

Stewards' Report

Date:	Wednesday, 7 June 2023
Panel:	Mr D Aurisch (Chairperson), Mr N Thorneycroft, Mr R Jackson
Person:	Mr Andrew Bobak
Rule:	GAR 141(1)(a)
Charges:	Mr Andrew Bobak presented the greyhound Canya Shelly to compete in Race 11 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 20 April 2023 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
Substance:	Cobalt
Penalty:	12 months suspension with (6) months wholly suspended for twelve (12) months and twelve (12) month suspension which was wholly suspended on 15 July 2022 to be imposed. Total of eighteen (18) month suspension.

On 31 May 2023, Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards conducted an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Cobalt, above the relevant threshold was detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Canya Shelly when it competed in, and won, Race 11 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 20 April 2023.

Submissions were made by Mr Andrew Bobak during the inquiry as the licensed trainer of Canya Shelly at the relevant time.

After considering all 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 Andrew Bobak, as the trainer of the greyhound Canya Shelly, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 11 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 20 April 2023 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Cobalt, above the threshold, 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 20 April 2023.

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

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

- Mr Bobak's plea of guilty to the charge;
- Mr Bobak's significant time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer;
- Ms Bobak's disciplinary history, noting a recent wholly suspended twelve (12) month wholly suspended suspension on 15 July 2022;

- Consideration of the QRIC Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines;
- 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 Bobak and general deterrence to the wider industry.

Accordingly, Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty was a suspension of Mr Bobak for twelve (12) months with Stewards electing to wholly suspend six (6) months pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) for a period of twelve (12) months conditional upon no further breach of a similar nature.

Furthermore, the Stewards advised Mr Bobak that as the twelve (12) month wholly suspended suspension for a period of (12) months for a previous penalty on 15 July 2022, would also be imposed.

Subsequently, Mr Bobak will be suspended for a total of eighteen (18) months with the six (6) month wholly suspended suspension for the Cobalt matter to take effect at the expiration of the current suspension. The suspension will commence immediately and will expire on 7 December 2024.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Canya Shelly be disqualified from Race 2 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 6 March 2023 (1st place).

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

Mr Bobak was advised of his right to appeal.