

Stewards' Report

Date: Thursday, 27 July 2023

Panel: Mr S Larkins (Chairperson), Mr R Doss, J Randall & S Stehbens (Cadet)

Person: Mr Clinton Thompson

Rule: GAR 141(1)(a)

Charge 1: Mr Clinton Thompson presented the greyhound Rybolt to compete in Race 9 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 19 April 2023 when it was not free of a prohibited substance.

Substance: Gabapentin

Penalty: \$2000

On 27 July 2023, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards conducted an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Gabapentin was detected in urine samples collected from the greyhound Rybolt when it was presented to compete in, Race 9 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 19 April 2023.

Submissions were made by Mr Thompson during the inquiry as the licensed trainer of Rybolt at the relevant time.

After considering all the evidence, Stewards issued one 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 Clinton Thompson, as the trainer of the greyhound Rybolt, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 9 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 19 April 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 urine sample collected from the greyhound on 19 April 2023.

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

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

- Mr Thompson's plea of not guilty to the charge;
- Mr Thompson's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately two (2) years;

- Mr Thompson's disciplinary history, noting Mr Thompson has no prior breaches of the Prohibited Substances Rules in two years of training.
- the number of greyhounds currently in Mr Thompson's care and custody, being (50) greyhounds;
- the nature of the prohibited substance, being Gabapentin, being classified as a Category 3 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 Thompson and general deterrence to the wider industry;
- relevant penalty precedents.
- The Human Rights Act 2019.
- Greyhound Racing Minimum Penalty Guidelines.

Accordingly, Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty for the breach was a fine of \$2000. Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(5)(a)(b), Stewards directed that Rybolt be disqualified from Race 9 (Grade 5 Heat) at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 19 April 2023 and race 7 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 26 April 2023 (Grade 5 Final). Stewards ordered that the placings be amended accordingly, and Mr Thompson was advised that all prizemoney associated with these events must be returned to Racing Queensland.

Mr Thompson was advised of his right of appeal.