

## Stewards' Report

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, 16 October 2024
<b>Panel:</b>	Ms A Turner (Chairperson), Mr D Broxham, Mr N Thorneycroft
<b>Person:</b>	Mr Colin Graham
<b>Rule:</b>	GAR 141(1)(a)
<b>Charges:</b>	On 22 August 2024, Mr Colin Graham presented the greyhound Sweetest Smile to compete in Race 1 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club when it was not free of a prohibited substance
<b>Substance:</b>	Dexamethasone
<b>Penalty:</b>	\$1,500.00 fine with \$1,000.00 conditionally suspended for twelve (12) months

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On 16 October 2024, the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards concluded an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Dexamethasone was detected in a pre-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Sweetest Smile when it competed in Race 1 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 22 August 2024.

Submissions were made by Mr Colin Graham as the licensed trainer of Sweetest Smile at the relevant time.

After considering the evidence, Stewards issued a charge pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rules 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:

On 22 August 2024 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club, Mr Colin Graham, as the trainer of the greyhound Sweetest Smile, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 1 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Dexamethasone.

Mr Graham entered a plea of guilty to the charge and made further submissions in respect of penalty.

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

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

- Mr Graham's time in the greyhound racing industry, being approximately fifty-three (53) years;
- Mr Graham's forthright evidence and cooperation throughout the inquiry;
- Mr Graham's exemplary disciplinary history, noting no prior breaches of a similar nature over a period exceeding fifty (50) years;
- Mr Graham's personal circumstances;
- the nature of the prohibited substance Dexamethasone;
- that a probable cause for the detection of the prohibited substance was ascertained;
- Mr Graham's immediate review of, and amendment to, his animal husbandry practices upon being notified of the positive analysis;
- 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 Graham, being at the lower end, 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 determined that the appropriate penalty was a monetary penalty in the amount of \$1,500.00 with Stewards electing to wholly suspend \$1,000.00 for a period of twelve (12) months pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) conditional upon no further breach of a similar nature.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Sweetest Smile be disqualified from Race 1 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 22 August 2024 (2<sup>nd</sup> place) with the placings to be amended accordingly. Mr Graham was advised that all prizemoney associated with this event must be returned to Racing Queensland.

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