – 156(h) Mr Gittoes, when directed to complete overdue eTrac Check-ins for greyhounds in his care failed to adequately account for the whereabouts of the greyhounds
Plea:	Charge 1 – Guilty Plea. Charge 2 – Guilty Plea.
Disciplinary action taken:	Charge 1 – To issue a disqualification until such time his greyhounds are checked-in or the relevant end of life or retirement notifications are completed and submitted. Charge 2 – To issue a disqualification until such time his greyhounds are checked-in or the relevant end of life or retirement notifications are completed and submitted.

DECISION

1. Mr Gittoes was at all relevant times, a registered Owner Trainer and Breeder Whelpers with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. At all material times the greyhounds the subject of the charges were registered in Mr Gittoes ownership.
3. On Friday 01 November 2024, following an investigation by the Commission, a Notice of Charge was issued to Mr Gittoes. The Notice issued two charges under the Greyhound Racing Rules alleging a breach of the following:

Charge 1: Rule 156(f)(ii)

156 General offences

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 the Stewards:

(i) is corrupt, fraudulent, or dishonest;

(ii) constitutes misconduct or is negligent or improper;

Charge 2: Rule 156(h)

156 General offences

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

...

(h) disobeys or fails to comply with a lawful order of a Controlling Body, the Stewards, or another person authorised by a Controlling Body with official duties in relation to greyhound racing;

4. The Notice invited Mr Gittoes to attend a hearing and make submissions in relation to the charges.
5. Mr Gittoes entered pleas of guilty and made submissions in relation to the charges by Thursday 14 November 2024
6. The decision makers found the charges proven and issued Mr Gittoes with a Notice of Proposed Penalty on Wednesday 20 November 2024, which proposed the following penalties and invited Mr Gittoes to make submissions in response:

Charge 1 - To disqualify Mr Gittoes until such time his greyhounds are checked-in or the relevant end of life or retirement notifications are completed and submitted.

Charge 2 - To disqualify Mr Gittoes until such time his greyhounds are checked-in or the relevant end of life or retirement notifications are completed and submitted.

7. Mr Gittoes failed to respond and make submissions by Wednesday 27 November 2024. Accordingly, the decision makers imposed the following penalties:

Charge 1 - To disqualify Mr Gittoes until such time his greyhounds are checked-in or the relevant end of life or retirement notifications are completed and submitted.

Charge 2 - To disqualify Mr Gittoes until such time his greyhounds are checked-in or the relevant end of life or retirement notifications are completed and submitted.

8. The Commission’s enquiries into the locations of these greyhounds remain ongoing.

.....End.....