

Stewards' Report – Ashley Bock

Hearing Date: Monday, 22 September 2025

Panel: Mr Andrew Spence (Chair)
Mr Daniel Aurisch
Mr Paul McLean

Person: Mr Ashley Bock

Rule: GAR 141 Greyhound to be free of prohibited substances
(1) The owner, trainer or other person in charge of greyhound:
(a) nominated to compete in an Event;
must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

Substance/s: Caffeine, Theophylline, Paraxanthine & Theobromine

Charge 1: Mr Ashley Bock, as the trainer of the greyhound Federal Tonka, did fail to present that greyhound free of a prohibited substance when it competed in, and won, race 1 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 6 April 2025 with prohibited substances in its system, namely Caffeine, Theophylline, Paraxanthine & Theobromine, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in the post-race urine sample.

Plea: Guilty

Charge 2: Mr Ashley Bock as the trainer of the greyhound Federal Emeran, did fail to present that greyhound free of a prohibited substance when it competed in, and won, race 9 at the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club on 6 April with prohibited substances in its system, namely Caffeine, Theophylline, Paraxanthine & Theobromine, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in the post-race urine sample.

Plea: Guilty

Penalty Submissions:

At the Stewards Inquiry Hearing, Mr Bock made oral submissions for consideration.

In summary, Mr Bock submitted that:

- Greyhound racing is his predominant source of income, and a suspension of his license would have significant adverse financial implications against him as his other source of income is somewhat seasonal.
- Both positive samples emanated from the same race meeting, and while the source of the positive findings was not able to be ascertained, he has undertaken improvements to his husbandry practices at his kennels and in the transport of greyhounds to race

meetings since being notified of the positive findings to mitigate risk of future breaches, particularly with respect of caffeinated beverages being in the vicinity of where greyhounds were kept, housed or transported.

- Returning of prize money for two races will have a significant financial impact on him.
- A prior offence for a similar rule in 2015 related to the same substances resulted in him being issued a fine of \$1500.

Stewards Finding on Penalty:

The Stewards acknowledged Mr Bock's cooperation and forthright evidence throughout the inquiry, his guilty plea at the earliest opportunity, and his time in the greyhound racing industry of approximately 30 years, with the one prior breach in 2015.

The Stewards also considered Mr Bock's personal circumstances, and the impact different penalties may have against him. Stewards also considered the seriousness of prohibited substance rule breaches, and that any penalty imposed must serve as an appropriate deterrent specifically to Mr Bock, but also to the wider greyhound racing industry.

The Stewards further considered the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing and ensure a level playing field for all participants, and the need to safeguard the welfare of greyhounds that are involved in racing. The Stewards were also cognizant that both greyhounds won their respective events.

The Stewards considered penalty precedents for similar prohibited substance matters involving the same substances, namely penalties issued against trainer Christopher Broadrick by QRIC Stewards in 2023 resulting in a four (4) month suspension being imposed. Also, penalties issued against NSW participants Vince Spiteri (2022) and Robert Littlefield (2022) whereby they were each issued a penalty of ten (10) weeks suspension, wholly suspended for twelve (12) months, and \$2000 fines each.

Stewards also considered the QRIC Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines (2023) that informs a starting penalty point for a Category 2 substance under Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(1) as being a suspension of four (4) months. A 25% reduction of this starting point was accepted due to Mr Bock's early guilty plea.

Human Rights:

Consideration was properly given to Mr Bock's human rights in accordance with the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld). The Stewards acknowledge that any penalty imposed upon Mr Bock, particularly a suspension as proposed in the QRIC Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines, may limit or prevent him from earning an income from the greyhound racing industry and that subsequently the restrictive nature of a suspension may limit his right to property, right to privacy and right to reputation.

The Stewards further acknowledge that a limitation upon a person's ability to participate in the racing industry, and earn income from that participation, may only be imposed where it is reasonably necessary to achieve the purpose of taking disciplinary action and there is no less

restrictive and reasonably available way to achieve that purpose, than to suspend a licence, disqualify a person from holding a licence, or warn a person off.

The Stewards also considered the imposition of a monetary penalty against Mr Bock and the limitations this action would have upon his human rights. Stewards determined it was not appropriate in the circumstances to consider any lesser restrictive penalty such as a reprimand as that penalty would be insufficient in deterring both Mr Bock and other participants from non-compliance with the rules of racing.

Penalty Decision:

After reviewing all the circumstances of this case, the Stewards determined that a combination of a conditional suspension and a monetary fine as being appropriate to achieve the purpose of a penalty imposed on a participant to deter them from any future similar conduct. The power to conditionally suspend a portion of a penalty against a person is provided to Stewards under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule (GAR) 174 (3) Penalties, which reads:

(3) any part or portion of a penalty imposed may be suspended for a time and pursuant to conditions that a Controlling Body or the Stewards thing fit.

The Stewards determined the appropriate penalty to be a three (3) month suspension, with the period wholly and conditionally suspended for (2) two years pending no further breach of a prohibited substance rule, and a \$2000 fine.

Greyhound Disqualification:

Acting under Greyhound Australasia Rule 141(4) & 141(5) Federal Tonka and Federal Emeran were disqualified from the following races and the placings amended accordingly:

- 6 April 2025 – Federal Tonka at Brisbane GRC in race 1 (Heat)
- 6 April 2025 – Federal Emeran at Brisbane GRC in race 9 (Heat)
- 13 April 2025 – Federal Tonka at Brisbane GRC in race 1 (Final)
- 13 April 2025 – Federal Emeran at Brisbane GRC in race 8 (Final)

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

Appeal Rights:

Mr Ashley Bock was advised of his right to appeal the decision of the Stewards to the Queensland Racing Appeals Panel.