



**GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION**  
**DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

**Date of decision:** Thursday 7 March 2024

**Decision-maker:** Chief Steward Troy Vassallo and Steward Jason Hodder

**Name of relevant person:** Denice Warren

**Track:** Wentworth Park

**Date:** 25 November 2023

**Rule no.:** 141(1)(a)

**Charge(s):** Ms Denice Warren presented the greyhound 'Infrared Rays' for the purposes of competing in race 1 at the Wentworth Park meeting on 25 November 2023 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance

**Prohibited Substance(s):** Phenobarbitone

**Plea:** Guilty

**Disciplinary action taken:** To issue a suspension of six weeks, wholly and conditionally suspended for twelve months pending no further breaches under this or any like rule.

**INVESTIGATION**

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 29 January 2024, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Infrared Rays" at the Wentworth Park meeting on 25 November 2023.

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

**DECISION:**

1. Ms Warren is a registered Public Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of "Infrared Rays" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 1 of the Wentworth Park meeting on 25 November 2023. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.

2. The post-event swab revealed the presence of Phenobarbitone.
3. Phenobarbitone is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
4. On 4 March 2024 Ms Warren was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 4 March 2024 the decision makers charged Ms Warren 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 Ms Warren to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. On Thursday 7 March 2024 Ms Warren attended a hearing held over Microsoft Teams and:
  - a) entered a plea of guilty; and
  - b) made verbal submissions
8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Ms Warren's plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Ms Warren:

**Charge 141(1)(a):** To issue a suspension of six weeks, wholly and conditionally suspended for twelve months pending no further breaches under this or any like rule.

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

- Ms Warren's guilty plea (25% reduction)
- Ms Warren's 40-year registration history with no like prior offences
- Ms. Warren's contribution to the industry over this period
- Ms. Warren's personal and professional circumstances, and commitment to reviewing and improving husbandry practices
- GWIC penalty guidelines

10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 1 at the Wentworth Park meeting on 25 November 2023 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....