

DECISION

**The Rules of Racing of Racing Queensland – Greyhounds
Part 9 – Misconduct / Offences; Division 3: Other animal welfare offences**

Inquiry Number: G-27-003

Participant: Michelle Sultana

Stewards: Paul Mclean (Chairperson)
Tony Flymen (Panel)

Code: Greyhounds

Rule: Greyhounds Australasia Rule 162(c)
An offence is committed if a person uses a greyhound for breeding purposes when the person is not registered or licensed as a breeder.

Penalty Notice: PN-013316

Hearing Date: 22 July 2026

Decision Date: 22 July 2026

Charge: Ms Michelle Sultana engaged the greyhound Expertise in breeding activities when she did not hold a current breeder's license with QRIC.

Plea: Guilty

Penalty: \$250 fine

Reasons for Decision

1. In determining the appropriate penalty in this matter, the Stewards gave careful and balanced consideration to all relevant circumstances surrounding the breach and Ms Sultana's personal and professional situation.
2. The Stewards noted Ms Sultana's plea of guilty to the charge, which was entered at the earliest opportunity. This plea was afforded weight as a mitigating factor, particularly when considered alongside Ms Sultana's forthright manner and cooperative approach throughout the inquiry process. Ms Sultana provided clear and honest evidence, and there was no attempt to minimise or deflect responsibility for her actions.

3. The Stewards further considered Ms Sultana's experience within the greyhound racing industry, noting that she has participated as a trainer for approximately twenty-seven (27) years and breeder for approximately four (4) years. During that time, Ms Sultana has maintained a satisfactory disciplinary record, with no prior breaches recorded under Greyhounds Australasia Rule 162(c). This absence of relevant prior offending was considered as a mitigating factor.
4. Consideration was also given to Ms Sultana's personal circumstances, including her reliance on the greyhound racing industry as her primary source of income. While the Stewards acknowledged that any penalty imposed may have a financial impact, they remained mindful that personal hardship cannot outweigh the need to uphold the integrity of the regulatory framework governing greyhound racing.
5. In determining penalty, the Stewards emphasised the importance of maintaining public confidence in the integrity of the greyhound racing industry. Compliance with breeding registration requirements is fundamental to ensuring transparency, traceability, and confidence in the administration of the sport. The Stewards also recognised the need for general deterrence, noting that penalties imposed in matters of this nature must send a clear message to industry participants regarding the importance of strict adherence to the Rules of Racing.
6. The Stewards reviewed relevant penalty precedents relating to breaches involving breeder registration requirements. Reference was made to the matters involving Mr Stephen Evans (2026) and Mr Lawrence Topping (2017) pleaded guilty to a breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 126 for acting as a breeder without holding the necessary breeder's licence. Both prior matters were considered to be broadly comparable and provided appropriate guidance in assessing penalty in the present matter.

Human Rights

7. The Stewards gave due consideration to the provisions of the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld), recognising that the imposition of any penalty may engage Ms Sultana's rights, including rights relating to property and livelihood. The Stewards were satisfied that any limitation of those rights by the imposition of a monetary penalty is reasonable, justified, and proportionate in order to achieve the legitimate objectives of maintaining

industry integrity, ensuring compliance with the Rules of Racing, and protecting public confidence in greyhound racing.

8. The Stewards considered that the purpose of imposing a monetary penalty for a breach of the Rules of Racing is to maintain public confidence in the conduct of greyhound racing in Queensland, ensure the integrity of all persons involved in racing and betting under the Racing Integrity Act 2016, and safeguard the welfare of all animals involved in the sport.
9. Having considered whether less restrictive disciplinary options, such as a caution or reprimand, would be sufficient, the Stewards determined that such outcomes would not adequately enforce compliance or achieve the objectives outlined above. The imposition of a monetary penalty was considered necessary and proportionate, serving both as a personal deterrent to Ms Sultana and as a general deterrent to the wider industry.

Penalty Decision

10. Having weighed all the relevant considerations, including mitigating factors, applicable precedents, and the need for deterrence, the Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty in this matter is a monetary fine in the amount of \$250.00.

Right of Review

11. Ms Sultana was advised that pursuant to Chapter 6 of the Racing Integrity Act 2016 (Qld) provides the right for a review of a racing decision of a steward, noting any application for review must be made within three (3) business days of this decision.