

Stewards' Report

Date:	Monday, 30 May 2022
Panel:	Mr W Hadley (Chairman), Ms A Turner
Person:	Mr Paul Smith
Rule:	GAR 83(2)(a)
Charges:	Mr Paul Smith presented the greyhound Jimmy Corkhill to compete in Race 10 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 21 January 2022 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
Substance:	Cocaine and Benzoylecgonine
Penalty:	Twelve (12) month disqualification

On 30 May 2022, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the permanently banned prohibited substances Cocaine and Benzoylecgonine were detected in a pre-race urine sample and a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Jimmy Corkhill when it competed in, and won, Race 10 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 21 January 2022.

Written submissions were made by Mr Paul Smith as the licensed trainer of Jimmy Corkhill 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 were as follows:

Mr Paul Smith, as the trainer of the greyhound Jimmy Corkhill, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 10 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 21 January 2022 with prohibited substances in its system, namely Cocaine and Benzoylecgonine as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in the pre-race urine sample collected from the greyhound on 21 January 2022.

The specifics of Charge 2 were as follows:

Mr Paul Smith, as the trainer of the greyhound Jimmy Corkhill, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 10 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 21 January 2022 with prohibited substances 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 21 January 2022.

Mr Smith entered a plea of not guilty to both Charge 1 and Charge 2 and provided submissions in respect of both charges.

Stewards considered Mr Smith's written submissions in respect of the charges and the Stewards formally found Mr Smith guilty.

In determining the matter of penalty, Stewards considered the following:

- Mr Smith's plea of not guilty to both Charge 1 and Charge 2;
- 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 one (1) prior breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83(2)(a) in January 2022 in respect of the same permanently banned prohibited substances;
- Mr Smith's explanation as to how the substances came to be present in the greyhound's system;
- the nature of the prohibited substances, particularly noting that Cocaine and Benzoylcegonine 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 prohibited substances is serious and cannot be tolerated;
- that Mr Smith was not provided an opportunity to review and amend his animal husbandry practices as he was notified of the first positive result after 21 January 2022, being the date of the second (2nd) and third (3rd) positive result;
- 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 to be served concurrently with Mr Smith's current disqualification backdated from 17 March 2022 and to expire at midnight on 16 March 2023.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 83(4), Stewards directed that Jimmy Corkhill be disqualified from Race 10 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 21 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.