



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	19 December 2022
Decision-makers:	Stewards Sam Woolaston and Louise Warren
Name of relevant person:	Mr Michael Douglas Craig
Track:	Gunnedah and Tamworth
Date:	18 August 2022, 3 September 2022
Rule no.:	Rule 141(1)(a)
Charge (1):	Mr Michael Douglas Craig presented the greyhound 'FRANCO FERNANDO' for the purposes of competing in race 9 at the Gunnedah meeting on 18 August 2022 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Charge (2):	Mr Michael Douglas Craig presented the greyhound 'NO HARDY' for the purposes of competing in race 3 at the Tamworth meeting on 3 September 2022 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	(1) Heptaminol, Caffeine, Theophylline, Paraxanthine and Theobromine (2) Heptaminol
Disciplinary action taken:	To suspend Mr Craig's registrations for a period of 6 months commencing from Monday 19 December.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 24 August 2022 and another receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 9 September 2022, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'FRANCO FERNANDO' ("**First Greyhound**") at the Gunnedah meeting "**First Event**" on 18 August 2022 and a post-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'NO HARDY' ("**Second Greyhound**") at the Tamworth meeting "**Second Event**" on 3 September 2022.

Further analysis of the samples was conducted by the Australian Forensic Laboratory confirming the presence of Heptaminol, Caffeine, Theophylline, Paraxanthine and Theobromine.

DECISION:

1. Mr Craig is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of both greyhounds.
2. The **First Greyhound** competed in race 9 of the Grafton meeting on 18 August (**"First Event"**). Before the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound. The Pre event swab revealed the presence of Heptaminol, Caffeine, Theophylline, Paraxanthine and Theobromine which are prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules (**"Rules"**).
3. The **Second Greyhound** competed in race 3 of the Tamworth meeting on 3 September 2022 (**"Second Event"**). Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound. The post event swab revealed the presence of Heptaminol which is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules (**"Rules"**).
4. On November 24 Mr Michael Craig 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 November 24 the decision makers charged Mr Craig with the offence under Rule 141(1) 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 Craig to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge and the proposed penalty.
7. On 8 December 2022 Mr Craig did not attend the scheduled hearing with the decision makers and made written submissions prior to the hearing and on 17 December 2022 Mr Craig made further verbal submissions.

8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Craig'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 Craig:

Charge 1(Rule 141(1)(a)): To suspend Mr Craig's registrations for a period of 6 months.

Charge 2(Rule 141(1)(a)): To suspend Mr Craig's registrations for a period of 4 months to be served concurrently with charge 1.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:

- Greyhound racing penalty precedents in NSW;
- The length of time Mr Craig has held a registration in the greyhound racing industry, being since 2015 a period of approximately 7 years;
- Mr Craig's disciplinary history – 2 prior offences under Rule 141(1)(a)
- Mr Craig's plea of guilty at the earliest opportunity;
- Other factors considered in mitigation of penalty were Mr Craig's involvement in the greyhound industry as a participant and volunteer.

10. In addition, the **First Greyhound** was disqualified from race 9 at the Grafton meeting on 18 August pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules. The **Second Greyhound** was disqualified from race 3 at the Tamworth meeting on 3 September pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....