

ORIGINAL DECISION

Of QRIC Stewards regarding Greg Stella

Date of Decision:	25 May 2026
Code:	Greyhounds
Stewards:	Tony Flymen (Chairperson) Paul Mclean Michael Fernholz
Participant:	Greg Stella
Rule:	GAR 141 Greyhound be free of prohibited substances (1) The owner, trainer or other person in charge of greyhound: (a) Nominated to compete in an Event must present the greyhound free of any prohibited.
Charge 1:	Mr Greg Stella, as the trainer of the greyhound Regal Saint, did fail to present that greyhound free of a prohibited substance when it competed in race 3 at Queensland Greyhound Racing Club on 27 th January 2026 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Dexamethasone, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in the post-race urine sample.
Substance:	Dexamethasone
Plea:	Guilty
Charge 2:	Mr Greg Stella, as the trainer of the greyhound Regal Saint, did fail to present that greyhound free of a prohibited substance when it competed in race 4 at Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 1 st February 2026 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Dexamethasone, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in the post-race urine sample.
Substance:	Dexamethasone
Plea:	Guilty

Penalty Submissions

- (1) Mr Stella acknowledged his understanding of the rule and charges being for presenting the greyhound to races with a substance in its system and pleaded guilty to both.
- (2) In his submissions, Mr Stella strongly emphasised he did not administer the substance to the greyhound either knowingly or unknowingly.

- (3) Mr Stella further submitted that the substance may have come from a product purchased with poor quality control, however, could not directly link this claim.

Penalty Consideration

- (4) The Stewards acknowledged Mr Stella's extensive experience in the greyhound racing industry over decades. His co-operation and forthrightness throughout the inquiry were noted.
- (5) The presence of Dexamethasone 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 a penalty on Mr Stella's personal and professional circumstances. The Stewards recognised the potential impact of a penalty on Mr Stella'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.
- (7) In addition to Mr Stella's submissions, The Stewards reviewed penalty precedents for similar cases involving the prohibited substance Dexamethasone. Precedents included penalties imposed on Hassall (Feb 2024 QRIC), Buckley (July 2020 VRT) and Sims (Feb 2022 GWIC) these ranged from monetary penalties to suspensions. 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.
- (8) The Stewards accepted that Mr Stella did not engage in deliberate or reckless conduct, and there was no evidence of intentional administration of Dexamethasone. His treatment records were accurate, his cooperation was full and candid, and his husbandry practices were diligent. These matters weigh positively in any finding of culpability.

Human Rights

- (9) The Stewards further considered Mr Stella's human rights under the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld). While acknowledging that any penalty may limit Mr Stella's rights to property (Section 24), specifically his 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 enforce compliance or achieve these purposes.
- (10) Ultimately, the Stewards determined that a monetary penalty would serve as an appropriate sanction to both specifically deter Mr Stella from any future similar rule breaches, but more importantly deter the wider greyhound industry. This approach balances the need for deterrence and compliance with the recognition of Mr Stella's contributions to the industry and his personal circumstances. The penalty also reinforces the importance of drug-free racing and promotes adherence to the rules among all participants

Penalty Outcome

- (11) On the first charge, the Stewards have determined the penalty to be a \$1500 fine.

(12) With respect to the second charge, as the breach of the rules was established under the same set of facts, and within a short period from the first breach, and that Mr Stella would not have been afforded opportunity to correct any practices to prevent the second occurrence, the Stewards determined that an additional penalty would be excessive, and therefore did not impose a further fine.

(13) Additionally, under Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Regal Saint is disqualified from:

- Race 3 on 27 January 2026 at Q1 Lakeside; and
- Race 4 on 1 February 2026 at Capalaba GRC

with placings amended accordingly. Any prize money associated with both events must be returned to Racing Queensland.

Right of Review

(14) Mr Stella 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.