

Stewards' Report

- Date:** Thursday, 2 December 2021
- Panel:** Mr W Hadley (Chair), Ms A Turner, Mr D Broxham, Mr C Simpson
- Person:** Mrs Lynette Noble
- Rule:** GAR 86(ah), GAR 86B(1)(e), GAR 86(p), GAR 86(n) and GAR 86(d)
- Charge:**
1. Associating with warned off person Thomas Noble for the purposes of greyhound racing between the approximate dates of 21 September 2020 and 1 October 2021.
 2. Indirectly involved in the possession of an animal carcass at a registered kennel address pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86B(1)(b) on 28 March 2021.
 3. Making a false statement at a stewards' inquiry on 30 August 2021.
 4. Knowingly aiding and abetting a person to commit a breach of the Greyhounds Australasia Rules between the approximate dates of 21 September 2020 and 1 October 2021.
 5. Failure to comply with the lawful order of a Steward on 1 October 2021.
- Penalty:**
- Charge 1: Two (2) year disqualification to be served concurrently with Charge 2.
- Charge 2: Three (3) year disqualification effective immediately.
- Charge 3: Six (6) month disqualification to be served cumulative to Charge 2.
- Charge 4: Six (6) month disqualification to be served concurrently with Charge 2.
- Charge 5: Six (6) month disqualification to be served cumulative to Charge 3.

Stewards of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission today concluded an inquiry in respect of charges issued against licensed breeder Lynette Noble resulting from a kennel inspection at her registered address on 21 September 2021 in which Thomas Noble, being a person warned off for life for live baiting, was present.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued five (5) charges to Mrs Noble 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

The specifics of Charge 1 are as follows:

Lynette Noble, as a licensed greyhound breeder and owner, did associate with warned off person Thomas Adrian Noble for the purposes of greyhound racing at her registered kennel address between the approximate dates of 21 September 2020 and 1 October 2021.

Charge 2: Breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86B(1)(e), which relevantly provides:

(1) A person who, in the opinion of the Stewards or Controlling Body -

...

(b) attempts to possess, or has possession of, or brings onto, any grounds, premises or within the boundaries of any property where greyhounds are, or are to be trained, kept or raced, any live animal, animal carcass or any part of an animal for the purpose of being, or which might reasonably be capable of being, or likely to be, used as bait, quarry or lure to entice or excite or encourage a greyhound to pursue it

...

(e) is in any way directly or indirectly involved in committing, or is knowingly concerned with, such conduct as set out in (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this Rule

...

shall be disqualified for a period of not less than 10 years and, in addition shall be fined a sum not exceeding such amount as specified in the relevant Act or Rules, unless there is a finding that a special circumstance exists, whereupon a penalty less than the minimum penalty may be imposed.

The specifics of Charge 2 are as follows:

Lynette Noble, as a licensed greyhound breeder and owner, was indirectly involved with the conduct of warned off person Thomas Adrian Noble when he took possession of an allegedly deceased rabbit on 28 March 2021 and brought that rabbit onto her registered kennel address, being a property where greyhounds are kept and trained, which rabbit might reasonably be capable of being used as bait, quarry or lure to entice or excite or encourage a greyhound to pursue it.

Charge 3: 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

The specifics of Charge 3 are as follows:

Lynette Noble, as a licensed greyhound breeder and owner, made a false statement at a stewards' inquiry on 30 August 2021, with the false statement being that she believed that the only condition of Thomas Adrian Noble's warning off was that he was "not allowed to touch any greyhounds" whilst warned off, when in fact she is and was aware that her husband Thomas Adrian Noble was warned off for life for live baiting since 4 March 2015 and that Thomas Adrian Noble is therefore not to, inter alia, enter or go or remain on, at any time, any place where greyhounds are trained, kept or raced pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 99(3)(g).

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

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

(n) knowingly aids, abets, counsels or procures a person to commit a breach of these Rules

The specifics of Charge 4 are as follows:

Lynette Noble, as a licensed greyhound breeder and owner, knowingly aided and abetted warned off person Thomas Adrian Noble to commit a breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 99(3)(g) in that she permitted warned off person Thomas Adrian Noble to enter, go on and remain on a place where greyhounds are trained and kept, being her registered kennel address, between the approximate dates of 21 September 2020 and 1 October 2021.

Charge 5: 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

The specifics of Charge 5 are as follows:

Lynette Noble, as a licensed greyhound breeder and owner, failed to comply with a lawful order of the Stewards in relation to greyhound racing in that she, as the registered owner of her registered kennel address, permitted warned off person Thomas Adrian Noble to enter onto, and remain on, her registered kennel address on 1 October 2021 after receiving a verbal direction from the Stewards on 30 August 2021 and written direction from the stewards on 31 August 2021 that she was to exclude warned off person Thomas Adrian Noble from her registered kennel address.

Mrs Noble failed to enter a plea to any of the five (5) charges by the required time, and subsequently entered a plea of not guilty to all five (5) charges on 29 November 2021 after a determination of guilty on all five (5) charges had been made by the Stewards on 19 November 2021.

In determining penalty, Stewards considered the following:

- Mrs Noble's late plea of not guilty to Charge 1, Charge 2, Charge 3, Charge 4 and Charge 5;
- Mrs Noble's time in the greyhound racing industry, being approximately fifty (50) years;
- the serious nature of Mrs Noble's offending, being an association with a person warned off for life for live baiting, being indirectly involved in the possession of an animal carcass at her registered kennel address, giving false and misleading evidence at a stewards' inquiry, knowingly aiding and abetting a person to commit a breach of the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and a failure to comply with a Stewards' direction;
- Mrs Noble's disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches of the Greyhounds Australasia Rules;
- that holding a licence within the greyhound racing industry is a privilege, not a right, and it is the participant's responsibility, in this instance Mrs Noble's, to inform himself/herself of his/her obligations under the Greyhounds Australasia Rules - this is not negotiable and ignorance will not mitigate any such offence;
- the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing by imposing a penalty that sends a clear and unequivocal message to ensure that Mrs Noble, and all other participants, understand that complying with the Greyhounds Australasia Rules is a core requirement of participating in greyhound racing;
- the need to ensure that the integrity of greyhound racing is paramount; and
- the need for both specific and general deterrence; and
- relevant penalty precedents in respect of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86(ah), 86B(1)(e), 86(d), 86(n), 86(p).

Accordingly, the Stewards issued the following penalties:

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

Charge 2: Three (3) year disqualification effective immediately.

Charge 3: Six (6) month disqualification to be served cumulative to Charge 2.

Charge 4: Six (6) month disqualification to be served concurrently with Charge 2.

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

Therefore, the total disqualification period imposed upon Mrs Noble is four (4) years effective immediately.

Mrs Noble was advised of her right to an Internal Review.