

Stewards' Report

Date: Wednesday, 3 March 2021
Panel: A Kitching (Chair) & A Spence
Matter: Prohibited Substance – Seven Seas, 3 December 2020
Decision: Trainer T Nicholls – Disqualified for 12 months (3 months suspended for 2 years)
Greyhound Disqualified from Event

On Wednesday, 3 March 2021 the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards conducted an inquiry into analyst's findings, which stated that Testosterone as evidenced by 5 β -androstane-3 α 17 β -diol, was in excess of the prescribed threshold, in a pre-race sample collected from the greyhound Seven Seas, when competing in race 1 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 3 December 2020.

Submissions were made by Ms Nicholls, the licensed trainer of Seven Seas and Dr Samantha Nelis, Principal Chemist – QRIC.

After considering the evidence, Stewards issued a charge under Greyhounds Australasia Rule of Racing 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.

That when Seven Seas, of which Ms Nicholls, was the registered trainer at the relevant time, was on the 3rd December 2020, presented at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club to compete in race 1 and a urine sample collected from Seven Seas was found upon analysis to contain Testosterone as evidenced by the presence of 5 β -androstane-3 α , 17 β -diol, above the prescribed threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre.

Ms Nicholls pleaded guilty to the charge.

QRIC Stewards considered the following on penalty:

- A plea of guilty to the charge.
- Ms Nicholls' good disciplinary history.
- That Ms Nicholls has been a licensed trainer for approximately 7 months.
- Relevant penalty precedents.
- The need to maintain integrity of greyhound racing and ensure a level playing field for all participants.
- The nature of the prohibited substance.
- Ms Nicholls' good character throughout the inquiry.

Accordingly, the QRIC Stewards issued the following penalty:

A disqualification of Ms Nicholls' licence for a period of 12 months. Acting under the provisions of GAR95(3), Stewards suspended 3 months of the 12 month disqualification for a period of 2 years, pending no further breach of a similar rule.

Acting under the provisions of GAR83(4), Seven Seas was disqualified from race 1 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 3 December 2020 and placings amended accordingly.

Ms Nicholls was advised of her right to an internal review.