

# Stewards' Report

**Date:** Monday, 20 December 2021

**Panel:** Mr W Hadley (Chair), Ms A Turner, P McLean, A Flyman, S Barr

**Person:** Mr Trent Harding

**Rule:** GAR 86(p)

**Charge:**

1. Failure to comply with the lawful order of a Steward issued verbally on 10 September 2021 and in writing on 8 October 2021.
2. Failure to comply with the lawful order of a Steward issued in writing on 22 October 2021.

**Penalty:**

Charge 1: Six (6) month disqualification effective immediately.

Charge 2: Six (6) month disqualification to be served cumulative to Charge 1.

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Stewards of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission today concluded an inquiry in respect of charges issued against registered greyhound owner Trent Harding resulting from a kennel inspection at a registered kennel 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 two (2) charges to Mr Harding pursuant to the Greyhounds Australasia Rules as follows:

**Charge 1:** 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 1 are as follows:

Trent Harding, as a registered greyhound owner, failed to comply with a lawful order of the Stewards in relation to greyhound racing in that he failed to produce certain documentation pertaining to his identification as per the verbal direction of the Stewards on 10 September 2021 and as per the written direction of the Stewards on 8 October 2021.

**Charge 2:** 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 2 are as follows:

Trent Harding, as a registered greyhound owner, failed to comply with a lawful order of the Stewards in relation to greyhound racing in that he failed to attend a Stewards' Inquiry on 3 November 2021 as per the written direction of the Stewards on 22 October 2021.

Mr Harding failed to enter a plea to either of the charges and Stewards subsequently found Mr Harding guilty of both charges on 13 December 2021.

In determining penalty, Stewards considered the following:

- Mr Harding's failure to enter a plea to either Charge 1 or Charge 2;
- Mr Harding's time in the greyhound racing industry, being approximately seventeen (17) months;
- the serious nature of Mr Harding's offending, being a failure to comply with a lawful order of the Stewards in respect of the production of identification documentation and attendance at a Stewards' Inquiry;
- Mr Harding's lack of cooperation throughout the Stewards investigation;
- Mr Harding's failure to respond to any communication from the Stewards throughout the Stewards investigation;
- the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing by imposing a penalty that sends a clear and unequivocal message to ensure that Mr Harding, and all other participants, understand that complying with the Greyhounds Australasia Rules and particularly lawful orders of the Stewards is a core requirement of participating in greyhound racing;
- Mr Harding's disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches of the Greyhounds Australasia Rules; and
- relevant penalty precedents in respect of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 86(p).

Accordingly, the Stewards issued the following penalties:

**Charge 1:** Six (6) month disqualification effective immediately.

**Charge 2:** Six (6) month disqualification to be served cumulative to Charge 1.

Therefore, the total disqualification period imposed upon Mr Harding is twelve (12) months effective immediately.

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