



INQUIRY INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE SCRATCHING OF RAINING VODKA FROM ITS ENGAGEMENT IN RACE 7 AT MAITLAND ON MONDAY 30 AUGUST 2021.

By Video Conference
Stewards: W. Birch (Chairman)
D. Tranter

2 September 2021

Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC) Stewards today convened a hearing to consider charges issued against Registered Trainer Mr. Shannon Boyd relative to the scratching of the greyhound Raining Vodka from the meeting conducted at Maitland on Monday 30 August 2021.

At the hearing today the following charges were considered:

Charge 1 – GAR 23(7) Withdrawal after box draw

That Mr. Shannon Boyd as the trainer of the greyhound Raining Vodka did, in the opinion of the Stewards, withdraw Raining Vodka from its engagement in race 7 at Maitland on Monday 30 August 2021 for an unacceptable reason.

Plea – Not Guilty – Charge subsequently withdrawn by Stewards.

Charge 2 – GAR 86(x) Offences

That Mr. Shannon Boyd, as the trainer of Raining Vodka, did make a false statement to Mr Max Reading, an officer of the Controlling Body in the execution of his duty, during a phone conversation on Thursday August 26 2021, when he informed Mr. Reading that Raining Vodka had been examined by Dr. John Newell when he was in the knowledge that this statement was false.

Plea - Guilty

Charge 3 – GAR 86(x) Offences

That Mr. Shannon Boyd as the trainer of Raining Vodka did make a false statement during an interview with GWIC Stewards at the Maitland race meeting on Monday 30 August 2021 when Stewards were investigating the scratching of Raining Vodka from the same race meeting by informing Stewards in the interview that he had presented Raining Vodka to Dr. John Newell for examination on Thursday 26 August 2021, when in the knowledge this statement was false.

Plea – Guilty

After hearing submission from Mr. Boyd, Stewards withdrew charge 1 under GAR 23(7) and substituted the following charge.



Charge 4 – GAR 86(o) Offences

That relative to the withdrawal of the greyhound Raining Vodka, Stewards believe that in accordance with Greyhound Rule 86(o) Mr Boyd did a thing in relation to greyhound racing which is in the opinion of the Stewards is improper in that as Registered Trainer Mr. Shannon Boyd did falsify the online withdrawal of the greyhound Raining Vodka from race 7 the J&H Commercial Service Non-graded to be held at Maitland on 30 August 2021, stating that the greyhound had an injury to the left chest muscle when in fact the greyhound was in a fit condition to start in that race.

Plea - Guilty

Penalty

Stewards heard submissions from Mr. Boyd in respect to penalty. In determining penalty, Stewards considered Mr. Boyd's good record in the industry over a long period of time, guilty plea submitted on all charges, and the contrition shown by Mr. Boyd at today's hearing. Having regard to these matters, Stewards believed the below penalties to be appropriate in the circumstances:

Charge 1 – Withdrawn.

Charge 2 – 6 months disqualification reduce to 5 months for guilty plea.

Charge 3 – 10 months disqualification reduced to 8 months for guilty plea.

Charge 4 – 6 months disqualification reduced to 5 months for guilty plea.

Stewards ordered that all penalties be served concurrently and commence immediately to expire at midnight 1 May 2022.

Relevant Rules

Rule 23 Withdrawal after box draw

(7) If, in the opinion of the Stewards a greyhound is withdrawn for, an unacceptable reason the owner and or trainer of the greyhound shall be guilty of an offence.

Rule 86 Offences

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

(x) makes any statement which to his/her knowledge is false either oral by, by print, in writing, by electronic means or by any combination thereof to a member of the controlling body, and officer of the controlling body, any employee of the controlling body a veterinary surgeon or an official in the execution of his or her duty.

Rule 86 Offences

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

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