



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	Tuesday 15 November 2022
Decision-makers:	Deputy Chief Steward Troy Vassallo, Steward Jason Hodder and Steward Paul Van Gestal
Name of relevant person:	Nicholas Saloum
In Attendance	Dr Tony Kuipers (Chief Veterinary Officer) & David Batty (RASL Laboratory Director).
Track:	Bulli
Date:	19 July 2022
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr Nicholas Saloum presented the greyhound 'On The Blink' for the purposes of competing in race 4 at the Bulli meeting on 19 July 2022 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Strychnine
Disciplinary action taken:	To suspend Mr Saloum for a period of 2 months, with 1 month partially and conditionally suspended for a period of 12-months subject to you not breaching this rule or any like rule in this period. Penalty commences immediately & expires on 15 December 2022.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 23 August 2022, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'On The Blink' at the Bulli meeting on 19 July 2022.

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

DECISION:

1. Mr Saloum is a registered greyhound public trainer and the trainer of On The Blink ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 4 of the Bulli meeting on 19 July 2022. After the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.

2. The post event swab revealed the presence of Strychnine.
3. Strychnine is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
4. On 28 October 2022 Mr Saloum was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”) in relation to the charge, setting out the proposed disciplinary action to be taken and the grounds in support of that proposed disciplinary action.
5. In the Notice issued on 28 October 2022 the decision makers charged Mr Saloum with the offence under Rule 141(1)(a) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

Rule 141(1), Rules

(1) The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound:

(a) nominated to compete in an Event;

...

must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

...

(3) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound presented contrary to subrule (1) of this rule shall be guilty of an offence.

6. The Notice invited Mr Saloum to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge and the proposed penalty.
7. On Tuesday 15 November Mr Saloum attended the scheduled hearing with the decision makers and
 - entered a plea of guilty
 - made verbal submissions at the hearing
8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Saloum’s plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Saloum:

Charge 141 (1) (a): To suspend Mr Saloum for a period of 2 months with 1 month partially and conditionally suspended for a period of 12-months subject to you not breaching this rule or any like rule in this period.
8. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:

- Mr Saloum’s guilty plea;
 - Mr Saloum’s personal circumstances;
 - GWIC penalty guidelines;
 - Mr Saloum’s good record, having held a registration in the greyhound racing industry for 30 years with no prior prohibited substances matters;
 - The low level of Strychnine detected in the sample;
 - Inability to explain how the substance came to be detected in the greyhound.
9. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 4 at the Bulli meeting on 19 July 2022 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....