

Stewards' Report

- Date:** Thursday, 21 March 2024
- Panel:** Mr S Larkins (Chairperson), Ms S Stehbens
- Person:** Mr Gregory Pickard
- Rule:** GAR 164(b) and GAR156(g)(iv)
- Charges:** That Mr Gregory Pickard, a licensed greyhound trainer and owner:
1. Failed to attend a stewards' inquiry when directed to do so by the Stewards at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 22 December 2023
 2. Engaged in conduct of a threatening nature during a telephone conversation with Senior Stipendiary Steward Anthony Flymen on 21 December 2023
 3. Engaged in conduct of an insulting nature during a telephone conversation with Senior Stipendiary Steward Anthony Flymen on 21 December 2023
- Penalty:**
- Charge 1: \$200.00 fine
- Charge 2: Six (6) month licence suspension wholly and conditionally suspended for twelve (12) months, together with a \$1,000.00 fine of which \$500.00 was wholly and conditionally suspended for twelve (12) months
- Charge 3: \$500.00 fine of which \$250.00 was wholly and conditionally suspended for twelve (12) months

On 21 March 2024, Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) stewards concluded an inquiry into the conduct of licensed trainer and owner Mr Gregory Pickard towards Mr Anthony Flymen, Senior Stipendiary Steward of QRIC, on 21 December 2023 and Mr Pickard's failure to attend a stewards' inquiry when directed to do so by stewards on 22 December 2023.

Evidence was tendered by Mr Gregory Pickard and Mr Anthony Flymen during the inquiry.

After considering all of the evidence, stewards issued three (3) charges pursuant to the Greyhounds Australasia Rules as follows:

Charge 1: Issued pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 164(b), which provides:

An offence is committed if a person (including an official):

(b) refuses or fails to attend or to give evidence at an inquiry (or at any other disciplinary process, hearing or appeal proceeding) or produce a document or other thing in relation to an investigation, examination, test or inquiry (or other disciplinary process, hearing or appeal proceeding) pursuant to the Rules when directed by a Controlling Body, the Stewards, or another authorised person

The specifics of Charge 1 were as follows:

That Mr Gregory Pickard, a licensed trainer and owner, did fail to attend a stewards' inquiry when directed to do so by the stewards at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 22 December 2023.

Charge 2: Issued pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 156(g)(iv), which provides:

An offence is committed if a person (including an official):

(g) wilfully assaults, obstructs, impedes, abuses, interferes with, threatens or insults:

(iv) a Steward or any other official of a Controlling Body or a Club

The specifics of Charge 2 were as follows:

That Mr Gregory Pickard engaged in conduct of a threatening nature during a telephone conversation with Senior Stipendiary Steward Anthony Flymen on 21 December 2023.

Charge 3: Issued pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 156(g)(iv), which provides:

An offence is committed if a person (including an official):

(g) wilfully assaults, obstructs, impedes, abuses, interferes with, threatens or insults:

(iv) a Steward or any other official of a Controlling Body or a Club

The specifics of Charge 3 were as follows:

That Mr Gregory Pickard engaged in conduct of an insulting nature during a telephone conversation with Senior Stipendiary Steward Anthony Flymen on 21 December 2023.

Mr Pickard entered a plea of guilty to all three (3) charges and made submissions in respect of penalty.

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

- Mr Pickard's plea of guilty to all three (3) charges at the earliest available opportunity;
- Mr Pickard's time in the greyhound racing industry as a participant, being approximately forty-five (45) years;
- Mr Pickard's forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- Mr Pickard's disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches of any nature;

- Mr Pickard's personal circumstances;
- the need for both specific deterrence to Mr Pickard and general deterrence to the wider industry;
- the need for the general public to maintain confidence in the integrity control of the greyhound racing industry;
- relevant penalty precedents;
- the Human Rights Act 2019; and
- total impost of penalties imposed.

Accordingly, the stewards imposed the following penalties:

Charge 1: \$200.00 fine

Charge 2: A six (6) month licence suspension, with stewards electing to wholly suspend the penalty under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) for twelve (12) months conditional upon no further breaches of a similar nature, together with a \$1,000.00 fine, with stewards electing to suspend \$500.00 of the penalty under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) for twelve (12) months conditional upon no further breaches of a similar nature.

Charge 3: \$500.00 fine, with stewards electing to suspend \$250.00 of the penalty under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) for twelve (12) months conditional upon no further breaches of a similar nature.

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