

## Stewards' Report

**Date:** Friday, 21 October 2022  
**Panel:** Mr W Hadley (Chairperson), Ms A Turner  
**Person:** Ms Serena Lawrance  
**Rule:** GAR 156(x)  
**Charge:** Associating with a warned off person for the purposes of greyhound racing on 9 October 2022  
**Penalty:** Eighteen (18) month disqualification effective from midnight 21 October 2022

---

Stewards of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission today concluded an inquiry in respect of evidence obtained by the Integrity Investigations Stewards from a kennel inspection undertaken at the registered kennel address of licensed trainer, breeder and owner Ms Serena Lawrance on 9 October 2022, at which a warned off person was present.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued a charge to Ms Lawrance pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 156(x), which relevantly provides:

*An offence is committed if a person (including an official):*

*(x) being a registered person or person associated with greyhound racing, associates with a disqualified or warned off person for the purposes of greyhound racing*

The specifics of the charge were as follows:

That Ms Serena Lawrance, as a licensed greyhound trainer, breeder and owner, did associate with warned off person Ronald Ball for the purposes of greyhound racing on 9 October 2022 at her registered kennel address, at which he handled multiple greyhounds and conducted kennel cleaning duties in and around the kennelling area.

Ms Lawrance entered a plea of guilty to the charge and made brief submissions to the Stewards regarding penalty.

In determining penalty, Stewards considered the following:

- Ms Lawrance's plea of guilty at the earliest available opportunity;
- Ms Lawrance's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately twenty (20) years;
- Ms Lawrance's forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- Ms Lawrance's disciplinary history, with Stewards noting her exemplary record over an extensive period of time within the industry;
- the number of greyhounds currently under Ms Lawrance's care and control, being thirty-eight (38) with fourteen (14) of those greyhounds being retired;

- Ms Lawrance's explanation as to why she was associating with a warned off person for the purposes of greyhound racing, together with her personal circumstances;
- that the greyhound industry is Ms Lawrance's sole source of income;
- the serious nature of Ms Lawrance's offending, being the association with a person warned off for live baiting;
- that holding a licence within the greyhound racing industry is a privilege, not a right, and it is the participant's responsibility, in this instance Ms Lawrance's, to comply with his/her obligations under the Greyhounds Australasia Rules;
- the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing by imposing a penalty that sends a clear and unequivocal message to ensure that Ms Lawrance, and all other participants, understand that complying with the Greyhounds Australasia Rules is a core requirement of participating in greyhound racing;
- the need for both specific deterrence to Ms Lawrance and general deterrence to the wider industry; and
- relevant penalty precedents.

Accordingly, the Stewards imposed a penalty of an eighteen (18) month disqualification, effective from midnight 21 October 2022.

Stewards permitted Ms Lawrance seven (7) days from midnight 21 October 2022 to transfer all greyhounds from her care and control, with Stewards permission being required for each transfer.

Ms Lawrance was advised of her right to an Internal Review.