

Stewards' Report

Date: Wednesday, 30 April 2025

Panel: Mr Andrew Spence (Chair), Mr D Aurisch, Mr K Dean & Mr J McIntosh

Person: Mr Gary Farrell

Rule: GAR 141(1)(a)

Charges: Gary Farrell presented the greyhound Federal Bullet to compete in Race 8 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 28 February 2025 when it was not free of a prohibited substance

Substance: Cobalt

Penalty: Two (2) months suspension with the period wholly suspended for (2) two years and \$1000 fine.

On 30 April 2025, Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards conducted an inquiry into analysts' findings that the prohibited substance Cobalt was detected, above the prescribed threshold, in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Federal Bullet when it competed in, and won, race 8 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 28 February 2025.

After considering all the relevant exhibits, Stewards issued a written 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:

Mr Gary Farrell, as the trainer of the greyhound, did present that greyhound to compete in race 8 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 28 February 2025 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Cobalt above the prescribed threshold, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited.

Mr Farrell entered a plea of guilty to the charge and made detailed submissions on the matter of penalty.

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

- Mr Farrell's time in the racing industry being approximately forty-seven (47) years;
- Mr Farrell's disciplinary history, noting one prior breach in 2006;
- 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 Farrell and general deterrence to the wider industry;
- Mr Farrell's personal circumstances including his employment at Townsville Turf Club;
- Mr Farrell has three greyhounds in work, and another 13 which he is in the process of rehoming;
- the QRIC Greyhound Penalty Guidelines, particularly the Human Rights Act 2019 (HRA);

Accordingly, Stewards determined to be a two (2) month suspension with Stewards electing to wholly suspend that period pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule 174(3) for a period of two (2) years conditional upon no further breach of a similar nature.

A fine of \$1,000 was also imposed.

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(4), Stewards directed that Federal Bullet be disqualified from Race 8 at the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club on 28 January 2025 (1st place).

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

Mr Farrell was advised of his right to appeal.