

## Stewards' Report

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| <b>Date:</b>      | Tuesday, 18 April 2023  |
| <b>Panel:</b>     | Mr W Hadley (Chairperson), D Aurisch, C Ferguson  |
| <b>Person:</b>    | Mr Robynne Black  |
| <b>Rule:</b>      | GAR 141(1)(a)   |
| <b>Charges:</b>   | Ms Robynne Black presented the greyhound Imposing Sledge to compete in:<br>Race 4 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 1 January 2023 when it was not free of a prohibited substance. |
| <b>Substance:</b> | Gabapentin  |
| <b>Penalty:</b>   | Monetary Fine of \$1500   |

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On 18 April 2023, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards conducted an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Gabapentin was detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Imposing Sledge when it competed in, and won, Race 4 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 1 January 2023.

Submissions were made by Mr Robynne Black during the inquiry as the licensed trainer of Imposing Sledge at the relevant times.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued one (1) 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 Charge 1 were as follows:

That Ms Robynne Black as the trainer of the greyhound Imposing Sledge, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 4 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 01 January 2023 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Gabapentin 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 1 January 2023.

Ms Black entered a plea of guilty to Charge 1 and made brief submissions in respect of penalty.

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

- Ms Black's plea of guilty to the charge at the earliest available opportunity;
- Ms Black's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately twenty-five (25) years;
- Mr Black's service to the industry;
- Ms Black's disciplinary history, noting Ms Black has had one previous breach over 17 years prior;
- the nature of the prohibited substances, being Gabapentin;

- 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 Ms Black and general deterrence to the wider industry;
- relevant penalty precedents, including the QRIC Greyhound Penalty Guidelines.

Accordingly, the Stewards imposed the following penalties:

Charge 1: Stewards impose a fine of \$1500.00.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Imposing Sledge be disqualified from Race 4 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 1 January 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> place).

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

Ms Black was advised of her right to appeal.