

Stewards' Report

Date:	Thursday, 17 March 2022
Panel:	Mr M Braunberger (Chairman), Ms A Turner, Mr A Flymen, Mr K Dean
Person:	Mr Paul Smith
Rule:	GAR 83(2)(a)
Charges:	Mr Paul Smith presented the greyhound Ivy Izmir to compete in Race 11 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 4 January 2022 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
Substance:	Cocaine and Benzoylecgonine
Penalty:	Twelve (12) month disqualification

On 17 March 2022, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards conducted an inquiry into analysts' findings that the permanently banned prohibited substances Cocaine and Benzoylecgonine were detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Ivy Izmir when it competed in Race 11 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 4 January 2022.

Submissions were made by Mr Paul Smith during the inquiry as the licensed trainer of Ivy Izmir 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 Paul Smith, as the trainer of the greyhound Ivy Izmir, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 11 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 4 January 2022 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Cocaine and Benzoylecgonine 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 4 January 2022.

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

Stewards considered the following when determining penalty:

- Mr Smith's plea of guilty to the charge at the earliest available opportunity;
- Mr Smith's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately two and a half (2.5) years;
- Mr Smith's disciplinary history, noting Mr Smith has no prior breaches of a similar rule;
- Mr Smith's forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;

- the explanation provided by Mr Smith as to how the substance came to be present in the greyhound's system;
- the number of greyhounds currently under Mr Smith's care and control, being approximately thirty (30) greyhounds;
- the nature of the prohibited substances, particularly noting that Cocaine and Benzoyllecgonine are permanently banned prohibited substances across all codes and therefore a clear message needs to be sent to the industry that any breach involving permanently banned substances is serious and cannot be tolerated;
- the nature of the prohibited substance, being permanently banned substances;
- 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 twelve (12) month disqualification effective immediately.

Stewards permitted Mr Smith seven (7) days from midnight 17 March 2022 to transfer all greyhounds from his care and control, with Stewards permission being required for each transfer.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83(4), Stewards directed that Ivy Izmir be disqualified from Race 11 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 4 January 2022 (1st place).

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

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