

# Stewards' Report

**Date:** Tuesday, 19 April 2022

**Panel:** Mr W Hadley (Chairman), Ms A Turner

**Person:** Mr Tom Tzouvelis

**Rule:** GAR 83(2)(a)

**Charges:** Mr Tom Tzouvelis presented the greyhound:

1. Strategise to compete in Race 8 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 11 November 2021 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
2. Lily Monelli to compete in Race 8 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 11 November 2021 when it was not free of a prohibited substance

**Substance:** Cobalt

**Penalty:** Twelve (12) month suspension with eight (8) months wholly suspended for twelve (12) months to be served concurrently

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On 19 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 Strategise when it competed in Race 8 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 11 November 2021 and in a pre-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Lily Monelli when it competed in Race 8 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 11 November 2021.

Submissions were made by Mr Tom Tzouvelis during the inquiry as the licensed trainer of Strategise and Lily Monelli 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 Tom Tzouvelis, as the trainer of the greyhound Strategise, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 8 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 11 November 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 11 November 2021.

The specifics of Charge 2 are as follows:

Mr Tom Tzouvelis, as the trainer of the greyhound Lily Monelli, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 8 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 11 November 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 11 November 2021.

Mr Tzouvelis entered a plea of guilty to both charges and made further submissions in respect of penalty.

Stewards considered the following when determining penalty:

- Mr Tzouvelis' plea of guilty to both charges at the earliest available opportunity;
- Mr Tzouvelis' time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately thirty (30) years;
- Mr Tzouvelis' disciplinary history;
- Mr Tzouvelis' forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- Mr Tzouvelis' explanation as to how the substance came to be present in the greyhound's system at a level in excess of the regulatory threshold;
- the immediate review of, and amendment to, Mr Tzouvelis' animal husbandry practices;
- the nature of the prohibited substance, being Cobalt;
- 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 Tzouvelis' licence, with Stewards electing under Greyhound Australia Rule 95(3) to wholly suspend eight (8) 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 Tzouvelis' licence, with Stewards electing under Greyhound Australia Rule 95(3) to wholly suspend eight (8) 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 Tzouvelis' suspension is to commence at midnight on 19 April 2022 and is to expire at midnight on 19 August 2022.

Stewards permitted Mr Tzouvelis seven (7) days from midnight 19 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 Strategise be disqualified from Race 8 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 11 November 2021 (7<sup>th</sup> place); and
2. that Lily Monelli be disqualified from Race 8 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 11 November 2021 (3<sup>rd</sup> place).

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

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