

Stewards' Report

Date:	Tuesday, 8 October 2024
Panel:	Ms A Turner (Chairperson), Mr P McLean, Mr N Thorneycroft
Person:	Mrs Myra Griffiths
Rule:	GAR139(3)(a), GAR 141(1)(a)
Charges:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. On 10 May 2024, Mrs Myra Griffiths was the registered trainer of the greyhound Newton Hayze when an out-of-competition sample collected from that greyhound was found to contain a permanently banned prohibited substance2. On 10 May 2024, Mrs Myra Griffiths was the registered trainer of the greyhound Whispers when an out-of-competition sample collected from that greyhound was found to contain a permanently banned prohibited substance3. On 26 June 2024, Mrs Myra Griffiths was the registered trainer of the greyhound Newton Hayze when it was presented to compete in Race 2 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club when it was not free of a prohibited substance
Substance:	Testosterone Propionate
Penalty:	Charge 1: Twelve (12) month disqualification Charge 2: Twelve (12) month disqualification to be served concurrently with Charge 1 Charge 3: Twelve (12) month disqualification to be served concurrently with Charge 1

On 8 October 2024, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the permanently banned prohibited substance Testosterone Propionate was detected in:

1. an out-of-competition hair sample collected from the greyhound Newton Hayze on 10 May 2024;
2. an out-of-competition hair sample collected from the greyhound Whispers on 10 May 2024; and
3. a post-race hair sample collected from the greyhound Newton Hayze when it competed in, and won, Race 2 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 26 June 2024,

whilst Mrs Myra Griffiths was the licensed trainer of the abovementioned greyhounds at the relevant times.

On 30 July 2024, Stewards imposed an interim suspension upon Mrs Griffith's licence and registration pending the outcome of the stewards' inquiry in respect of the three (3) subject samples

due to the serious nature of the permanently banned prohibited substance Testosterone Propionate.

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 139(3)(a), which provides:

When a sample taken from a greyhound being trained by a trainer or in the care of a registered person has been established to contain a permanently banned prohibited substance:

(a) the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the relevant greyhound at the relevant time shall be guilty of an offence

The specifics of Charge 1 were as follows:

On 10 May 2024, Mrs Myra Griffiths was the registered trainer of the greyhound Newton Hayze when an out-of-competition sample collected from that greyhound was found to contain a permanently banned prohibited substance, being Testosterone Propionate.

Charge 2: Issued pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 139(3)(a), which provides:

When a sample taken from a greyhound being trained by a trainer or in the care of a registered person has been established to contain a permanently banned prohibited substance:

(a) the trainer and any other person who was in charge of the relevant greyhound at the relevant time shall be guilty of an offence

The specifics of Charge 2 were as follows:

On 10 May 2024, Mrs Myra Griffiths was the registered trainer of the greyhound Whispers when an out-of-competition sample collected from that greyhound was found to contain a permanently banned prohibited substance, being Testosterone Propionate.

Charge 3: Issued 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 Charge 3 were as follows:

On 26 June 2024, at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club, Mrs Myra Griffiths was the registered trainer of the greyhound Newton Hayze when that greyhound was presented to compete in Race 2 with a permanently banned prohibited substance in its system, namely Testosterone Propionate.

Mrs Griffiths entered a plea of not guilty to all three (3) charges and made further submissions in respect of her pleas.

Stewards considered Mrs Griffiths' further submissions and subsequently found all three (3) charges proven, with Mrs Griffiths then providing submissions in respect of penalty.

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

- Mrs Griffiths' plea of not guilty to all three (3) charges;
- Mrs Griffiths' time in the greyhound racing industry as a trainer, being approximately two-and-a-half (2.5) years;
- Mrs Griffiths' disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches of a similar nature albeit over two-and-a-half (2.5) years as a trainer;
- Mrs Griffiths' personal circumstances, noting that Mrs Griffiths does not derive her primary income from the greyhound racing industry;
- the nature of the permanently banned prohibited substance Testosterone Propionate, noting that the substance is a permanently banned prohibited substance across all codes of racing and therefore a clear message must be sent to the industry that any breach involving permanently banned prohibited substances is serious and cannot be tolerated;
- Mrs Griffiths' inability to explain how the permanently banned prohibited substance came to be detected in the greyhounds;
- that Mrs Griffiths was not afforded an opportunity to review and amend her animal husbandry practices prior to receiving notice of the second (2nd) and third (3rd) positive samples;
- 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 Mrs Griffiths and general deterrence to the wider industry;
- relevant penalty precedents;

- the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines, which outlines the objective seriousness of the detection of a permanently banned prohibited substance of this type, and indicated a penalty of a twelve (12) month disqualification for a Category 1 substance, of which Testosterone Propionate falls into, with Stewards noting the need to rely upon the penalty guidelines when determining an appropriate penalty as to do otherwise would not provide any level of certainty to industry participants as to what likely outcomes will flow from breaches of this nature; and
- the Human Rights Act 2019.

Accordingly, the Stewards imposed the following penalties:

Charge 1: A twelve (12) month disqualification effective immediately.

Charge 2: A twelve (12) month disqualification to be served concurrently with Charge 1.

Charge 3: A twelve (12) month disqualification to be served concurrently with Charge 1.

Stewards further directed that Newton Hayze be disqualified from:

1. Race 2 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 20 May 2024 (1st place) pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 139(3)(c);
2. Race 2 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 27 May 2024 (3rd place) pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 139(3)(c);
3. Race 1 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 6 June 2024 (5th place) pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 139(3)(c);
4. Race 2 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 26 June 2024 (1st place) pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(5)(a); and
5. Race 3 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 4 July 2024 (1st place) pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(5)(b),

with the placings to be amended accordingly and all prizemoney associated with the events to be returned to Racing Queensland.

Mrs Griffiths was advised of her right to a review of the decision.