

Stewards' Report

Date: Tuesday, 14 December 2021
Panel: C Ferguson (Chair), Mr W Hadley, A Turner
Person: Mr Brian Francis
Rule: GAR 83(2)(a)
Charge: Mr Brian Francis presented the greyhound Harbour Jem to compete in race 3 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 24 September 2021 when it was not free of a prohibited substance.
Substance: Pholcodine
Penalty: \$1500

On Tuesday, 14 December 2021 the Queensland Racing Integrity (QRIC) Stewards conducted an inquiry into analyst's findings, which stated the prohibited substance Pholcodine was found in a sample taken from Harbour Jem when it competed and won at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 24 September 2021.

Submissions were made by Mr Francis, the licensed trainer of Harbour Jem.

After considering all the evidence, Stewards issued a 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.

Specifics of the charge:

As the trainer of the greyhound Harbour Jem, Mr Francis did fail to present that greyhound free of a prohibited substance when it competed and won at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club in Race 3 on 24 September 2021 and a sample taken from that greyhound was found upon analysis to contain the prohibited substance Pholcodine.

Mr Francis pleaded guilty to the charge and made submissions in relation to penalty to Stewards.

The QRIC Stewards considered the following on penalty:

- Mr Francis guilty plea;
- Mr Francis' time as a trainer being approximately 60 years;
- Mr Francis' forthright evidence and cooperation;
- Mr Francis' has one prior breach of a similar rule;
- The nature of the prohibited substance Pholcodine;

- The need to maintain integrity of greyhound racing and ensure a level playing field for all participants;
- The need for both specific and general deterrence; and,
- Relevant penalty precedents.

Accordingly, the QRIC Stewards issued the following:

A monetary penalty of \$1500.

Acting under the provisions of GAR 83(4), Stewards ordered Harbour Jem be disqualified from Race 3 on 24 September at Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club with the placings amended accordingly. Mr Francis was advised that all prizemoney associated with this event must be returned to Racing Queensland.

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