

# Stewards' Report

**Date:** Friday, 9 May 2025

**Panel:** Mr Andrew Spence (Chair), Mr Daniel Aurisch, Mr Cameron Ferguson

**Person:** Mr Leigh McHugh

**Rule:** GAR 141(1)(a)

**Charge 1:** Mr Leith McHugh, as the trainer of the greyhound What's The Price, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 7 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 30 January 2025 with permanently banned prohibited substances in its system, namely Methamphetamine and Amphetamine, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited, from a post-race urine sample.

**Charge 2:** Mr Leith McHugh, as the trainer of the greyhound What's The Price, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 6 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 16 February 2025 with permanently banned prohibited substances in its system, namely Methamphetamine and Amphetamine, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited, from a pre-race urine sample.

**Substances:** Amphetamine & Methamphetamine

**Penalty:** Six (6) months suspension with the period wholly suspended for (2) two years and a \$3000 fine.

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On Friday, 9 May 2025, Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) Stewards conducted an inquiry into analysts' findings that the permanently banned substances Amphetamine and Methamphetamine were detected in a post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound What's The Price when it competed in, and won, race 7 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 30 January 2025, and a pre-race sample taken at Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 16 February 2025.

Stewards considering all the available, including certificates of analysis, the submissions made from trainer Mr Leith McHugh, owner Mr Jamie McHugh, Dr Shawn Stanley, General Manager of Analytical Services, Racing Science Centre, and other associated persons present at the McHugh kennels during the relevant period.

Stewards subsequently issued two (2) charges against Mr Leith McHugh 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 charges were as follows:

Charge 1: Mr Leith McHugh, as the trainer of the greyhound What's The Price, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 7 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 30 January 2025 with permanently banned prohibited substances in its system, namely Methamphetamine and Amphetamine, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited, from a post-race urine sample.

Charge 2: Mr Leith McHugh, as the trainer of the greyhound What's The Price, did present that greyhound to compete in Race 6 at the Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 16 February 2025 with permanently banned prohibited substances in its system, namely Methamphetamine and Amphetamine, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited, from a pre-race urine sample.

Mr Leith McHugh entered a plea of guilty to both charges and made detailed submissions towards penalty.

In determining a penalty, Stewards considered the following:

- Mr McHugh's time in the racing industry being approximately more than 20 years;
- Mr McHugh disciplinary history, noting one prior breach in 2016 to the same substances;
- the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing;
- the need to ensure a level playing field for all participants;
- the need for both specific deterrence to Mr McHugh and;
- the need for general deterrence to the wider industry;
- Mr McHugh's personal circumstances;
- Sufficient changes were made to the kennel arrangements and husbandry practices;
- the QRIC Greyhound Penalty Guidelines, particularly the Human Rights Act 2019 (HRA);
- the interim suspension, that Stewards placed on Mr McHugh since 18 February 2025 being of almost three (3) months.

Accordingly, Stewards determined that additionally to the time currently served under the interim suspension a further 6 months suspension is imposed. Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule (GAR) 174(3) Stewards elected to wholly suspend that period for a period of 2 years conditional upon no further breach of a similar rule.

A fine of \$3000 was also imposed.

Acting under the provisions of GAR 141(4), Stewards directed that What's The Price be disqualified from Race 7 at the Ipswich Greyhound Racing Club on 30 January 2025 (1st place), and its 3<sup>rd</sup> placing at Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club on 16 February 2025.

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

Mr Leith McHugh was advised of his right to appeal.