

Stewards' Report

Date: Tuesday, 13 December 2022
Panel: Mr M Fernholz (Chairperson), Mr W Hadley, Ms A Turner
Person: Mr Claude Dacey
Rule: GAR 141(1)(a)
Charges: Mr Claude Dacey presented the greyhound Action Now to compete in Race 6 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 27 October 2022 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
Substance: Cobalt
Penalty: Twelve (12) month licence suspension

On 13 December 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 Action Now when it competed in Race 6 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 27 October 2022.

Written submissions were tendered by Mr Claude Dacey, together with further oral submissions made by Mr Dacey, as the licensed trainer of Action Now at the relevant time.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued a charge pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(1)(a), which provides:

The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound, nominated to compete in an Event, must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

The specifics of the charge were as follows:

That Mr Claude Dacey, as the trainer of the greyhound Action Now, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 6 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 27 October 2022 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 2022.

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

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

- Mr Dacey's plea of guilty to the charge at the earliest available opportunity;
- Mr Dacey's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately forty (40) years;
- the number of greyhounds currently in Mr Dacey's care and custody, being approximately thirty (30) greyhounds;
- Mr Dacey's forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- that Mr Dacey derives income from the greyhound racing industry;
- Mr Dacey's disciplinary history, noting five (5) prior breaches of the same rule in 2018, with two of those offences involving Cobalt which resulted in a nine (9) month disqualification;
- that Mr Dacey's previous five (5) breaches of the same rule in 2018 were over a short period of time;
- the nature of the prohibited substance, being Cobalt, and the various industry notices issued to racing participants regarding the risks associated with the administration of products containing Cobalt to racing greyhounds;
- that Mr Dacey was provided the opportunity to review and amend his animal husbandry practices after the five (5) breaches in 2018, yet did not make any such amendments;
- the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing and to ensure a level playing field for all participants;
- the need for both specific deterrence to Mr Dacey and general deterrence to the wider industry; and
- relevant penalty precedents.

Accordingly, the Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty was a twelve (12) month licence suspension to commence at midnight on Wednesday, 14 December 2022.

Further, Stewards permitted Mr Dacey fourteen (14) days from midnight on Wednesday, 14 December 2022 to transfer all greyhounds from his care and custody, with Stewards permission being required for each transfer.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Action Now be disqualified from Race 6 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 27 October 2022 (7th place).

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

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