

Stewards' Report

Date: Tuesday, 27 February 2024
Panel: Ms A Turner (Chairperson), Mr R Jackson
Person: Mr Jason Schmidt
Rule: GAR 141(1)(a)
Charges: Mr Jason Schmidt presented the greyhound Red Cloud to compete in Race 10 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 7 December 2023 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
Substance: Codeine, Morphine and Norcodeine
Penalty: Nine (9) month disqualification

On 27 February 2024, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the permanently banned prohibited substances Codeine, Morphine and Norcodeine were detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Red Cloud when it competed in, and won, Race 10 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 7 December 2023.

Submissions were made by Mr Craig Schmidt during the inquiry as the licensed trainer of the greyhound Red Cloud at the relevant time.

After considering all of 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 Mr Jason Schmidt, as the trainer of the greyhound Red Cloud, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 10 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 7 December 2023 with permanently banned prohibited substances in its system, namely Codeine, Morphine and Norcodeine 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 December 2023.

Mr Schmidt 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 Schmidt's plea of guilty to the charge at the earliest available opportunity;

- Mr Schmidt's time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately fifteen (15) years and his participation in the industry for approximately thirty (30) years;
- Mr Schmidt's disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches of a similar nature;
- Mr Schmidt's good character, together with his forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- Mr Schmidt's personal circumstances, specifically that he derives his income solely from the greyhound racing industry;
- the number of greyhounds in Mr Schmidt's care and custody, being approximately one hundred (100) greyhounds;
- the nature of the permanently banned prohibited substances, being Morphine, Codeine and Norcodeine, noting that they are permanently banned prohibited substances across all codes of racing and therefore a clear message needs to be sent to the industry that any breach involving permanently banned prohibited substances is serious and cannot be tolerated;
- 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 Schmidt and general deterrence to the wider industry;
- relevant penalty precedents;
- the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines; and
- the Human Rights Act 2019.

Accordingly, the Stewards imposed a penalty of a nine (9) month disqualification effective from midnight 7 March 2024.

Stewards permitted Mr Schmidt fourteen (14) days from midnight 7 March 2024 to transfer all greyhounds from his care and custody, with Steward's permission being required for each transfer.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Red Cloud be disqualified from Race 10 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 7 December 2023 (1st place).

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(5), Stewards further directed that Red Cloud be disqualified from Race 8 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 14 December 2023 (3rd place), being a further event of the series in which Red Cloud had previously competed in when the permanently banned prohibited substances Codeine, Morphine and Norcodeine were detected in the greyhound's post-race sample.

Stewards ordered that the placings be amended accordingly and Mr Schmidt was advised that all prizemoney associated with these events must be returned to Racing Queensland.

Further, Mr Schmidt was advised that Red Cloud would be ineligible to be nominated for any further event pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 139(4) until a clear sample has been collected from the greyhound.

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