



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: Tuesday 26 March 2024

Decision-maker: Chief Operating Officer Wade Birch and Chief Steward Troy Vassallo

Name of relevant person: Gregory Stewart

Track: Richmond Straight

Date: 30 September 2023

Rule no.: 141(1)(a)

Charge(s):

Mr Gregory Stewart presented the greyhound 'Ripped Raccon' for the purpose of competing in race 10 at the Richmond Straight meeting on 30 September 2023 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

Prohibited Substance(s): Nandrolone and its metabolites 5 α -estrane-3 β ,17 α -diol and 5 α -estrane-3 β ,17 β -diol

Plea: Not Guilty

Disciplinary action taken: To impose an 8-month disqualification, to commence Wednesday 27 March 2024 and expire Wednesday 27 November 2024.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 24 November 2023, the Commission investigated the results of a pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Ripped Raccoon" at the Richmond Straight meeting on 30 September 2023.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the New Zealand Racing Laboratory confirming the presence Nandrolone and its metabolites 5 α -estrane-3 β ,17 α -diol and 5 α -estrane-3 β ,17 β -diol.

DECISION:

1. Mr. Stewart is a registered Owner Trainer and the trainer of “Ripped Raccoon” (“the Greyhound”). The Greyhound competed in race 10 at the Richmond Straight meeting on 30 September 2023. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-race swab revealed the presence of Nandrolone and its metabolites 5 α -estrane-3 β ,17 α -diol and 5 α -estrane-3 β ,17 β -diol.
3. Nandrolone and its metabolites 5 α -estrane-3 β ,17 α -diol and 5 α -estrane-3 β ,17 β -diol is a permanently banned prohibited substance under Rule 139(1)(t).
4. On 13 March 2024 Mr Stewart was issued with a notice of charge (“**Notice**”)
5. In the Notice issued on 13 March 2024 the decision makers charged Mr Stewart with a charge for breaching the following Greyhound Racing Rule:

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 invited Mr Stewart to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. On Wednesday March 20, 2024, Mr Stewart attended a hearing held via Microsoft Teams and;
 - entered a not guilty plea; and
 - made verbal submissions
8. On Thursday March 21, 2024, decision makers issued Mr Stewart a notice of proposed disciplinary action, requesting written submissions on the proposed penalty by 4pm Monday 25 March, 2024.
9. On Sunday 24 March 2024 Mr. Stewart provided decision makers written submissions in response to the proposed penalty.

10. In determining the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Stewart's plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and issued the following penalty:

Charge 1 – To impose an 8-month disqualification, to commence Wednesday 27 March 2024 and expire Wednesday 27 November 2024.

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

- Mr. Stewart's plea of not guilty;
- The length of time Mr. Stewart has held a registration, a period of approximately 30 years. This factor was considered at first instance by the decision makers, and they determined to propose a starting point penalty lesser than that of the usual penalty outlined in the Commission's Penalty Guidelines of a 2-year disqualification, in recognition of this extended period in the industry;
- Mr. Stewart's disciplinary history, noting he has no prior breaches of any like rule;
- Mr. Stewart's record of contributions to the industry;
- The submissions made by Mr. Stewart in respect of his professional and personal circumstances;
- Previous decisions made by GWIC relating to these permanently banned prohibited substances.

12. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 10 at the Richmond Straight meeting on 30 September 2023 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....