



## GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

### DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

<b>Date of decision:</b>	16 February 2022
<b>Decision-makers:</b>	Director Compliance, Policy & Legal, Matthew Tutt, A/Deputy Chief Inspector, Shaye Barrow and Director Race Day Operations & Integrity, Wade Birch
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Mr David Richardson
<b>Track:</b>	Grafton
<b>Date:</b>	29 August 2021
<b>Rule no.:</b>	Rule 83(2)(a)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	Mr Richardson presented the greyhound 'Barsandi' (" <b>Greyhound</b> ") for the purposes of competing in race 7 at the Grafton meeting on 29 August 2021 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance;
<b>Prohibited Substance(s):</b>	Desmopressin
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	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, 'Barsandi' ("**Greyhound**") at the Grafton meeting on 29 August 2021.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory, confirming the presence of desmopressin.

#### **Evidence, plea and submissions**

On 18 November 2021 Mr Richardson 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. Mr Richardson was also provided with a brief of evidence.

On 14 January 2022 Mr Richardson responded to the Notice, providing written submissions and a completed Election Notice. Mr Richardson elected to plead guilty to the charge. Mr Richardson's submissions stated, in summary:

- Mr Richardson treats the Greyhound with medication that contains desmopressin;
- Mr Richardson provides the medication to the Greyhound to ensure her welfare and wellbeing;

- He expressed confusion, as the Greyhound has never returned a positive result prior to this matter;
- Mr Richardson’s explanation for the positive result was that the Greyhound did not consume the medication when he provided it to her, but instead consumed it on race day without his knowledge;
- Mr Richardson also made submissions as to the financial and emotional impact a suspension may have on him.

The decision makers have considered the evidence, as well as Mr Richardson’s plea and submissions and issue the following decision.

**DECISION:**

1. Mr Richardson is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 7 of the Grafton meeting on 29 August 2021 Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-Event swab revealed the presence of desmopressin. Desmopressin is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the Rules.
3. The decision makers charged Mr Richardson 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. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Richardson:
  - To suspend his registrations for a period of 8 weeks;
5. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
  - Greyhound racing penalty precedents in NSW;
  - The length of time Mr Richardson has held a trainer registration, being since 1988, a period of approximately 34 years;
  - Mr Richardson’s disciplinary history – importantly, a breach of Rule 83(2)(a) in 2019 in which a different prohibited substance was detected;
  - Mr Richardson’s admission of the charge at the earliest opportunity; and
  - Mr Richardson’s submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to the circumstances of the offending and his remorse.
6. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 7 at the Grafton meeting on 29 August 2021 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....