

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 13 February 2025

Decision-makers: Senior Steward Zane Turner and Chief Operating Officer Wade Birch

Name of relevant person: Anthony William Coyte

Rule no.: R156(o) of the Greyhound Racing Rules and Section 58(1)(b) *Greyhound Racing Act 2017*

Charge(s): **Charge 1 – R156(o)**
Mr Coyte did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by making a statement to an officer of the Controlling Body when it was known to be false.
Section 58(1)(b) Greyhound Racing Act 2017
The Commission has found that Mr Coyte is not a fit and proper person to be registered as a greyhound racing industry participant.

Plea: Charge 1 - Not guilty

Disciplinary action taken: 6-month disqualification, with the period of disqualification commencing 13 February 2025 and expiring 13 August 2025.
To cancel Mr. Coyte's Public Trainer registration.

INVESTIGATION:

1. On or around August 2024, the Commission became aware that Mr Coyte had been charged with and convicted of a number of criminal offences. The Commission commenced an investigation into these matters.
2. As a result of the investigation, it was determined that Mr Coyte had made a false declaration in a registration renewal application, stating that he had not been charged with any criminal offence.
3. Based on the criminal charges Mr Coyte had been convicted of, the Commission also commenced a disciplinary process which involved consideration of whether Mr Coyte is a fit and proper person to be registered as a participant in the greyhound racing industry.

DECISION:

4. Mr Coyte was, at all relevant times, a registered Public Trainer with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.

5. On 10 January 2025 Mr Coyte was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**"). The Notice issued a charge against him for breach of the Greyhound Racing Rule 156(o), which reads:

Rule 156(o)

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

(o) makes or publishes any statement known by the person to be false where the publication is to:

- (i) A member of a Controlling Body;
- (ii) An officer of a Controlling Body;
- (iii) An employee of a Controlling Body; or
- (iv) An officiating veterinarian or official in the course of them performing their functions.

6. In the Notice the Commission also advised Mr Coyte of its intention to take disciplinary action pursuant to section 58(1)(b) of the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* ("**Act**"), which provides:

58 Grounds for taking disciplinary action

(1) The Commission may take disciplinary action under this Division against or in respect of a relevant person if the Commission is of the opinion that the person--

...

(b) is not a fit and proper person to be registered (having regard in particular to the need to protect the public interest as it relates to the greyhound racing industry).

7. The Notice invited Mr Coyte to attend a hearing on 17 January 2025 at which time he would have the opportunity to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge, the proposed disciplinary action in relation to his fitness and propriety and proposed penalties. The penalties decision makers proposed in the Notice were:

Charge (Rule 156(o)) - To issue a disqualification of twelve months.

Section 58(1)(b) - To cancel Mr Coyte's registration.

8. On 16 January 2025 Mr Coyte contacted decision makers and requested the hearing be adjourned, a request that was granted by decision makers.
9. On 31 January 2025, the decision makers heard the matter via Microsoft Teams. During the course of the hearing, Mr Coyte entered a plea of not guilty to the Charge issued under Rule 156(o), and made verbal submissions in respect of the proposed disciplinary action.
10. Following consideration of Mr Coyte's plea and submissions, the decision makers found the charge under Rule 156(o) proven and determined to impose a 6-month disqualification

of his registration. Further, following consideration of all of the relevant material, the decision-makers formed the view that Mr Coyte is not a fit and proper person to be registered as a greyhound racing industry participant. The decision makers determined to cancel Mr Coyte's Public Trainer registration under the provisions of Section 58(1)(b) of the Act.

11. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision-makers considered all the material and evidence before them, including:

- Mr Coyte's not guilty plea;
- Mr Coyte's disciplinary history, which shows no breaches of any rule over a 35-year period;
- Mr Coyte's verbal submissions made at the hearing;
- The Commissions fit and proper person framework and the provisions under section 47 of the Act;
- Mr Coyte's personal and professional circumstances;
- The Commissions objectives pursuant to the Act; and
- The objective seriousness of the offence.

.....End.....