

Stewards' Report

Date:	Tuesday, 18 April 2023
Panel:	Mr Wade Hadley (Chairperson), Mr C Ferguson, Mr D Aurisch
Person:	Mr Michael Patterson
Rule:	GAR 141(1)(a)
Charges:	Michael Patterson presented the greyhound Respectability to compete in Race 6 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 12 January 2023 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
Substance:	Arsenic
Penalty:	Four (4) months fine with two (2) wholly suspended for twelve (12) months

On 18 April 2023, Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards conducted an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Arsenic was detected in a pre-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Respectability when it competed in, and won, Race 6 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 12 January 2023.

Lengthy submissions were made by Mr Michael Patterson during the inquiry as the licensed trainer of Respectability at the relevant time, which included some results of scientific testing he had conducted.

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 Michael Patterson, as the trainer of the greyhound, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 6 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 12 January 2023 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Arsenic above the prescribed threshold, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited.

Mr Patterson entered a plea of not guilty to the charge and made further submissions in respect of the matter.

After considering these submissions, Mr Patterson was formally found guilty.

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

- Mr Patterson's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately twenty-three (23) years;
- Mr Patterson's disciplinary history, noting one prior breach in 2017 to the same substance.
- 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 Patterson and general deterrence to the wider industry; and

- relevant penalty precedents, including the QRIC Greyhound Penalty Guidelines.

Accordingly, Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty was a four (4) month suspension with Stewards electing to wholly suspend (2) months pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) for a period of twelve (12) months conditional upon no further breach of a similar nature.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Respectability be disqualified from Race 6 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 12 January 2023 (1st place). Stewards also directed that Respectability be disqualified from Race 9 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 19 January 2023 (5th place), being a further event of the series in which Respectability had competed in after the prohibited substance Arsenic was detected at a level in excess of the mass concentration limit of 800 nanograms per millilitre in the pre-race sample collected from the greyhound on 12 January 2023.

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

Mr Patterson was advised of his right to appeal.