



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 26 March 2025

Decision-makers: Senior Steward Zane Turner and Senior Steward Kevin Adams

Name of relevant person: Garry Sheather

Rule no(s): Rule 156(i)

Charge(s): Mr. Sheather did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by preventing officers of the Controlling Body from carrying out an examination or identification of greyhounds on his premises.

Plea: Guilty

Disciplinary action taken: To issue a disqualification of 5 months;
with the time served by Mr. Sheather under interim suspension to be taken into account, from 24 January 2025; and with the period of disqualification to therefore expire at midnight on 24 June 2025.

DECISION:

1. Mr Sheather was, at all relevant times, a registered Owner Trainer with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission ("**Commission**").
2. On 22 January 2025, Inspectors with the Commission conducted a kennel inspection at Mr. Sheather's registered kennel address ("**Property**").
3. During the inspection Mr. Sheather refused to allow Inspectors to identify and examine greyhounds on the premises whilst they were exercising their powers under section 75(2)(a) of the Greyhound Racing Act 2017.
4. On 24 January 2025, Mr. Sheather was issued with an interim suspension whilst the Commission finalised its investigation into Mr. Sheather's conduct.
5. On 7 March 2025 a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**"), was issued to Mr. Sheather. The Notice issued one charge, alleging a breach of the following Greyhound Racing Rule:

Rule 156(i), Rules

An offence is committed if a person (including an official)
(i) prevents, attempts to prevent, interferes with or attempts to interfere with the carrying out of any identification, examination, test, necropsy, analysis, inquiry,

investigation or inspection (including a kennel inspection) pursuant to the Rules. For the purpose of this subrule:

- i. A test includes, but is not limited to, the collection of a sample; and
- ii. removing, or allowing to be removed, hair from a majority of a greyhound, or any part of the tail of a greyhound, and preventing the collection of a sample will amount to a breach of this rule unless a person has obtained the permission of the Stewards

6. The Notice invited Mr. Sheather to attend a hearing on Wednesday 26 March 2025 at which time he would have the opportunity to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the Charge and proposed penalty. The penalty proposed in the notice was a 9-month disqualification.
7. On 26 March 2025, decision makers heard the matter via Microsoft Teams. During the course of the hearing, Mr. Sheather entered a plea of guilty and made verbal submissions in respect of the proposed disciplinary action.
8. Following consideration of Mr. Sheather's guilty plea and submissions, the decision makers found the charge proven and determined to impose the following disciplinary action upon him:

Charge Rule 156(i) – To issue a disqualification of 5 months;

with the time served by Mr. Sheather under interim suspension to be taken into account, from 24 January 2025; and with the period of disqualification to therefore expire at midnight on 24 June 2025.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision-makers had regard to all relevant evidence and material, including:
 - Mr. Sheather's guilty plea (25% reduction);
 - Mr. Sheather's disciplinary history, including a prior conduct related offence within the past two years;
 - Mr. Sheather's personal and professional circumstances; and
 - The objective seriousness of the offence.

.....End.....