

DECISION

The Rules of Racing of Racing Queensland – Greyhounds Part 8 - Prohibited Substances And Prohibited Methods

Inquiry Number: G-27-005

Participant: Paul Cauchi

Stewards: Cameron Ferguson (Chairperson)
Tony Flymen (Panel)
Rachel Berry (Panel)

Code: Greyhounds

Rule: Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(1)(a)
The owner, trainer or other person in charge of greyhound nominated to compete in an Event must present the greyhound free of a prohibited substance.

Greyhound Australasia Rule 151(1)
The person in charge of a greyhound must keep and retain written records detailing all vaccinations, antiparasitics and treatments administered.

Penalty Notice: PN-013359, PN-013363

Hearing Date: 31 July 2026

Decision Date: 31 July 2026

Charge 1: As the trainer of Born To Race, Mr Paul Cauchi presented that greyhound to compete in race 8 at the Queensland Greyhound Racing Club (Q Straight) on 27 April 2026 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Dexamethasone.

Charge 2: As the trainer of Born To Race Mr Paul Cauchi failed to record in his treatment record book that Dexamethasone was administered on the prescribed day.

Plea: Guilty to all charges

Penalty: Charge 1 - \$1500 fine
Charge 2 - \$500 fine

Background

1. This Stewards' inquiry was convened to address a positive post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Born To Race, trained by Mr Paul Cauchi, when that greyhound competed on 27 April 2026 at the Queensland Greyhound Racing Club (QGRC) – Q Straight.
2. The Stewards received two certificates of analysis from the Racing Science Centre (RSC) in Queensland and Racing Analytical Services Ltd (RASL) in Victoria. Both certificates confirmed the detection of the prohibited substance Dexamethasone. The RASL certificate further indicated that was not detected in the control fluid.
3. During the inquiry, the Stewards reviewed several pieces of evidence to assess the circumstances surrounding the positive sample. Treatment records provided by Mr Cauchi were examined and found to be inaccurate. Mr Cauchi also made verbal submissions, of which he described to the panel as to where he thought the source of the positive had come from.
4. Additionally, the Stewards also heard expert evidence from Dr Stacey Flynn, Chief Veterinary Officer QRIC and Dr Shawn Stanley, General Manager of Analytical Services at Racing Science Centre QRIC.

Charges

5. The Stewards considered all available evidence and determined that Mr Cauchi had two charges to answer. The first charge was issued under the provisions of GAR 141(1)(a), which states:

The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound, nominated to compete in an Event, must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

6. The specifics of the first charge were:

As the trainer of Born To Race, Mr Paul Cauchi presented that greyhound to compete in race 8 at the Queensland Greyhound Racing Club (Q Straight) on 27 April 2026 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Dexamethasone.

7. The Stewards also issued a second charge against Mr Cauchi under the provisions of GAR 151(1), which states:

The person in charge of a greyhound must keep and retain written records detailing all vaccinations, antiparasitics and treatments administered.

8. The specifics of the second charge were:

As the trainer of Born To Race Mr Paul Cauchi failed to record in his treatment record book that Dexamethasone was administered on the prescribed day.

9. Ms Cauchi acknowledged his understanding of both rules and charges and pleaded guilty.

Penalty Considerations

10. In determining this matter, the Stewards carefully considered all evidence presented during the inquiry, including the submissions made by Mr Paul Cauchi, the expert evidence provided by Dr Stacey Flynn, Chief Veterinary Officer of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, and Dr Shawn Stanley, General Manager of Analytical Services at the Racing Science Centre, together with the relevant Rules of Racing and established penalty principles.
11. Mr Cauchi entered pleas of guilty to both charges and submitted that he had no knowledge of the presence of the prohibited substance Dexamethasone in the greyhound Born To Race when it competed in Race 8 at the Queensland Greyhound Racing Club on 27 April 2026. Mr Cauchi further submitted that approximately three weeks had elapsed between the administration of the medication and the greyhound competing, and that he believed this period was sufficient to ensure the greyhound was free of the substance when presented to race.
12. The Stewards considered the expert evidence of Dr Flynn and Dr Stanley regarding the properties of Dexamethasone, the analytical findings reported by the Racing Science Centre and Racing Analytical Services Ltd, and the relevance of the treatment history provided during the inquiry. That evidence assisted the Stewards in assessing the explanations advanced by Mr Cauchi and the circumstances surrounding the detection of the prohibited substance.

13. The Stewards also carefully considered the treatment records produced by Mr Cauchi. The records formed an important evidentiary component of the inquiry, particularly as they related to the administration of medications and the explanation advanced for the positive sample. However, the Stewards were satisfied that the treatment records were not maintained accurately and did not properly record the relevant administration of Dexamethasone. The Stewards considered this to be a significant matter given that accurate and contemporaneous treatment records are fundamental to maintaining integrity, ensuring transparency in prohibited substance investigations, supporting animal welfare outcomes, and assisting participants in managing their obligations under the Rules of Racing.
14. The Stewards accepted that Mr Cauchi was cooperative throughout the investigation and hearing process and acknowledged his lengthy involvement in the greyhound racing industry. The Stewards did not find evidence of deliberate or reckless conduct. However, the inquiry highlighted deficiencies in the management and recording of treatments administered to greyhounds in his care. The Stewards considered that the failure to accurately maintain treatment records diminished the ability to properly verify the treatment history relied upon during the inquiry and reinforced the importance of strict compliance with the record-keeping requirements prescribed by GAR 151(1).
15. The Stewards therefore assessed the matter having regard to both the presentation of a greyhound with a prohibited substance in its system and the separate failure to maintain accurate treatment records, recognising that each obligation serves an important role in protecting the integrity of greyhound racing and maintaining public confidence in the sport.

Findings on Penalty

16. Having found Mr Cauchi's guilty of the charges under GAR 141(1)(a), and GAR 151(1) the Stewards turned their attention to determining an appropriate penalty. In doing so, they carefully considered Mr Cauchi's submissions, his personal and professional circumstances, and the broader implications for the greyhound racing industry.
17. The Stewards acknowledged Mr Cauchi's extensive experience in the greyhound racing industry, spanning almost 70 years, during which he has maintained an exemplary disciplinary record. His cooperation and forthrightness throughout the inquiry were also noted.

18. Dexamethasone being a prohibited substance in greyhound racing. The presence of such a substance in a racing greyhound undermines the integrity of the sport and the principle of fair competition. The Stewards emphasised the importance of maintaining drug-free racing to uphold public confidence in the sport and ensure a level playing field for all participants.
19. The Stewards also considered the broader implications of the penalty on Mr Cauchi's personal and professional circumstances. As a professional trainer, greyhound racing is Mr Cauchi's main source of income. A disqualification or suspension would have significant financial and reputational consequences for him. The Stewards recognised the potential impact of a penalty on Mr Cauchi's livelihood but emphasised the need to balance this with the overarching purpose of the rules, which is to maintain public confidence in the integrity of greyhound racing and safeguard the welfare of all animals involved in the sport.
20. The Stewards accepted that Mr Cauchi did not engage in deliberate or reckless conduct, however, did see the need for an improvement in the future of husbandry practices when administering pain relief and the need to maintain accurate treatment records of all greyhounds on the property.
21. Stewards reviewed penalty precedents for similar cases involving the prohibited substance Dexamethasone precedents included penalties imposed on Stella (May 2026 QRIC) where it was determined that contamination was the most probable cause for the presence of the substance. Stewards also considered Hassall (QRIC, Feb 2024) in which case Dexamethasone was present in the relevant greyhound. The penalties in these cases were monetary fines, with varying degrees of leniency afforded depending on the circumstances of each case. The Stewards also referred to the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines 2023, which classify dexamethasone as a Category 3 substance and provides a framework for determining appropriate penalties.

Human Rights

22. The Stewards further considered Mr Cauchi's human rights under the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld). While acknowledging that any penalty may limit Mr Cauchi's rights to property (Section 24), specifically his trainer's licence, the Stewards determined that the penalty was necessary to achieve the purposes of the Racing Integrity Act 2016. These purposes include maintaining public confidence in the sport, ensuring compliance with the

rules, and safeguarding animal welfare. The Stewards concluded that a caution or reprimand would not sufficiently enforce compliance or achieve these purposes.

23. The Stewards considered whether a less restrictive outcome, such as a caution or reprimand, or only a monetary fine would adequately address the offending. Having regard to the nature of the breach, the presence of a prohibited substance in a racing greyhound, and the need for both specific and general deterrence, the Stewards determined that a monetary fine would sufficiently reflect the seriousness of the matter and promote future compliance.
24. The Stewards were therefore satisfied that a monetary fine was a proportionate penalty compatible with the Human rights Act 2019 (QLD). It is recognised that Mr Cauchi's circumstances while also reinforcing the importance of drug free racing and maintaining confidence in the integrity of the greyhound racing industry.

Penalty Decision

25. The stewards have determined the penalty to be a \$1500.00 fine on Charge 1 and \$500.00 fine on Charge 2.
26. Additionally, under Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Born To Race is disqualified from the relevant race, and any prize money associated with the event must be returned to Racing Queensland.

Right of Review

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