

## Stewards' Report

**Date:** Tuesday, 9 April 2024  
**Panel:** Mr D Aurisch (Chairperson), Mr C Ferguson  
**Person:** Mr Malcolm Willoughby  
**Rule:** GAR 141(1)(a)  
**Charges:** Mr Malcolm Willoughby presented the greyhound Cyclone Winston to compete in Race 9 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 14 September 2023 when it was not free of a prohibited substance  
**Substance:** Gabapentin  
**Penalty:** \$1,500.00 fine with \$750.00 wholly and conditionally suspended for twelve (12) months

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On 9 April 2024, Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) stewards concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance gabapentin was detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Cyclone Winston when it competed in and won Race 19 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 14 September 2023.

Detailed written submissions were tendered during the inquiry by Mr Malcolm Willoughby as the licensed trainer of the greyhound Cyclone Winston at the relevant time, together with oral submissions made by Mr Malcolm Willoughby and Dr David Blyde, Lead Canine Veterinarian of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.

After considering all 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 Malcolm Willoughby, as the trainer of the greyhound Cyclone Winston, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 9 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 14 September 2023 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely gabapentin 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 14 September 2023.

Mr Willoughby entered a plea of not guilty to the charge and made further submissions in respect of penalty.

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

- Mr Willoughby's plea of not guilty to the to the charge;
- Mr Willoughby's significant time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer;
- Mr Willoughby's explanation as to the likely source of the substance, being a supplement, with the explanation being supported by a significant amount of analytical data;
- the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing and to ensure a level playing field for all participants;
- relevant penalty precedents;
- the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines; and
- the Human Rights Act 2019.

Accordingly, atewards determined that a monetary penalty in the amount of \$1,500.00 be imposed, with stewards electing to suspend \$750.00 of the penalty under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) for a period of twelve (12) months, conditional upon no further breach of a similar nature.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), stewards directed that Cyclone Winston be disqualified from Race 9 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 14 September 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> place).

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

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