

DECISION

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

Inquiry Number:	G-27-013
Participant:	Jessica Wendt
Stewards:	Tony Flymen (Chairperson) James Philp (Panel)
Code:	Greyhounds
Rule:	Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(1)(a) <i>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.</i>
Penalty Notice:	PN-012001
Hearing Date:	8 October 2026
Decision Date:	8 October 2026
Charge:	Miss Jessica Wendt, as the registered trainer of the greyhound Clear Breeze, nominated to compete in race 10 at Queensland Greyhound Racing Club on 6 May 2026, presented that greyhound to compete when it was not free of a prohibited substance, namely Theobromine and Theophylline, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in the post-race urine sample.
Plea:	Guilty
Penalty:	4-month suspension (wholly suspended for 24 months) and a \$500 fine.

Reasons for Decision

Penalty Submissions

1. Miss Wendt acknowledged that she understood the rule and the charge of presenting the greyhound to race with a substance in its system, and pleaded guilty.
2. In her submissions, Miss Wendt strongly emphasised that she had not knowingly or unknowingly administered the substance to the greyhound.

3. Miss Wendt further submitted that she had identified the likely cause of the substance being present in her greyhound and had immediately amended her animal husbandry practices to prevent any further breaches. Her explanation for the substance breach—that accidental contamination occurred while transporting the greyhound to the track in her vehicle—was considered plausible by the Stewards. This was supported expert witness evidence at the inquiry.

Penalty Consideration

4. The Stewards acknowledged Miss Wendt’s cooperation and forthrightness throughout the inquiry, as well as her guilty plea at the earliest opportunity.
5. The presence of Theobromine and Theophylline 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.
6. The Stewards also considered the broader implications of the penalty for Miss Wendt’s personal and professional circumstances. They recognised the potential impact a penalty may have upon Miss Wendt’s livelihood but emphasised the need to balance this against the overarching purposes of the rules: maintaining public confidence in the integrity of greyhound racing and safeguarding the welfare of all animals involved in the sport.
7. The Stewards accepted that Miss Wendt had not engaged in deliberate or reckless conduct and that there was no evidence of intentional administration of Theobromine or Theophylline. Her treatment records were accurate, her cooperation was full and candid. These matters weighed positively in assessing her culpability.

Comparative Penalties

8. In addition to Miss Wendt’s submissions, the Stewards reviewed penalty precedents involving the prohibited substances Theobromine and Theophylline. These included penalties imposed in Heather (QRIC, August 2026), Langley (GRV, June 2026) and Harris (GRV, April 2026), which ranged from monetary penalties to suspensions. The Stewards also referred to the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines 2023, which classify Theobromine and Theophylline as Category 2 substances and provide a framework for determining appropriate penalties.

Human Rights

9. The Stewards further considered Miss Wendt's human rights under the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld). While acknowledging that any penalty may limit Miss Wendt's property rights under section 24, specifically in relation to her trainer's licence, the Stewards determined that a 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 promote compliance or achieve those purposes.
10. Ultimately, the Stewards determined that a wholly suspended period of suspension, together with a monetary penalty, would serve as an appropriate sanction to specifically deter Miss Wendt from committing similar rule breaches in the future and, more importantly, to deter the wider greyhound racing industry. This approach balances the need for deterrence and compliance with recognition of Miss Wendt's personal circumstances. The penalty also reinforces the importance of drug-free racing and promotes adherence to the rules by all participants.

Penalty Decision

11. The Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty was a four-month suspension, wholly suspended for 24 months on the condition that Miss Wendt does not commit any further prohibited substance-related breaches during that period. The Stewards also imposed a \$500 fine.
12. Under Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Clear Breeze is also disqualified from Race 10 at the Queensland Greyhound Racing Club on 6 May 2026, with the placings amended accordingly. Any prize money associated with the race must be returned to Racing Queensland.

Right of Review

13. Miss Wendt was advised that, pursuant to Chapter 6 of the Racing Integrity Act 2016 (Qld), she has the right to apply for review of a racing decision made by a Steward. Any application for review must be made within three (3) business days of the decision.