



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	Tuesday 4 July 2023
Decision-maker:	Chief Operating Officer Wade Birch and Associate Director Investigations/Compliance Jamie Palmer
Name of relevant person:	Graham Sheather
Date:	24 February 2023
Rule no.:	174(7)(a)(i)
Charge(s):	Mr Graham Sheather was convicted of an offence that the Controlling Body is satisfied that Mr Sheather's continued participation with greyhound racing would be detrimental to the proper control or regulation of the industry.
Plea	None entered
Disciplinary action taken:	To disqualify Mr Sheather for six months. With the disqualification to commence 7 July 2023 and expire 6 January 2024

BACKGROUND

1. On 27 March 2022, Mr Graham Sheather attended the Young Greyhound Club.
2. During the meeting Mr Sheather engaged in a physical confrontation with a greyhound racing industry participant, throwing a single punch which impacted on the participant's head, causing a laceration to the nose.
3. On 24 February 2023, Mr Sheather was convicted in the Young Local Court of assault occasioning actual bodily harm to the greyhound racing industry participant and sentenced to a community correction order for a period of 12 months.

DECISION

4. On Tuesday 6 June 2023 the Commission issued Mr Sheather with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 6 June 2023 the decision makers charged Mr Sheather with an offence under Rule 174(7)(a)(i) of the Greyhound Racing Rules proposed a penalty of an 8-month disqualification. The Rule charged under reads:

Rule 174(7)(a)(i), Rules

(7) A Controlling Body or the Stewards may impose on a person any one or more penalties referred to in subrule (1) of this rule if:

a) the person has been convicted of an offence by any court and the Controlling Body is satisfied that:

(i) the nature of the offence is such that the person's continued participation or association with greyhound racing would be detrimental to the proper control and regulation of greyhound racing.

6. The Notice invited Mr Sheather to attend a hearing on Thursday 15 June 2023 via Microsoft Teams to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. Mr Sheather declined the opportunity to attend a hearing or enter a plea and asked that the matter be heard in his absence.
8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and therefore took the following disciplinary action against Mr Sheather:

Charge (Rule 174(7)(a)(i)): To disqualify Mr Sheather for six-months.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Sheather's time in the industry, a period of approximately 38 years;
 - The objective seriousness of the criminal charge;
 - Mr Sheather's lack of any previous disciplinary history; and
 - Mr Sheather's lack of plea or submissions in respect of the charge.

.....End.....