

## GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

### DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

**Warning: This report contains language which some readers may find offensive.**

<b>Date of decision:</b>	25 November 2020
<b>Decision-maker:</b>	Interim Chief Executive Officer, Steven Griffin
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Mr Todd Barrett
<b>Track:</b>	Taree
<b>Date:</b>	29 February 2020
<b>Rule no.:</b>	Rules 86(f)(i) & 86(o)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	(1) Mr Barrett engaged in the use of contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting or offensive language towards or in relation to a Steward;  (2) Mr Barrett used improper and offensive language in relation to the Taree Greyhound Racing Club.
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	Charge 1: 6-month suspension, with 3 months suspended (conditionally) – deferred commencement to 26 November 2020 under Rule 95(5);  Charge 2: No further action having regard to the penalty imposed under charge 1.

#### DECISION:

1. Mr Barrett was, at all material times, a registered greyhound owner and trainer.
2. On 29 February 2020, a race meeting was held at the Taree Greyhound Racing Club (“**Club**”) and Mr Barrett attended the race meeting as a spectator.
3. Mr Barrett’s partner was present, working as an employee of the Club and also had a greyhound nominated to compete in a race.
4. Prior to the commencement of the race meeting, in the canteen area the Steward advised Mr Barrett’s partner that she was permitted to work as the catching pen operator of the run back gate for all races other than the race in which her greyhound was competing. Mr Barrett overheard this conversation and used words to the effect of: “[Name redacted] not being able to swab but is allowed to do the run back gate and ID is a fucking conflict of interest” and “This is bullshit, double standards, rules

*for one and different rules for other*". Mr Barrett became aggressive and said words to the effect of: *"I know the rules and if [name redacted] can't swab then she can't do the fucking run back gate"*. The Steward attempted to explain her decision to Mr Barrett but it was alleged he would not listen. Shortly after, the Steward walked away.

5. About 10 minutes later, in the kennelling area, Mr Barrett said to the Steward words to the effect of: *"Here's my fucking licence you can stick it."* The Steward asked Mr Barrett to calm down and to listen. Mr Barrett said words to the effect of: *"I've fucking had enough of this industry. The staff here are a bunch of fucking cunts and I've had enough of them."* The Steward informed Mr Barrett his behaviour was unacceptable and would not be tolerated. It was alleged Mr Barrett became emotional and proceeded to leave the premises.
6. While in the car park and while exiting the car park, Mr Barrett made comments in relation to the Club which included improper and offensive language.
7. The Club determined to suspend Mr Barrett from the racetrack / Club premises for a period of 6 months and this was served by Mr Barrett separately and prior to finalisation of the Commission's disciplinary proceedings.
8. Mr Barrett voluntarily forfeited his registration to the Commission in March 2020.
9. After considering the evidence following the completion of the Commission's investigation, the Commission charged Mr Barrett with a breach of Rules 86(f)(i) and 86(o), which read:

**Rule 86(f)(i) and (o)**

A person (including an official) shall be guilty of an offence if the person-

...

(f) engages in, publishes or causes to be published, broadcasts or causes to be broadcast, the use of any contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting, or offensive language, conduct or behaviour in any manner or form towards, or in relation to-

(i) a Steward

...

(o) has, in relation to a greyhound or greyhound racing, done a thing, or omitted to do a thing, which, in the opinion of the Stewards or the Controlling Body, as the case may be, is negligent, dishonest, corrupt, fraudulent or improper, or constitutes misconduct

10. Mr Barrett admitted the charges, provided submissions and elected to have the disciplinary proceeding conducted in writing.
11. Mr Griffin, Interim CEO, took over as decision-maker of the matter in November 2020, partway through the proceedings, with the consent of Mr Barrett.
12. The Commission found both of the charges proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Barrett:

Charge 1 (R86(f)(i)): To suspend his owner/trainer registration for a period of 6 months with 3 months suspended for 12 months on the condition he does not breach Rule 86(f) or any similar rules in that 12-month period;

Charge 2 (R86(o)): To take no further action having regard to the penalty imposed under charge 1.

13. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:

- Greyhound racing penalty precedents – in NSW and other racing jurisdictions;
- Mr Barrett has been a registered owner/trainer in the greyhound racing industry for approximately 10 years;
- Mr Barrett has no prior disciplinary history;
- Mr Barrett’s admission of the charges at the earliest opportunity;
- Mr Barrett’s voluntary forfeiture of his registration in March 2020;
- The 6-month suspension imposed by the Club which Mr Barrett has served;
- Mr Barrett’s written submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to his good character, his personal and health circumstances, his significant contribution to the industry and his remorse.

.....End.....