



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	Saturday 9 December 2023
Decision-maker:	Senior Steward Dean Degan, and Casual Steward Craig Pringle
Name of relevant person:	Graeme Smith
Track:	Dubbo
Date:	12 September 2023
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr Graeme Smith presented the greyhound 'Wishbone' for the purposes of competing in race 10 at the Dubbo meeting on 12 September 2023 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.
Prohibited Substance(s):	Metformin
Plea:	Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a suspension of three months, commencing Midnight Saturday 9 December 2023 and ending Midnight Saturday March 9, 2024.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 19 October 2023, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Wishbone" at the Dubbo meeting on 12 September 2023.

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

DECISION:

1. Mr Smith is a registered Public Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of "Wishbone" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 10 of the Dubbo meeting on 12 September 2023. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-event swab revealed the presence of Metformin.

3. Metformin is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
4. On 5 December 2023 Mr Smith was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 5 December 2023 the decision makers charged Mr Smith 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 six-month suspension and invited Mr Smith to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. On Saturday 9 December 2023 Mr Smith attended a hearing held at the Dubbo Greyhound Club and;
 - Entered a plea of Guilty; and
 - Made verbal submissions
8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Smith plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Smith:

Charge 141 (1) (a): To issue a suspension of three months.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Smith's guilty plea (25% reduction)
 - Mr Smith's registration history, with a record of a prior category three positive substance matter within the past three years
 - GWIC penalty guidelines

10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 10 at the Dubbo meeting on 12 September 2023 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....