

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	23 November 2020; 25 November 2020
Decision-maker:	Interim Chief Executive Officer, Steven Griffin
Name of relevant person:	Mr Terrence Northey
Track:	Bathurst
Date:	11 May 2020
Rule no.:	Rule 83(2)(a)
Charge(s):	(1) Mr Northey presented the greyhound 'Sakura Shacoby' (" Greyhound ") for the purposes of competing in race 8 at the Bathurst meeting on 11 May 2020 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.
Prohibited substances:	Hydrochlorothiazide and chlorothiazide
Disciplinary action taken:	7-week suspension, with 2 weeks suspended (conditionally) – deferred commencement to 24 November 2020 under Rule 95(5)

REPORT:

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Sakura Shacoby' ("**Greyhound**") at the Bathurst meeting on 11 May 2020.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Racing Science Centre, confirming the presence of hydrochlorothiazide and chlorothiazide.

After considering the evidence, the Commission charged Mr Northey 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 hydrochlorothiazide and chlorothiazide.

Mr Northey admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

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

DECISION:

1. Mr Northey is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 8 at the Bathurst meeting on 11 May 2020 (“Event”). Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-Event swab revealed the presence of hydrochlorothiazide and chlorothiazide. Hydrochlorothiazide and chlorothiazide are prohibited substances under Rule 1 of the Rules.
3. The Commission charged Mr Northey 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 Northey admitted the charge, provided written submissions and elected to have the disciplinary proceeding conducted in writing. Mr Griffin, Interim CEO, took over as decision-maker of the matter in November 2020, partway through the proceedings, with the consent of Mr Northey.
5. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Northey:

To suspend his trainer registration for a period of 6 weeks.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Northey has held a trainer registration for approximately 24 years;
 - Mr Northey has no history of prohibited substance matters;
 - Mr Northey’s admission of the charge at the earliest opportunity;
 - NSW greyhound racing penalty precedents;
 - Mr Northey’s submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to his good character and record, his personal circumstances, his review of and amendment to his animal husbandry practices and a reasonable explanation for the likely source of the positive result.

7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 8 at the Bathurst meeting on 11 May 2020 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.

Addendum

8. After notification of the disciplinary action, Mr Northey provided further submissions seeking a reduction in the penalty, requesting the Commission to take into account Mr Northey's attendance and participation at the Lithgow race meeting on 2 January 2021 which is a race meeting with significant personal interest to his family, namely a memorial race for Mr Northey's brother. . The original 6-week suspension issued to Mr Northey ended on 5 January 2021, after the heats for the memorial event would be conducted (on 2 January 2021). Mr Northey sought to nominate greyhounds by 9am on 30 December 2021 to participate in the heats.
9. After consideration of all evidence in the matter, including Mr Northey's further submissions received after the disciplinary action had been taken, the Commission was satisfied that there were exceptional circumstances to amend the penalty previously issued to permit Mr Northey to permit him to participate in the memorial event for his late brother and instead took the amended disciplinary action against Mr Northey:

To suspend his trainer registration for a period of 7 weeks with 2 weeks suspended for 6-months on the condition he does not breach Rule 83(2)(a) of that 6-month period,

with the period of suspension commencing at 12am on 24 November 2020 and concluding at 12am on 29 December 2020.

10. The amended disciplinary action did not impact the automatic effect under Rule 83(4) of the Greyhound being disqualified from the Event.

.....End.....