



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 4 May 2020
Decision-maker: Chief Executive Officer, Judith Lind
Name of relevant person: Mr Mark Middleton
Track: N/A
Date: 19 December 2019
Rule no.: Rule 95(8)(a)(i)
Charge(s): (1) Mr Middleton was convicted of manufacture of a large commercial quantity of methamphetamine by the District Court of South Australia on 19 December 2019.
Disciplinary action taken: Disqualified for life

DECISION:

1. Mr Mark Middleton was, at the material times, a registered owner in NSW.
2. After the Commission became aware that Mr Middleton had been charged by South Australian Police for a serious drug offence, on 28 November 2019 the Commission imposed, after providing Mr Middleton a reasonable opportunity to reply, an interim suspension of Mr Middleton's owner registration pending the finalisation of SA Police's criminal proceedings against Mr Middleton.
3. On 19 December 2019, Mr Middleton was prosecuted at a South Australian District Court and he was convicted of an offence relating to the manufacture of a large commercial quantity of methamphetamine.
4. Mr Middleton was sentenced to more than a decade of imprisonment, with a non-parole period of eight years and four months.
5. The Commission charged Mr Middleton under Rule 95(8)(a)(i), which reads:
 - (8) The Controlling Body may impose on a person any or more of the penalties referred to in sub-rule (1) if –
 - (a) the person has been convicted of an offence by any court and the Controlling Body is satisfied that:
 - (i) the nature of the offence is such that the person's continued participation or association with the greyhound racing would be

detrimental to the proper control and regulation of greyhound racing.

6. Mr Middleton was notified of the charge in writing and provided a reasonable opportunity to reply, however Mr Middleton did not respond and the disciplinary proceeding was conducted in writing on the evidence before the Commission.
7. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Middleton:

To disqualify his owner registration for life.

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
 - The objective seriousness of the offence involving the manufacture of a large commercial quantity of an illicit substance;
 - Mr Middleton has been a registered owner in the greyhound industry for a short period of time, since January 2018;
 - Mr Middleton does not have any like matters in his disciplinary history;
 - The period served under interim suspension;
 - NSW greyhound racing precedents.

.....End.....