



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	20 January 2022
Decision-makers:	Director Compliance, Policy & Legal, Matthew Tutt, A/Deputy Chief Inspector, Shaye Barrow and Director Race Day Operations & Integrity, Wade Birch
Name of relevant person:	Mr Paul Steedman
Track:	Bathurst
Date:	23 August 2021
Rule no.:	Rule 83(2)(a)
Charge(s):	(1) Mr Steedman presented the greyhound 'Prince Creed' (" Greyhound ") for the purposes of competing in race 11 at the Bathurst meeting on 23 August 2021 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine.
Disciplinary action taken:	8-week suspension

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Prince Creed' ("**Greyhound**") at the Bathurst meeting on 23 August 2021.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory, confirming the presence of caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine in the sample.

On 18 November 2021 Mr Steedman was issued with a notice of proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**") setting out the proposed disciplinary action to be taken and the grounds in support of that proposed disciplinary action. The Notice proposed a penalty of a 12-week suspension and invited Mr Steedman to admit or deny the charge and make submissions on the proposed penalty.

Evidence, plea and submissions

Mr Steedman was provided with a brief of evidence along with the Notice. In addition, a summary of the evidence was contained in the Notice.

On 25 November 2021 Mr Steedman responded to the Notice in writing, admitting the charge and providing submissions that stated, in summary:

- He wished to plead guilty to the offence;
- He has been involved in the industry since 1978, only taking a break for a period of time for personal reasons, and has maintained a good record over the years he has been involved in the industry;
- He submitted that his feeding regime with his greyhounds has been consistent for many years, with the only change being the introduction of a supplement used to treat cramping;
- He expressed his remorse and stated that he would not jeopardise the health of his greyhounds, submitting that he is very particular with what he feeds his greyhounds;
- He submitted that his family, including his father and grandfather, were involved in greyhound racing and believed that they would be disappointed if they thought he was giving his greyhounds a prohibited substance;
- He submitted that he would never intentionally give any of his greyhounds a prohibited substance; and
- He submitted that he hoped to receive a suspended penalty or a fine.

The decision makers considered Mr Steedman's plea and submissions and came to the following determination.

DECISION:

1. Mr Steedman is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 11 of the Bathurst meeting on 23 August 2021 ("**Event**"). Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-Event swab revealed the presence of caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine. Caffeine and its metabolites theophylline, paraxanthine and theobromine is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the Rules.
3. The decision makers charged Mr Steedman with an offence 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;

...

shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.
4. Mr Steedman admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity, provided brief written submissions and elected to have the disciplinary proceedings conducted in writing.

5. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Steedman:

To suspend Mr Steedman for 8 weeks,

6. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Greyhound racing penalty precedents in NSW;
 - The length of time Mr Steedman has held a trainer registration, being between 1978-2009 and 2013-current, a period of approximately 37 years;
 - Mr Steedman's disciplinary history – he does not have any like matters on his record;
 - Mr Steedman's admission of the charge at the earliest opportunity; and
 - Mr Steedman's submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to the circumstances of the offending and his remorse.
7. The length of time Mr Steedman has held a registration in the greyhound racing industry, together with his guilty plea and his lack of relevant disciplinary history were significant factors in mitigation considered by the decision makers and were a relevant consideration in reducing the proposed penalty from a 12-week suspension.
8. The decision makers acknowledge that Mr Steedman's submission that a fine or a suspended penalty would be an appropriate penalty. Whilst the decision makers acknowledged this submission and the mitigating factors referred to above, greyhound racing penalty precedents in NSW for prohibited substance matters involving caffeine and its metabolites, a clear precedent for a period of suspension has been set. Mr Steedman received a 25% reduction for his early guilty plea, which would bring the penalty to a 9-week suspension, and a further reduction of one week for his factors in mitigation as referred to above, bringing the ultimate penalty to one of an 8-week suspension.
9. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 11 at the Bathurst meeting on 23 August 2021 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....