



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	11 December 2024
Decision-maker:	Senior Steward Zane Turner and Chief Operating Officer Wade Birch
Name of relevant person:	Stuart Barron
Track	Wentworth Park
Date:	10 August 2024
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr Stuart Barron presented the greyhound 'Irinka George' for the purpose of competing in race 3 at the Wentworth Park meeting on 10 August 2024 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Sotalol
Plea:	Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a suspension of 3 months, with the suspension to commence 12 December 2024 and to expire 12 March 2025.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 16 September 2024, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Irinka George" at the Wentworth Park meeting on 10 August 2024.

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

DECISION:

1. Mr. Barron is a registered Public Trainer and the trainer of "Irinka George" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 3 of the Wentworth Park meeting on 10 August 2024. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-event swab revealed the presence of Sotalol.
3. Sotalol is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the Rules

4. On 15 November 2024 Mr. Barron was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
5. In the Notice issued on 15 November 2024 the decision makers charged Mr. Barron 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. Barron to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. On Sunday 8 December 2024 Mr. Barron contacted decision makers and:
 - a) entered written submissions;
 - b) entered a plea of guilty
8. On Monday 9 December 2024, Mr. Barron attended a hearing held via Microsoft Teams and;
 - a) made verbal submissions;
9. On Tuesday 10 December 2024, Mr Barron contacted decision makers and provided further written submissions.
10. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr. Barron’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. Barron:

Charge 141(1)(a): To issue a suspension of 3 months, with the suspension to commence 12 December 2024 and to expire 12 March 2025.
11. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - a) Mr. Barron’s Guilty plea (25% reduction)
 - b) Mr. Barron’s disciplinary record, including a prior prohibited substance matter within the past ten years.

c) GWIC penalty guidelines

12. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 3 at the Wentworth Park meeting on 10 August 2024 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....