

Stewards' Report

Date: Wednesday, 7 June 2023
Panel: Mr D Aurisch (Chairperson), Mr N Thorneycroft, Mr R Jackson
Person: Mr James Robinson
Rule: GAR 141(1)(a)
Charges:

1. Mr James Robison presented the greyhound Sid's Mate to compete in Race 4 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 21 February 2023 when it was not free of a prohibited substance.
2. Mr James Robison presented the greyhound Sid's Mate to compete in Race 12 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 4 March 2023 when it was not free of a prohibited substance.
3. Mr James Robison presented the greyhound Sid's Mate to compete in Race 5 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 17 March 2023 when it was not free of a prohibited substance.

Substance: Sotalol
Penalty: 4 months suspension with 2 months wholly suspended for twelve (12) months

On 7 June 2023, Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards conducted an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Sotalol was detected in three (3) post-race urine samples collected from the greyhound Sid's Mate when it competed in, and won, Race 4 on 21 February 2023, Race 12 on 4 March 2023 and Race 5 on 17 March 2023 all at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club.

Submissions were made by Mr James Robinson during the inquiry as the licensed trainer of Sid's Mate at the relevant time assisted by Ms Penny Rigg.

After considering all the evidence, Stewards issued three charges 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:

1. That Mr James Robinson, as the trainer of the greyhound Sid's Mate, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 4 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 21 February 2023 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Sotalol 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 21 February 2023.
2. That Mr James Robinson, as the trainer of the greyhound Sid's Mate, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 12 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 4 March 2023 with

a prohibited substance in its system, namely Sotalol 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 4 March 2023.

3. That Mr James Robinson, as the trainer of the greyhound Sid's Mate, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 5 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 17 March 2023 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Sotalol 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 17 March 2023.

Mr Robinson 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 Robinson's plea of guilty to the three (3) charges;
- Mr Robinson's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately fifty (50) years;
- Mr Robinson's forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- Mr Robinson's explanation as to the likely source of the prohibited substance, being inadvertent contamination because of his medical condition which requires the daily use of a medication containing Sotalol.
- Mr Robinson's disciplinary history, noting one (1) prior breach of a similar rule;
- 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.

Accordingly, Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty for each of the (3) charges was a suspension of Mr Robinson for four (4) months with Stewards electing to wholly suspend two (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. Stewards ordered that the penalties be served concurrently to commence immediately and to expire on 7 August 2023.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Sid's Mate be disqualified from the above-mentioned races at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club.

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

Mr Robinson was advised of his right to appeal.