

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	31 March 2025
Decision-makers:	Senior Steward Zane Turner and Senior Steward Kevin Adams
Name of relevant person:	Mark Newham
Rule no.:	R168(a) of the Greyhound Racing Rules and Section 58(1)(b) <i>Greyhound Racing Act 2017</i>
Charge(s):	Charge 1 – R168(a) Mr Newham did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by failing to notify the Controlling Body within seven days of being found guilty of an offence punishable by fine or imprisonment, other than a fine for a traffic offence. Section 58(1)(b) Greyhound Racing Act 2017 The Commission has found that Mr Newham is not a fit and proper person to be registered as a greyhound racing industry participant.
Plea:	Charge 1 - Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	3-month disqualification, with the time served by Mr. Newham under interim suspension to be taken into account, from 16 January 2025, with the period of disqualification to expire at midnight 16 April 2025. To cancel Mr. Newham’s Owner Trainer registration.

INVESTIGATION:

1. On or around January 2025, the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (“Commission”) became aware that Mr Newham had been charged with and convicted of a number of criminal offences. The Commission commenced an investigation into these matters.
2. On 16 January 2025, Mr. Newham was issued with an interim suspension whilst the Commission finalised its inquiry into Mr. Newham’s fitness to be registered as a participant in the greyhound racing industry, as a result of charges issued against him by NSW Police.
3. As a result of the investigation, it was determined that Mr. Newham had failed to notify the Commission within seven days, of being found guilty of an offence punishable by fine or imprisonment.

4. Based on the criminal charges Mr Newham had been convicted of, the Commission also commenced a disciplinary process which involved consideration of whether Mr. Newham is a fit and proper person to be registered as a participant in the greyhound racing industry.

DECISION:

5. Mr. Newham was, at all relevant times, a registered Owner Trainer with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
6. On 11 March 2025 Mr Newham 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 168(a), which reads:

Rule 168(a), Obligations of registered persons to report certain offences and circumstances, Rules

A registered person must notify the Controlling Body or Controlling Bodies by who they are registered, within seven days of:

- (a) being found guilty of an offence punishable by fine or imprisonment, other than a fine for a traffic offence.

7. In the Notice the Commission also advised Mr. Newham 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).

8. The Notice invited Mr. Newham to attend a hearing on Friday 28 March 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 168(a)) - To issue a disqualification of six months.

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

9. On 11 March 2025, Mr. Newham contacted decision makers and requested the hearing to be rescheduled to Monday 31 March 2025, a request that was granted by decision makers.
10. On 31 March 2025, the decision makers heard the matter via Microsoft Teams. During the course of the hearing, Mr. Newham entered a plea of guilty to the Charge issued under Rule 168(a) and made verbal submissions in respect of the proposed disciplinary action.
11. Following consideration of Mr Newham’s plea and submissions, the decision makers found the charge under Rule 168(a) proven and determined to impose a 3-month disqualification of his registration, with the time served by Mr. Newham under interim suspension to be taken into account, from 16 January 2025, with the period of disqualification to expire at midnight 16 April 2025. Further, following consideration of all relevant material, the decision-makers formed the view that Mr. Newham is not a fit and proper person to be registered as a greyhound racing industry participant. The decision-makers determined to cancel Mr. Newham’s Owner Trainer registration under the provisions of Section 58(1)(b) of the Act.
12. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision-makers considered all the material and evidence before them, including:
 - Mr. Newham’s guilty plea (25% reduction);
 - Mr. Newham’s disciplinary history, which shows no significant rule breaches over a 24-year period;
 - Mr. Newham’s verbal submissions made at the hearing;
 - The Commissions fit and proper person framework and the provisions under section 47 of the Act;
 - Mr. Newham’s personal and professional circumstances;
 - The Commissions objectives pursuant to the Act; and
 - The objective seriousness of the offence.

.....End.....