

Stewards' Report

Date: Tuesday, 6 February 2024
Panel: Mr W Hadley (Chairperson), Ms A Turner, Ms S Barr
Person: Mr Ricky Hassall
Rule: GAR 141(1)(a)
Charges: Mr Ricky Hassall presented the greyhound Destini Lucetta to compete in Race 1 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 6 November 2023 when it was not free of a prohibited substance
Substance: Dexamethasone
Penalty: \$1,500.00 fine

On 6 February 2024, 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 Destini Lucetta when it competed in, and won, Race 1 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 6 November 2023.

Submissions were made by Mr Ricky Hassall as the licensed trainer of Destini Lucetta 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 Ricky Hassall, as the trainer of the greyhound Destini Lucetta, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 1 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 6 November 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 6 November 2023.

Mr Hassall 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 Hassall's plea of guilty to the charge at the earliest available opportunity.
- Mr Hassall's time in the greyhound racing industry, being approximately forty-five (45) years.
- Mr Hassall's forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry.

- Mr Hassall's immediate review of, and amendment to, his animal husbandry practices upon being notified of the positive sample.
- Mr Hassall's disciplinary history, noting Mr Hassall has one (1) prior breach of a similar nature in the past thirty (30) years.
- 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 Hassall 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 monetary penalty in the amount of \$1,500.00.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Destini Lucetta be disqualified from Race 1 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 6 November 2023 (1st place).

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(5), Stewards directed that Destini Lucetta be disqualified from Race 2 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 13 November 2023 (1st place), being a further event of the series in which Destini Lucetta had previously competed in when the prohibited substance Dexamethasone was detected in the greyhound's post-race sample.

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

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