

Stewards' Report

Date: Friday, 14 July 2023

Panel: Mr D Aurisch (Chairperson), Mr C Ferguson, Ms Sherry Barr

Person: Ms Leanne Hall

Rule: GAR 141(1)(a)

Charge : Ms Leanne Hall presented three (3) greyhounds to race when they were not free of a prohibited substance.

Substance: Gabapentin

Penalty: \$2000

On 14 July 2023, Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards conducted an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Gabapentin was detected in three (3) urine samples collected from the greyhound Ringbark Razor when it competed in, and won, Race 2 on 11 March 2023. Little Critter when it competed in, and won, Race 6 at Albion Park on 16 March 2023 and a pre-race urine from the greyhound Any Given Sunday from Race 9 at Albion Park on 16 March 2023.

Detailed submissions were made by Mr Graham Hall during the inquiry, on behalf of licensed trainer Mrs Leanne Hall

Evidence was also taken from Dr Shawn Stanley, General Manager, Analytical Services, Racing Science Centre. Evidence was also taken from Dr Sally Colgan, Head of Veterinary Services, QRIC.

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 Ms Leanne Hall, as the trainer of the greyhound Ringbark Razor, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 2 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 11 March 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 11 March 2023.

That Ms Leanne Hall, as the trainer of the greyhound Little Critter, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 6 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 16 March 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 16 March 2023.

That Ms Leanne Hall, as the trainer of the greyhound Any Given Sunday, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 9 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 16 March 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 16 March 2023.

Ms Hall 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:

- Ms Hall's plea of not guilty to the three (3) elements to the charge;
- Ms Hall's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately forty (40) years;
- Ms Hall's disciplinary history, noting one (1) prior breach of a similar rule;
- Consideration of the QRIC Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines;
- Human Rights Act 2019
- the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing and to ensure a level playing field for all participants.

Accordingly, Stewards determined that as Ms Hall was unaware of the discrepancy with the first sample taken from Ringbark Razor before Little Critter and Any Given Sunday were sampled at Albion Park on 16 March 2023, Ms Hall didn't have an opportunity to review her greyhound husbandry practices.

Subsequently, the Stewards issued one (1) penalty for the three (3) samples, with that being a fine of \$2000.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Ringbark Razor, Little Critter and Any Given Sunday be disqualified from the above-mentioned races at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club and Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club respectively.

Stewards ordered that the placings be amended accordingly, and Ms Hall was advised that all prizemoney associated with the events must be returned to Racing Queensland.

Ms Hall was advised of her right to appeal.