



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	Thursday 22 February 2024
Decision-maker:	Senior Steward Dean Degan, and Steward Shannon Kearney
Name of relevant person:	Patrick Lavis
Track	Casino
Date:	17 November 2023
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr Patrick Lavis presented the greyhound 'Edge Gambler' for the purposes of competing in race 9 at the Casino meeting on 17 November 2023 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Caffeine and its metabolites Theophylline, Paraxanthine and Theobromine
Plea:	Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a fine of \$2,000

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 27 December 2023, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Edge Gambler" at the Casino meeting on 17 November 2023.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory confirming the presence of Caffeine and its metabolites Theophylline, Paraxanthine and Theobromine.

DECISION:

- 1) Mr Lavis is a registered Public Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of "Edge Gambler" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 9 of the Casino meeting on 17 November 2023. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.

- 2) The post-event swab revealed the presence of Caffeine and its metabolites Theophylline, Paraxanthine and Theobromine.
- 3) Caffeine and its metabolites Theophylline, Paraxanthine and Theobromine is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
- 4) On 6 February 2024 Mr Lavis was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
- 5) In the Notice issued on 6 February 2024 the decision makers charged Mr Lavis 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 four-month suspension and invited Mr Lavis to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
- 7) On Thursday 22 February 2024 Mr Lavis attended a hearing held at the Casino Greyhound Club and;
 - a) entered a plea of guilty;
 - b) made verbal submissions

- 8) In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Lavis’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 Lavis:

Charge 141(1)(a): To issue a fine of \$2,000

- 9) In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Lavis’s guilty plea (25% reduction)

- Mr Lavis' 52-year registration history and good record, with no like prior offences despite the large number of greyhounds in his care
- GWIC penalty guidelines

10) In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 9 at the Casino meeting on 17 November 2023 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....