

Stewards' Report

Date: Friday, 6 June 2025
Panel: Mr Andrew Spence (Chairperson), Mr Paul McLean
Person: Mr Ronald Ball
Rule: GAR 179 – Penalty to recommence after breach
Penalty: Warning Off for 10 years from 9 October 2022 until 9 October 2032

On Friday, 30 May 2025, Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Stewards commenced an inquiry into the circumstances of Mr Ronald Ball being found to be present on the property of then licenced person Serena Lawrance on 9 October 2022 and to be handling greyhounds on that property when he was a Warned Off person.

Mr Ball was previously Warned Off for a period of 10 years for offences related to the serious conduct of live baiting. The restrictions on a Warned Off person per the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule (GAR) 178 are:

178 Effect of disqualification, suspension, warning off or being declared a defaulter

....

(2) A person who is disqualified, warned off, suspended or declared to be a defaulter must not, during the period of the penalty:

- (a) nominate a greyhound for any Event;*
- (b) permit a greyhound that the person owns or trains to compete in any Event;*
- (c) act as an attendant at a meeting;*
- (d) train a greyhound;*
- (e) participate in any activity connected with the breeding of greyhounds;*
- (f) act as an official at a meeting;*
- (g) be engaged as an employee or agent by any other person associated with the training of greyhounds; or*
- (h) be a member, officeholder, employee or volunteer of a Club registered pursuant to the Local Rules of a Controlling Body.*

(3) Unless a Controlling Body orders otherwise, a person who is disqualified, warned-off or declared a defaulter is not:

- (a) permitted to transact or engage in any business affecting the registration or licensing of persons or greyhounds with a Controlling Body;*
- (b) to enter any enclosure or other part of a racecourse or any property occupied or used in connection with a racecourse whether acting as agent or in any other capacity;*
- (c) to enter the premises of a Club;*

(d) to have or hold any of the rights or privileges conferred by any licence or registration pursuant to the Rules;

(e) eligible to otherwise participate in or associate with greyhound racing, and any greyhound which has been nominated by the person or in the person's name, or which the person wholly or partly owns which is proved to the satisfaction of a Controlling Body to be under the person's care, custody or in training with the person, is prohibited from competing in any Event; and

(f) to enter or go to or remain on, at any time, any place where greyhounds are bred, whelped, handled, reared, broken in, kept or housed, educated, pre-trained, trained or raced.

After taking submissions from Mr Ball and reviewing relevant prior reports the Stewards adjourned the inquiry to appropriately consider all relevant evidence balanced against the provisions of GAR 179.

179 Penalty to be recommenced after breach

Where a person breaches rule 178 the period of penalty imposed on a disqualified or warned off person is automatically deemed to be recommenced as from the most recent date of that breach, and the person may be subject to further penalty.

On Thursday, 5 June 2025, having considered all available evidence, Stewards made a final determination with respect of Mr Ball handling greyhounds when, at the relevant time, he was a Warned Off person, which breaches the conditions of GAR 178. Stewards determined to invoke the provisions of GAR 179 and deemed the most recent breach to be on 9 October 2022. Therefore, Mr Ball's Warning Off is to recommence for a period of 10 years from this date up to and including 9 October 2032.

GAR 179 also provides for a further penalty to be considered, however due to the circumstances of this breach and the already significant penalty this automatically imposes, the Stewards determined not to apply a further penalty.

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