

Stewards' Report

- Date:** Friday, 19 November 2021
- Panel:** Mr W Hadley (Chair), Ms A Turner, Mr P McLean, Mr A Flymen, Ms S Barr
- Person:** Ms Rebecca Buxton
- Rule:** GAR 86(ah), GAR 86(d), GAR 86(p) and GAR 86(f)
- Charge:**
1. Associating with warned off person James Harding for the purposes of greyhound racing on 15 February 2021.
 2. Associating with warned off person James Harding for the purposes of greyhound racing on 10 September 2021.
 3. Failure to comply with the lawful order of a Steward on 15 September 2021.
 4. Making a false statement at a stewards' inquiry on 15 September 2021.
 5. Engaging in contemptuous, insulting and offensive language towards, and in relation to, a Steward on 15 September 2021 and 5 October 2021.
- Penalty:**
- Charge 1: Two (2) year disqualification effective immediately.
- Charge 2: Two (2) year disqualification to be served concurrently with Charge 1.
- Charge 3: Six (6) month disqualification to be served cumulative to Charge 1.
- Charge 4: Six (6) month disqualification to be served concurrently with Charge 3.
- Charge 5: Six (6) month disqualification to be served concurrently with Charge 3.

Stewards of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission today concluded an inquiry in respect of charges issued against licensed trainer Rebecca Buxton resulting from a kennel inspection at her registered address on 10 September 2021 in which James Harding, being a person warned off for life for live baiting, was present.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued five (5) charges to Ms Buxton pursuant to the Greyhounds Australasia Rules as follows:

Charge 1: Breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86(ah), which relevantly provides:

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

(ah) being a registered person or person associated with greyhound racing, associates with a disqualified person for the purposes of greyhound racing

Rebecca Buxton, as a licensed greyhound trainer did associate with warned off person James Harding for the purposes of greyhound racing at the Bundaberg Greyhound Racing Club on 15 February 2021.

Charge 2: Breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86(ah), which relevantly provides:

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

(ah) being a registered person or person associated with greyhound racing, associates with a disqualified person for the purposes of greyhound racing

Rebecca Buxton, as a licensed greyhound trainer did associate with warned off person James Harding for the purposes of greyhound racing at her registered address on 10 September 2021.

Charge 3: Breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86(p), which relevantly 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

Rebecca Buxton, as a licensed greyhound trainer failed to comply with a lawful order of the Stewards in relation to greyhound racing in that she failed to permit the Stewards to take possession of her mobile phone when directed to do so by the Stewards at the Albion Park Greyhound Racing Club on 15 September 2021, with such direction being made by the Stewards pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 18(4)(c).

Charge 4: Breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86(d), which relevantly provides:

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

(d) being an owner, trainer, attendant or person having official duties in relation to greyhound racing, makes a false or misleading statement in relation to an investigation, examination, test or inquiry, or makes or causes to be made a falsification in a document in connection with greyhound racing or the registration of a greyhound

Rebecca Buxton, as a licensed greyhound trainer made a false statement at a stewards' inquiry on 15 September 2021, with the false statement being that she had not been in the presence of the person allegedly known to her as Trent Harding (which Stewards are comfortably satisfied was warned off person James Harding) prior to 10 September 2021, when in fact she had been in the presence of the person allegedly known to her as Trent Harding (which Stewards are comfortably satisfied was warned off person James Harding) at the Bundaberg Greyhound Racing Club on 15 February 2021.

Charge 5: Breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86(f), which relevantly provides

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

(f) engages in, publishes or causes to be published, broadcasts or causes to be broadcast, the use of any contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting, or offensive language, conduct or behaviour in any manner or form towards, or in relation to -

(i) a Steward

Rebecca Buxton, as a licensed greyhound trainer engaged in contemptuous, insulting and offensive language towards, and in relation to, a Steward at a stewards' inquiry on 15 September 2021 and 5 October 2021.

Ms Buxton entered a plea of guilty to Charge 5 and a plea of not guilty to Charge 1, Charge 2, Charge 3 and Charge 4.

Stewards confirmed Ms Buxton's plea of guilty to Charge 5 and found Ms Buxton guilty of Charge 1, Charge 2, Charge 3 and Charge 4

In determining penalty, Stewards considered the following:

- Ms Buxton's plea of not guilty to Charge 1, Charge 2, Charge 3, and Charge 4;
- Ms Buxton's plea of guilty to Charge 5;
- Ms Buxton's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately six (6) years;
- the serious nature of Ms Buxton's offending, being an association with a person warned off for life for live baiting, a failure to comply with a Stewards' direction, giving false and misleading evidence at a stewards' inquiry and engaging in contemptuous, insulting and offensive behaviour towards the Stewards;
- Ms Buxton's dishonesty and lack of cooperation throughout the stewards' investigation;
- Ms Buxton's disciplinary history, noting a finding of guilt in respect of two (2) charges pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86(d) in respect of false and misleading evidence and one (1) charge pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86(m) on 6 April 2021, in which Ms Buxton received a three (3) suspension for each charge served concurrently, with Ms Buxton's licence being reinstated on 6 July 2021;
- the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing and to ensure a level playing field for all participants;

- the need for both specific and general deterrence; and
- relevant penalty precedents in respect of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86(ah), 86(d), 86(p) and 86(f).

Accordingly, the Stewards issued the following penalties:

Charge 1: Two (2) year disqualification effective immediately.

Charge 2: Two (2) year disqualification to be served concurrently with Charge 1.

Charge 3: Six (6) month disqualification to be served cumulative to Charge 1.

Charge 4: Six (6) month disqualification to be served concurrently with Charge 3.

Charge 5: Six (6) month disqualification to be served concurrently with Charge 3.

Therefore, the total disqualification period imposed upon Ms Buxton is thirty (30) months effective immediately.

Ms Buxton was advised of her right to an Internal Review.