

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	15 November 2021
Decision-makers:	A/Deputy Chief Inspector, Shaye Barrow, Director Compliance, Policy & Legal, Matthew Tutt, Director Race Day Operations & Integrity, Wade Birch
Name of relevant person:	Mr Shannon Dean
Track:	N/A
Date:	6 August 2021
Rule no.:	Rule 86(x)
Charge(s):	(1) Mr Dean made a false statement in a registration application, by stating that he had never been charged with any criminal offence.
Disciplinary action taken:	6-month disqualification

DECISION:

1. Mr Dean was a registered owner at all material times.
2. On 6 August 2021, Mr Dean completed an online application form seeking to become a registered Owner Trainer with GWIC.
3. Included in the application were questions Mr Dean was required to answer relating to his criminal history.
4. Mr Dean selected no to the following question on the application:
 - Have you ever been charged with any criminal offence?
5. As part of the application, Mr Dean signed a Declaration and Authorisation which stated:

I declare that all information I have provided in this form is:

- a) Complete in all material respects; and
- b) True and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I understand, acknowledge and agree that:

...

- c) If the Commission later determines that any information I have provided is, incorrect or deliberately false, disciplinary action may be taken against me, which could include suspension or disqualification of my registration or a warning off;
 - d) I will immediately advise the Commission if there is any change to the information I have provided in any application or notification.
6. At the time of lodging the application with GWIC, Mr Dean had been charged and convicted of a number of criminal offences that took place between 2016 and 2018.
7. The Commission charged Mr Dean with one (1) offence under Rule 86(x) which reads:

Rule 86

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, an officer of the Controlling Body, an employee of the Controlling Body, a veterinary surgeon or an official in the execution of his/her duty;

8. On 15 November 2021, this matter was heard by the Commission in an online hearing. Mr Dean was present at the hearing and admitted the charge and gave evidence and made submissions in mitigation of penalty.
9. The Commission found the charges proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Dean:

To disqualify Mr Dean for 6-months.

10. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered the appropriate starting point to be a 12-month disqualification. This penalty was reduced to 6 months, taking into consideration the evidence and submissions, including:
 - Mr Dean has held an owner registration since 2008, approximately 13 years;
 - Mr Dean has no prior like matters in his disciplinary history;
 - Mr Dean's admission of the charge at the earliest opportunity;
 - The objective seriousness of conduct; noting that the Commission's registration application processes require truthful responses;
 - The deliberate nature of Mr Dean's offending;
 - NSW greyhound racing precedents; and
 - Mr Dean's submissions in mitigation of penalty.
11. The Commission has recently dealt with a number of matters of a similar nature, where applicants for registration with the Commission have provided incorrect or deliberately false information, particularly in relation to their disciplinary and/or criminal history. As has been stated in previous decisions, including *Grech* and *Mabbott*, the Commission registration processes requires truthful and accurate information. The discovery of an applicant's disciplinary or criminal history is not always easy to obtain. Without truthful and accurate information, the registration application process undertaken by the

Commission is less effective and susceptible to incorrect decisions being made in relation to an application for registration. Therefore, it is particularly integral for applicants to provide truthful and accurate information to the Commission at this very important part of an applicant's introduction into the greyhound racing industry in New South Wales.

.....End.....