

## Stewards' Report

**Date:** Monday, 17 August 2020

**Panel:** A. Spence (Chair) & A. Kitching

**Person:** Keith Donaldson

**Rules:** GAR 83(1A)(a) & GAR 83(2)(a)

**Charges:** (1) Administered a prohibited substance to Seratus, which was detected in a sample taken from such greyhound when presented for race 11 at Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 24 May 2020.

(2) Presented the greyhound Seratus to compete in race 11 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 24 May 2020 when it was not free of a prohibited substance.

**Substance:** Cobalt

**Penalty:** 12 months suspension (9 months suspended for 15 months)

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On Monday, 17 August 2020 the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards conducted an inquiry into analyst's findings, which stated Cobalt was detected in excess of the prescribed threshold in a post-race sample taken from Seratus on 24 May 2020 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club after competing in race 11.

Submissions were made by Mr Donaldson, the trainer of Seratus.

After considering all the evidence, Stewards issued the following charge under GAR 83(1A)(a), which reads:

*A person who administers, attempts to administer or causes to be administered a prohibited substance to a greyhound, which is detected in any sample taken from such greyhound that has been presented for an Event or when subject to any other contingency provided for pursuant to these Rules, shall be guilty of an offence*

Charge 1 - Mr Keith Donaldson did administer, or cause to be administered, to the greyhound Seratus, a prohibited substance, being Cobalt in excess of the prescribed threshold, which was detected in a sample collected from Seratus after it competed in race 11 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 24 May 2020.

Stewards also issued the following alternative charge under GAR 83(2)(a), which reads:

*The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound, nominated to compete in an event shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.*

Charge 2 - Mr Keith Donaldson did fail to present the greyhound Seratus free of a prohibited substance when it competed at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club in race 11 on 24 May 2020 and a post-race sample taken from that greyhound was found upon analysis to contain the prohibited substance Cobalt, in excess of the prescribed threshold.

Mr Donaldson pleaded guilty to both charges and made submissions regarding penalty.

Stewards considered the following in relation to penalty: Mr Donaldson's guilty plea's at the earliest convenience, Mr Donaldson's forthright evidence and honesty throughout the inquiry, Mr Donaldson has no prior breaches under a similar rule, Mr Donaldson has been licensed for approximately 60 years, that a penalty must act as both a specific and general deterrent, the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing, and relevant penalty precedents.

Accordingly, the QRIC Stewards issued the following penalty:

Charge 1 - 12-month suspension, with 9 months suspended for 15 months pending no further breaches of a similar rule.

Charge 2 – Stewards elected to not impose an extra penalty as the charge was established and proven under the same substratum of facts.

Acting under the provisions of GAR 83(4), Seratus was disqualified from race 11 on 24 May 2020 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club with the placings amended accordingly. Stewards advised Mr Donaldson that all prizemoney received from this event be returned.

Mr Donaldson was advised of his right to an Internal Review.