

# Stewards' Report

**Date:** Saturday, 7 October 2023  
**Panel:** Mr A Flymen (Chairperson), Mr K Dean  
**Person:** Mr Tony Parker  
**Rule:** GAR 141(1)(a)  
**Charges:** Mr Tony Parker presented the greyhound Paulie Walnuts to compete in Race 4 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 22 August 2023 when it was not free of a prohibited substance.  
**Substance:** Dexamethasone  
**Penalty:** \$1500.00 fine

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On 7 October 2023, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Dexamethasone was detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Paulie Walnuts when it competed in, and won, Race 4 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 22 August 2023.

Submissions were made by Mr Parker as the licensed trainer of Paulie Walnuts at the relevant time.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued a charge pursuant to the 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 Tony Parker, as the trainer of the greyhound Paulie Walnuts, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 4 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 22 August 2023 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Dexamethasone 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 22 August 2023.

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

Stewards considered the following when determining penalty:

- Mr Parker's plea of guilty to the charge at the earliest available opportunity;
- Mr Parker's time in the greyhound racing industry, being approximately thirty-four (34) years;
- Mr Parker's forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- Mr Parker's disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches of a similar rule;
- the nature of the prohibited substance, being Dexamethasone;
- 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 Parker and general deterrence to the wider industry; and
- relevant penalty precedents, including the QRIC Greyhound Penalty Guidelines.

Accordingly, Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty was a monetary fine of \$1500.00.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Paulie Walnuts be disqualified from Race 4 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 22 August 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> place).

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

Mr Parker was advised of his right to appeal.