

Stewards' Report

Date:	Friday 10 November 2023
Panel:	Mr D Broxham (Chairman), Mr D Aurisch
Person:	Mr Hassell Rolph
Rule:	GAR 141(1)(a)
Charges:	Mr Hassel Rolph presented the greyhound Bat Sign to compete in Race 4 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 07 September 2023 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
Substance:	Hydrochlorothiazide
Penalty:	Four (4) months suspension with three (3) months wholly suspended for 12 months

On 10 November 2023, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Hydrochlorothiazide was detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Bat Sign when it competed in, and won, Race 4 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 7 September 2023.

Submissions were made by Mr Hassel Rolph as the licensed trainer of Bat Sign at the relevant time.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued a charge pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(1)(a), which states:

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 Hassel Rolph as the trainer of the greyhound Bat Sign, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 4 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 7 September 2023 with prohibited substance in its system, Hydrochlorothiazide 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 7 September 2023.

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

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

- Mr Rolph's plea of guilty to the charge at the earliest available opportunity;
- Mr Rolph's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately 40 years;
- Mr Rolph's forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- Mr Rolph's immediate review of, and amendment to, his animal husbandry practices upon being notified of the positive sample;
- Mr Rolph's disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches;
- The nature of the prohibited 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 Rolph, and general deterrence to the wider industry;

- Prior penalty precedents in recent similar cases.
- The new penalty guidelines implemented 2023.

Accordingly, Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty was a 4 month suspension with 3 months wholly suspended for 12 months conditional upon no further breach of a similar nature.

Acting under GAR 174(5) the Stewards deferred the commencement of the penalty to the 14 November 2023.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Bat Sign be disqualified from Race 4 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 7 September 2023 (1st place).

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

Mr Rolph was advised of his right to appeal.