

# Stewards' Report

**Date:** Monday, 30 October 2023

**Panel:** Mr D.Broxham (Chairperson), Mr D.Aurisch

**Person:** Mr James Robinson

**Rule:** GAR 141(1)(a)

**Charges:** Mr Robinson presented the greyhound Sid's Mate to compete in Race 8 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 7 September 2023 when it was not free of a prohibited substance

**Substance:** Sotalol

**Penalty:** Six (6) month licence suspension to be served cumulative with the two (2) month suspension be invoked from the penalty on the 7 June 2023.

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On 30 October 2023, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Sotalol was detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Sid's Mate when it competed in, Race 8 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 7 September 2023.

Submissions were made by Mr James Robinson as the licensed trainer of Sid's Mate 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 Robinson, as the trainer of the greyhound Sid's Mate, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 8 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 7 September 2023 with a prohibited substances in its system, 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 7 September 2023.

Mr Robinson 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 Robinson's plea of guilty to the charge at the earliest available opportunity;
- Mr Robinson's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately 50 years;
- Mr Robinson's forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- Mr Robinson's immediate review of, and amendment to, his animal husbandry practices upon being notified of the positive sample;
- Mr Robinson's disciplinary history, noting Mr Robinson had a similar breach on 7 June 2023;

- 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 Robinson, and general deterrence to the wider industry;
- Prior penalty precedents in recent similar cases.
- The new penalty guidelines implemented March 2023;

The stewards, having considered the above factors, determined that the wholly suspended 2 months suspension of Mr Robinson's licence imposed on 7 June 2023 be invoked as a result of a further breach of the same rule;

Accordingly, Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty was a six-month suspension to be served cumulatively with the invoked 2 month licence suspension commencing at midnight on 30 October 2023.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Sid's Mate be disqualified from Race 8 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 7 September 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> place).

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.