

Stewards' Report

Date:	Wednesday, 6 April 2022
Panel:	Mr W Hadley (Chairman), Ms A Turner, Mr G Meek
Person:	Mr Andrew Suli
Rule:	GAR 83(2)(a)
Charges:	Mr Andrew Suli presented the greyhound: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lines to compete in Race 3 at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club on 6 October 2021 when it was not free of a prohibited substance2. Rockstar Lincoln to compete in Race 9 at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club on 27 October 2021 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
Substance:	Cobalt
Penalty:	Twelve (12) month suspension with six (6) months wholly suspended for twelve (12) months to be served concurrently

On 6 April 2022, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Cobalt was detected at a level in excess of the mass concentration limit of 100 nanograms per millilitre in a pre-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Lines when it competed in Race 3 at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club on 6 October 2021 and in a pre-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Rockstar Lincoln when it competed in Race 9 at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club on 27 October 2021.

Submissions were made by Mr Andrew Suli during the inquiry as the licensed trainer of Lines and Rockstar Lincoln at the relevant time.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued two (2) charges 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 Charge 1 are as follows:

Mr Andrew Suli, as the trainer of the greyhound Lines, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 3 at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club on 6 October 2021 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Cobalt as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited at a level in excess of the mass concentration limit of 100 nanograms per millilitre in the pre-race urine sample collected from the greyhound on 6 October 2021.

The specifics of Charge 2 are as follows:

Mr Andrew Suli, as the trainer of the greyhound Rockstar Lincoln, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 9 at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club on 27 October 2021 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Cobalt as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited at a level in excess of the mass concentration limit of 100 nanograms per millilitre in the pre-race urine sample collected from the greyhound on 27 October 2021.

Mr Suli entered a plea of not guilty to both charges and made further submissions in respect of the charges.

Stewards formally found Mr Suli guilty of both charges and Mr Suli then made submission in respect of penalty.

Stewards considered the following when determining penalty:

- Mr Suli's plea of not guilty to both charges;
- Mr Suli's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately thirty-one (31) years;
- Mr Suli's disciplinary history, noting three (3) prior breaches of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83(2)(a);
- Mr Suli's forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- Mr Suli's explanation as to how the substance came to be present in the greyhound's system at a level in excess of the regulatory threshold;
- subsequent review of, and amendment to, Mr Suli's animal husbandry practices;
- the nature of the prohibited substance, being Cobalt, and particularly the concentration level in respect of Charge 2 being in excess of 200 nanograms per millilitre;
- 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 the following penalties:

Charge 1: A twelve (12) month suspension of Mr Suli's licence, with Stewards electing under Greyhound Australia Rule 95(3) to wholly suspend six (6) months of the penalty for a period of twelve (12) months conditional upon no similar breach of the rules

Charge 2: A twelve (12) month suspension of Mr Suli's licence, with Stewards electing under Greyhound Australia Rule 95(3) to wholly suspend six (6) months of the penalty for a period of twelve (12) months conditional upon no similar breach of the rules to be served concurrently with Charge 1.

Stewards directed that Mr Suli's suspension is to commence at midnight on 6 April 2022 and is to expire at midnight on 6 October 2022.

Stewards permitted Mr Suli seven (7) days from midnight 6 April 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 the following:

1. that Lines be disqualified from Race 3 at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club on 6 October 2021 (2nd place); and

2. that Rockstar Lincoln be disqualified from Race 9 at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club on 27 October 2021 (1st place).

Stewards ordered that the placings be amended accordingly and Mr Suli was advised that all prizemoney associated with these events must be returned to Racing Queensland.

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