



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 11 February 2025

Decision-maker: Steward Sam Woolaston and Steward Peter Phillips

Name of relevant person: Graeme Ball

Track: Muswellbrook

Date: 5 October 2024

Rule no.: 141(1)(a)

Charge(s): Mr Graeme Ball presented the greyhound 'One More' for the purpose of competing in race 7 at the Muswellbrook meeting of 5 October 2024 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

Plea: Guilty

Prohibited Substance(s): Theobromine

Disciplinary action taken: To issue a 6-week suspension, to commence Monday 17 February 2025 and to expire on Monday 31 March 2025.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 15 November 2024, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, "One More" at the Muswellbrook meeting on 5 October 2024.

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

DECISION:

1. Mr. Ball is a registered Owner Trainer and the trainer of "One More" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 7 at the Muswellbrook meeting on 5 October 2024. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-race swab revealed the presence of Theobromine.
3. Theobromine is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.

4. On Monday 13 January 2025 Mr. Ball was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
5. In the Notice issued on 13 January 2025 the decision makers charged Mr. Ball 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 4 month suspension and invited Mr. Ball to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. On Thursday 6 February 2025 Mr. Ball was notified of a change in decision makers in the matter, and a new Notice issued.
8. On Monday 10 February 2025, Mr. Ball attended a hearing held via Microsoft Teams and;
 - entered a plea of guilty,
 - made verbal submissions.
9. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr. Ball’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. Ball:

Charge 141 (1) (a): To issue a 6-week suspension, to commence Monday 17 February 2025 and to expire on Monday 31 March 2025.

10. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr. Ball’s Guilty plea (25% reduction)
 - Mr. Ball’s 13-year registration history, with no prior prohibited substance offences;
 - Mr. Ball’s forthright evidence and co-operation throughout the investigation; and
 - GWIC penalty guidelines

11. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 7 at the Muswellbrook meeting on 4 October 2024 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.