



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: Thursday 29 June 2023

Decision-maker: Chief Steward Troy Vassallo and Steward Peter Phillips,

Name of relevant person: Ernest Borg

Track: Richmond

Date: 14 April 2023

Rule no.: 141(1)(a)

Charge(s): Mr Ernest Borg presented the greyhound 'Rio Bravo' ("Greyhound") for the purposes of competing in race 1 at the Richmond meeting on 14 April 2023 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance

Prohibited Substance(s): Methylprednisolone

Plea: Guilty

Disciplinary action taken: \$1000 fine

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 22 May 2023, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post event urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Rio Bravo' at the Richmond meeting on 14 April 2023.

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

DECISION:

1. Mr Borg is a registered Public Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of 'Rio Bravo' ("Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 1 of the Richmond meeting on 14 April 2023. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post event swab revealed the presence of Methylprednisolone.
3. Methylprednisolone is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
4. On Wednesday 21 June 2023 Mr Borg was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").

5. In the Notice issued on 21 June 2023 the decision makers charged Mr Borg with an 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 proposed a penalty of a two-month suspension and invited Mr Borg to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.

7. At the hearing conducted via Teams on Thursday 29 June 2023, Mr Borg:

(a) entered a plea of guilty; and

(b) made verbal submissions

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

To issue a \$1000 fine

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

- Mr Borg's guilty plea (25% reduction);
- Mr Borg's 50 year registration history and good record, with no prior offending for a similar matter;
- Decision makers were not able to ascertain the cause for the detection of the substance;
- Personal and professional circumstances; and
- GWIC penalty guidelines.

10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 1 at the Richmond meeting on 14 April 2023 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....