QUEENSLAND RACING INTEGRITY COMMISSION

DECISION

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

Inquiry Number:	G-27-015
Participant:	Cameron Betts
Stewards:	Paul McLean (Chairperson) Cameron Ferguson (Panel)
Code:	Greyhound
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.*
Penalty Notice:	PN-013697
Hearing Date:	21 October 2026
Decision Date:	21 October 2026
Charge:	As the trainer of Rupee's Revenge, Mr Cameron Betts did present that greyhound to compete in race 8 at the Queensland Greyhound Racing Club (Q2 Parklands) on 4 July 2026 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Heptaminol.
Plea:	Guilty
Penalty:	$2000 fine

Reasons for Decision

Background

1. This inquiry concerned the presentation of Rupee's Revenge, trained by Mr Cameron Betts, to compete in Race 8 at the Queensland Greyhound Racing Club on 4 July 2026. A pre-race sample collected from Rupee's Revenge was found to contain the prohibited substance Heptaminol.

2. The Racing Science Centre detected Heptaminol in the A Portion of the sample. Confirmatory analysis of the B Portion by Racing Analytical Services Ltd also detected Heptaminol and reported

the substance was not detected in the control fluid. The Stewards also received expert evidence from Dr Shawn Stanley, General Manager of Analytical Services at the Racing Science Centre.

3. The Stewards considered the certificates of analysis, Mr Betts's evidence and submissions, his treatment records, which were examined and found to be accurate, and the other material relevant to the positive sample. Having regard to that evidence and Mr Betts's plea of guilty, the Stewards were satisfied that the elements of GAR 141(1)(a) were established, accepted his plea, and formally found him guilty of the charge.

Submissions & Considerations

4. Mr Betts submitted in his opinion the likely source of the substance Heptaminol being present in the sample was through a product called Enerselen, which he administers to Rupee's Revenge as part of the greyhound's post-race recovery.

5. Mr Betts further submitted that after being notified of the initial analytical finding in the A Portion of the sample, he immediately reviewed his use of Enerselen and changed his husbandry practices to reduce the risk of a similar breach occurring.

6. Mr Betts was of the view the applicable withholding period for Enerselen to be five (5) days based off the dosage administered. However, Dr Shawn Stanley, General Manager of Analytical Services at the Racing Science Centre provided evidence that Heptaminol may remain detectable beyond that period. The Stewards accepted Dr Stanley's expert evidence. Having considered Mr Betts's treatment records, evidence and submissions, the Stewards accepted that Enerselen was the likely source of the Heptaminol detected in the sample and Mr Betts had not knowingly presented Rupee's Revenge to compete with a prohibited substance in its system. This finding did not displace Mr Betts's responsibility under GAR 141(1)(a) but was relevant to the assessment of his culpability and the appropriate penalty.

Findings on Penalty

7. In determining the outcome of this matter, the Stewards carefully considered the evidence presented, the submissions made by Mr Betts and the relevant rules and principles governing greyhound racing. The Stewards acknowledged Mr Betts's cooperation and forthrightness throughout the inquiry, along with Mr Betts entering a plea of Guilty to the charge submitted, that he had no knowledge of the presence of the prohibited substance Heptaminol in his greyhound Rupee's Revenge when it competed.

8. Having found Mr Betts guilty of the charge under GAR 141(1)(a), the Stewards turned their attention to determining an appropriate penalty. In doing so, they carefully considered Mr Bett's's submissions, his personal and professional circumstances, and the broader implications for the greyhound racing industry.

9. In mitigation, the Stewards took into account Mr Betts's early plea of guilty, his cooperation and forthrightness throughout the inquiry, and his excellent disciplinary record over approximately seven years in the greyhound racing industry. The Stewards also considered his treatment records, his explanation concerning the administration of Enerselen, his acceptance of responsibility and the changes he made to his husbandry practices after being notified of the initial analytical finding. These matters demonstrated insight into the cause of the breach and reduced the need for specific deterrence.

10. The Stewards also considered the broader implications of the penalty on Mr Betts's personal and professional circumstances. As a professional trainer, greyhound racing is Mr Betts'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 Betts'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.

11. The Stewards considered the applicable Penalty Guidelines and reviewed comparable decisions involving Heptaminol, including penalties imposed on Dillon (October 2026 QRIC) which incurred $2500 fine, Alaban (November 2025 GWIC) which incurred $750 fine and an 8-week suspension wholly suspended, and O'Keefe (October 2025 GWIC) which incurred $750 fine. The Stewards recognised that comparable decisions are not determinative and that each matter must be decided according to its own facts. However, those decisions assisted in identifying the available penalty range and maintaining consistency in the treatment of similar offending.

12. In assessing the objective seriousness of the breach, the Stewards considered that GAR 141(1)(a) imposes an obligation on a trainer to present a greyhound to compete free of a prohibited substance. Heptaminol is classified as a Category 2 substance under the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines 2023. The presence of a prohibited substance in a racing greyhound is inherently serious because it has the capacity to undermine fair competition and public confidence in the integrity of greyhound racing. However, the Stewards accepted that Mr Betts had not acted deliberately or recklessly and had not knowingly presented Rupee's Revenge with Heptaminol in its system. His culpability was therefore assessed as being at the lower end of the range for offending of this kind.

13. The Stewards considered the need for the penalty to reinforce the responsibility placed upon trainers to exercise appropriate care when administering products to racing greyhounds. The penalty was also required to provide both specific and general deterrence and to make clear to industry participants that reliance upon an assumed withholding period does not displace the obligation imposed by GAR 141(1)(a).

Human Rights

14. In determining the appropriate penalty, the Stewards considered Mr Betts's human rights under the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld). The Stewards recognised that the imposition of a monetary penalty may limit Mr Betts's property rights under section 24 of the Act. However, the limitation serves the legitimate purposes of enforcing compliance with the Rules, deterring prohibited-substance breaches and maintaining public confidence in the integrity of greyhound racing.

15. The Stewards considered whether a less restrictive outcome, including a caution or reprimand, would adequately reflect the seriousness of the breach and achieve those purposes. Having regard to the presence of a prohibited substance in a greyhound presented to compete and the need for general deterrence, the Stewards determined that a caution or reprimand would be insufficient. The Stewards also considered whether a suspension or disqualification was necessary but concluded that such an outcome would be disproportionate given Mr Betts's lower level of culpability, guilty plea, cooperation, disciplinary record, and remedial action.

16. The Stewards were therefore satisfied that a monetary fine represented the least restrictive reasonably available penalty capable of adequately addressing the offending. The limitation on Mr Betts's rights was reasonable, justified and proportionate to the regulatory purposes sought to be achieved.

Penalty Decision

17. Having considered the objective seriousness of the breach, the need for general deterrence, the mitigating considerations, the Penalty Guidelines, the comparable decisions and the human rights implications of the available sanctions, the Stewards determined that a fine of $2,000 was appropriate.

18. Additionally, under the provisions of GAR 141(4), Rupee's Revenge is disqualified from the relevant race, and any prize money associated with the event must be returned to Racing Queensland.

Right of Review

19. 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.