

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	18 February 2019
Decision-maker:	A/Chief Steward, Gail Thorsby
Name of relevant person:	Mr. Steven Albon
Track:	Bathurst
Date:	29 October 2018
Rule no.:	GAR 83(2)(a)
Charge(s):	(1) Mr. Albon presented the greyhound 'Clare Fallon' (" Greyhound ") for the purposes of competing in race 4 at the Bathurst meeting on 29 October 2018 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.
Prohibited substance(s):	Caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine
Disciplinary action taken:	14-week suspension

REPORT:

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from the Racing Analytical Services Laboratory, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Clare Fallon' ("**Greyhound**") at the Bathurst meeting on 29 October 2018.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory, confirming the presence of caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine.

After considering the evidence, the Commission charged Mr. Albon with a breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule ("**GAR**") 83(2)(a) given that the post-race urine sample taken from the Greyhound confirmed the presence of prohibited substance, caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine.

Mr. Albon admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

The disciplinary action was conducted in writing in accordance with the participant's election.

DECISION:

1. Mr. Albon is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 4 at the Bathurst meeting on 29 October 2018 (“Event”). Following the Event, as the Greyhound placed first, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-Event swab revealed the presence of caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine. Caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine are prohibited substances under GAR 1 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules and category 4 prohibited substances under the NSW greyhound racing penalty guidelines.
3. The Commission charged Mr. Albon under GAR 83(2)(a), which reads:
 - (2) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound-
 - (a) nominated to compete in an Event;
 - (b) presented for a satisfactory, weight or whelping trial or such other trial as provided for pursuant to these Rules; or
 - (c) presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a period of incapacitation or prohibition being varied or revokedshall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.
4. Mr. Albon admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity, provided written submissions and elected to have the disciplinary proceeding conducted in writing.
5. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr. Albon:

To suspend his trainer registration for a period of 14 weeks.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr. Albon has been a registered trainer for a relatively short period of approximately 4 years;
 - Mr. Albon has no history of any prohibited substance matters;
 - NSW greyhound racing penalty guidelines and precedents;
 - Mr. Albon’s admission at the earliest opportunity;
 - Mr. Albon’s written submissions in mitigation of penalty, including his personal circumstances and remorse for his actions.
7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 4 at the Bathurst meeting on 29 October 2018 pursuant to GAR 83(4), which reads:
 - (4) A greyhound presented for an Event pursuant to sub-rules (1) or (2) shall be disqualified from the Event or any benefit derived from a trial or test.

.....End.....