

Stewards' Report

Date: Friday, 26 November 2021
Panel: Mr W Hadley (Chair), Mr C Ferguson, Ms A Turner
Person: Ms Lyndall Brand
Rule: GAR 86(p) and GAR 86(h)
Charge:
1. Failure to comply with the lawful order of a Steward on 25 November 2021.
2. Attempted to interfere with the carrying out of a Steward's investigation on 25 November 2021.
Penalty:
Charge 1: Five (5) month disqualification effective immediately.
Charge 2: Five (5) month disqualification to be served cumulative to Charge 1.

Stewards of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission today concluded an inquiry in respect of charges issued against licensed trainer Lyndall Brand resulting from a kennel inspection at her registered kennel address on 25 November 2021.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued two (2) charges to Ms Brand pursuant to the Greyhounds Australasia Rules as follows:

Charge 1: Issued pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86(p), which provides:

A person (including an official) shall be guilty of an offence if the person –

(p) disobeys or fails to comply with the lawful order of a Steward or other person or body having official duties in relation to greyhound racing

The specifics of Charge 1 are as follows:

That Lyndall Brand, as a licensed greyhound trainer, failed to comply with a lawful order of the Stewards in relation to greyhound racing in that she refused to permit the Stewards to take possession of a blue cooler bag located at her registered kennel address during a kennel inspection on 25 November 2021 when directed to do so by the Stewards, which cooler bag was initially located in her kennelling area and which cooler bag was then removed by Ms Brand and placed in a nearby vehicle.

Charge 2: Issued pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86(h), which provides:

A person (including an official) shall be guilty of an offence if the person –

(h) prevents, attempts to prevent, interferes with or attempts to interfere with the carrying out of any identification, examination, test, autopsy, analysis, inquiry or investigation pursuant to these Rules

The specifics of Charge 2 are as follows:

That Lyndall Brand, as a licensed greyhound trainer, attempted to interfere with the carrying out of an investigation in that she took possession of a blue cooler bag initially located within the kennelling area at her registered kennel address during a kennel inspection on 25 November 2021 and placed that cooler bag in a nearby vehicle, thereby preventing Stewards from identifying the contents of the cooler bag and specifically the identification of the owner of the wallet contained within the cooler bag.

Ms Brand entered a plea of guilty to Charge 1 and Charge 2 and provided brief submissions in respect of penalty.

In determining penalty, Stewards considered the following:

- Ms Brand's plea of guilty to Charge 1 and Charge 2 at the earliest available opportunity;
- Ms Brand's time in the greyhound racing industry, being a licensed participant for approximately thirty-five years (35) and as a trainer for a relatively brief period;
- the serious nature of Ms Brand's offending, with the facts demonstrating that Ms Brand failed to comply with the lawful order of the Stewards at the kennel inspection at her registered kennel address and attempted to interfere with the Stewards' investigation, resulting in Stewards being unable to identify persons present at Ms Brand's registered address;
- that they must impose a penalty that sends a clear and unequivocal message to ensure that Ms Brand, and all other participants, understand that complying with the lawful orders of stewards is a core requirement of participating in greyhound racing;
- that it is the participant's responsibility, in this instance Ms Brand's, to inform himself/herself of his/her obligations under the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and to comply with the lawful order of a Steward - these are not negotiable;
- Ms Brand's disciplinary history, noting a finding of guilt in respect of two (2) charges pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83(2)(a) in respect of a prohibited substance presentation offence and Greyhounds Australasia Rule 84B(1) in respect of a prohibited substance possession offence;
- the need to ensure that the integrity of greyhound racing is paramount; and
- relevant penalty precedents in respect of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86(p) and 86(h).

Accordingly, the Stewards issued the following penalties:

Charge 1: Five (5) month disqualification effective immediately.

Charge 2: Five (5) month disqualification to be served cumulative to Charge 1.

Therefore, the total disqualification period imposed upon Ms Brand is ten (10) months effective immediately. Ms Brand was advised of her right to an Internal Review.