

DECISION

**Greyhounds Australasia Rules [Nov 2025], rule 164(b)
Queensland Local Rules of Racing – Greyhound, rule LR11C**

Inquiry Number: G-27-006

Participant: Michael Peterson

Stewards: Michael Fernholz (Chairperson)
Dan Broxham (Panel)

Code: Greyhounds

Rule: Greyhounds Australasia Rule 164(b)
An offense is committed if a person (including an official) refuses or fails to attend or to give evidence at an inquiry (or at any other disciplinary process, hearing or appeal proceeding) or produce a document or other thing in relation to an investigation, examination, test or inquiry (or other disciplinary process, hearing or appeal proceeding) pursuant to rules when direct by a controlling body, the stewards, or another authorised person.

Penalty Notice: PN-013444

Hearing Date: 7 August 2026

Decision Date: 17 August 2026

Charge: That Mr Michael Peterson failed to attend a Stewards inquiry on 7 August 2026, which he was directed to attend by Stewards on 31 July 2026.

Plea: Nil – absent

Background

1. On Monday, 27 July 2026 Stewards declared greyhounds *Lead Foot Larry* and *Lead Foot Harry* as abandoned under the provisions of Queensland Local Rules of Racing – Greyhound LR11C Abandonment of a greyhound, which reads:

(1) The owner of a greyhound must not abandon a greyhound.

(2) The Controlling Body may deem a greyhound to be abandoned in the following circumstances:

- (a) the greyhound is registered; and*
 - (b) the greyhound is in the custody of a registered participant or other person who is not the owner of the greyhound; and*
 - (c) the registered participant, or other person who has custody of the greyhound, has requested the owner to resume custody of the greyhound or otherwise provide for the care of the greyhound; and*
 - (d) the owner has failed to do so; and*
 - (e) the Controlling Body has notified the owner of its intention to deem the greyhound to be abandoned if the owner does not resume custody of the greyhound within 14 days of the date of the notice; and*
 - (f) the owner has failed to comply with the notice.*
- (3) A greyhound deemed to be abandoned pursuant to LR11C(2) is to be retired and transferred to the Greyhound Adoption Program or other person or organisation as directed by the Controlling Body.*

2. Following the issue of the notice of abandonment on 27 July 2026, Stewards questioned Mr Peterson regarding the circumstances concerning the greyhounds *Lead Foot Larry* and *Lead Foot Harry*. During those communications, Mr Peterson demonstrated a lack of accountability and failed to accept the responsibilities expected of a registered greyhound owner. On Friday, 31 July 2026, Stewards issued Mr Michael Peterson with a formal notice of inquiry directing him to attend an inquiry to be held on 7 August 2026, for the purpose of answering questions in relation to the greyhounds *Lead Foot Larry* and *Lead Foot Harry*, which had been left in the care of another participant. Mr Peterson failed to attend the inquiry as directed and did not contact Stewards to provide any explanation for his non-attendance.

Charge

3. Having considered Mr Petersons' failure to attend the inquiry as directed, the Stewards issued him a charge in writing under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule (GAR) 164(b), which reads:

An offense is committed if a person (including an official) refuses or fails to attend or to give evidence at an inquiry (or at any other disciplinary process, hearing or appeal proceeding) or produce a document or other thing in relation to an investigation, examination, test or inquiry (or other disciplinary process, hearing or appeal proceeding) pursuant to rules when direct by a controlling body, the stewards, or another authorised person.

3. The specifics of the charge were:

Mr Michael Peterson failed to attend a Stewards inquiry on 7 August 2026, which he was directed to attend by Stewards on 31 July 2026.

Stewards' Findings on Charge

5. Mr Peterson was afforded until Friday, 14 August 2026 to respond to the charge. After not receiving any communication from Mr Peterson, the Stewards proceeded with their inquiry in his absence under the provisions of GAR 170 Inquiries or other disciplinary process, which reads:

(6) Where a person is serviced with notice of an inquiry or other disciplinary process in accordance with the rules but does not appear at the inquiry or other disciplinary process, it may proceed in the absence of that person.

6. The Stewards considered the relevant circumstances of the matter and formally found Mr Peterson guilty of the charge under GAR 164(b).

Stewards Findings on Penalty

7. The Stewards considered the seriousness of Mr Peterson's failure to comply with a direction issued under the Rules of Racing to attend and participate in the inquiry. Attendance at an inquiry, and the giving of evidence when required, are fundamental obligations within the greyhound racing industry. These obligations enable Stewards and the Commission to properly investigate matters affecting racing integrity, maintain public confidence in the conduct of lawful wagering on greyhound racing in Queensland, and ensure appropriate oversight of animal welfare matters.
8. In assessing penalty, the Stewards also had regard to Mr Peterson's conduct following the abandonment of the greyhounds *Lead Foot Larry* and *Lead Foot Harry*. His failure to attend the inquiry as directed, together with his apparent unwillingness to accept responsibility for matters arising under his ownership, demonstrated a disregard for the accountability and cooperation expected of a licensed greyhound owner. The Stewards were satisfied that the penalty imposed must reflect the seriousness of that conduct and operate as both a specific deterrent to Mr Peterson and a general deterrent to other participants in the Queensland greyhound racing industry.

Penalty Decision

9. The original inquiry in relation to the abandoned greyhounds *Lead Foot Larry* and *Lead Foot Harry* with another participant, remains open.
10. Having regard to the findings above for the failure to attend the inquiry, the Stewards determined that Mr Michael Peterson be Warned Off, until such time he presents himself for questioning in relation to his greyhounds and the remaining open inquiry is finalised.

Appeal Rights

11. Mr Petersons' was sent his right to appeal this decision to the Queensland Racing Appeals Panel must be within three (3) business days pursuant to section 252AB(2) of the *Racing Integrity Act 2016* (Qld).