

Stewards' Report

- Date:** Tuesday, 6 February 2023
- Panel:** Mr W Hadley (Chairperson), Ms A Turner
- Person:** Mr Darren Russell
- Rule:** GAR 166(2)
- Charge:** That Mr Darren Russell did place a lay bet on the greyhound Baroski in Race 1 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 26 September 2023 when he was the trainer of that greyhound.
- Penalty:** Licence suspension for a period of four (4) weeks wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of twelve (12) months
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Stewards of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission today concluded an inquiry in respect of evidence obtained by the Compliance and Assurance Stewards regarding a lay bet that was placed by licensed trainer Mr Darren Russell on the greyhound Baroski in Race 1 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 26 September 2023 when Mr Russell was the trainer of that greyhound.

Submissions were made by Mr Russell during the inquiry as the licensed trainer who placed the subject lay bet.

After considering all of the evidence, Stewards issued a charge pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 166(2), which provides:

An offence is committed if any person directly involved or employed in the nomination, training or care of a greyhound or a person who has provided a service connected to a greyhound in the period of 21 days prior to an Event, lays the relevant greyhound in an Event.

The specifics of the charge were as follows:

That Mr Darren Russell did place a lay bet via his Betfair account on the greyhound Baroski in Race 1 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 26 September 2023 when he was the trainer of that greyhound.

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

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

- Mr Russell's plea of guilty to the charge at the earliest available opportunity.
- Mr Russell's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately twenty-two (22) years.
- Mr Russell's forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry.
- Mr Russell's disciplinary history, noting no prior offences of a similar nature.
- the nature of Mr Russell's offending, being the placing of a lay bet on a greyhound which he trained.
- that holding a licence within the greyhound racing industry is a privilege, not a right, and it is the participant's responsibility to comply with his/her obligations under the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.
- the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing by imposing a penalty that sends a clear and unequivocal message to ensure that Mr Russell, and all other participants, understand that the integrity of the racing industry is of the highest priority.
- the need for both specific deterrence to Mr Russell and general deterrence to the wider industry.
- relevant penalty precedents; and
- the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

Accordingly, the Stewards issued a four (4) week licence suspension with stewards electing to wholly suspend the penalty for a period of twelve (12) months acting under Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) conditional upon no further breach of a similar nature.

Mr Russell was advised of his right to a review of the decision.