



**GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION**  
**DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

**Date of decision:** 29 May 2020

**Decision-maker:** Chief Executive Officer, Judith Lind

**Name of relevant person:** Mr George Micallef

**Track:** Nowra

**Date:** 19 October 2019

**Rule no.:** Rule 83(2)(a)

**Charge(s):** (1) Mr Micallef presented the greyhound 'Taylor Made Grey' ("**Greyhound**") for the purposes of competing in race 2 at the Nowra meeting on 19 October 2019 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:** 12-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 pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Taylor Made Grey' ("**Greyhound**") at the Nowra meeting on 19 October 2019.

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 Micallef with a breach of Rule 83(2)(a) of the Commission's Greyhound Racing Rules ("**Rules**") given that the pre-race urine sample taken from the Greyhound confirmed the presence of the prohibited substances caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine.

Mr Micallef admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

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

**DECISION:**

1. Mr Micallef is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 2 at the Nowra meeting on 19 October 2019 (“**Event**”) and a pre-Event urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-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 Rule 1 of the Rules.
3. The Commission charged Mr Micallef under Rule 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 Micallef admitted the charge, 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 Micallef:

To suspend his trainer registration for a period of 12 weeks.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
  - Mr Micallef has been a registered trainer for approximately 35 years, since 1985;
  - Mr Micallef has a prior prohibited substance matter in his disciplinary history involving diclofenac dealt with by GRNSW in 2016 for which he was fined;
  - The indicative level of the prohibited substances detected were considered as low;
  - NSW greyhound racing penalty precedents;
  - Mr Micallef’s submissions in mitigation of any penalty, including in relation to his personal circumstances, reasonable explanation as to how the positive result of the Greyhound may have occurred, steps that he has taken to amend his animal husbandry practices and his remorse.
7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 2 at the Nowra meeting on 19 October 2019 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....