

## Stewards' Report

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| <b>Date:</b>      | Thursday, 17 March 2022   |
| <b>Panel:</b>     | Mr M Braunberger (Chairman), Ms A Turner, Mr A Flymen, Mr K Dean  |
| <b>Person:</b>    | Mr Andrew Wooler  |
| <b>Rule:</b>      | GAR 83(2)(a)  |
| <b>Charges:</b>   | Mr Andrew Wooler presented the greyhound Super Hard to compete in Race 9 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 14 December 2021 when it was not free of a prohibited substance |
| <b>Substance:</b> | Hydrochlorothiazide and Chlorothiazide  |
| <b>Penalty:</b>   | Six (6) week suspension   |

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On 17 March 2022, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards conducted an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substances Hydrochlorothiazide and Chlorothiazide were detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Super Hard when it competed in Race 9 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 14 December 2021.

Submissions were made by Mr Andrew Wooler during the inquiry as the licensed trainer of Super Hard at the relevant time.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued a charge pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83(2)(a), which provides:

*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.*

The specifics of the charge are as follows:

Mr Andrew Wooler, as the trainer of the greyhound Super Hard, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 9 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 14 December 2021 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Hydrochlorothiazide and Chlorothiazide as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in the post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound on 14 December 2021.

Mr Wooler entered a plea of guilty to the charge and made further submissions in respect of penalty.

Stewards considered the following when determining penalty:

- Mr Wooler's plea of guilty to the charge at the earliest available opportunity;
- Mr Wooler's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately fifteen (15) years;
- Mr Wooler's disciplinary history, noting Mr Wooler has no prior breaches of a similar rule;
- the nature of the prohibited substance, being Hydrochlorothiazide and Chlorothiazide;

- no reasonable explanation was submitted as to how the substances came to be present in the greyhound's system;
- subsequent review of, and amendment to, Mr Wooler's animal husbandry practices;
- 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.

Accordingly, the Stewards imposed a penalty of a six (6) week suspension of Mr Wooler's licence to commence at midnight on 18 March 2022 and to expire at midnight on 29 April 2022.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83(4), Stewards directed that Super Hard be disqualified from Race 9 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 14 December 2021 (1<sup>st</sup> place).

Stewards ordered that the placings be amended accordingly and Mr Wooler was advised that all prizemoney associated with this event must be returned to Racing Queensland.

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