

## Stewards' Report – Darren Taylor

**Hearing Date:** Monday, 22 September 2025

**Panel:** Mr Andrew Spence (Chairperson)  
Mr Daniel Aurisch  
Mr Paul Mclean

**Person:** Mr Darren Taylor

**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.

**Charge:** Mr Darren Taylor, as the trainer of the greyhound Out The Bottle, did fail to present that greyhound free of a prohibited substance when it competed in, and won, race 8 at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club on 30 April 2025 with prohibited substances in its system, namely Harpagoside, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in the post-race urine sample.

**Substance:** Harpagoside

**Plea:** Guilty

**Penalty:** \$2,000 fine

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### Penalty Submissions:

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

In summary, Mr Taylor submitted that:

- Greyhound racing is his entire source of income, and a suspension of his license would have significant adverse financial implications against him.
- The source of the positive finding was able to be ascertained, to mitigate risk of future breaches he has undertaken improvements to his husbandry practices at his kennels.
- Returning of the prize money earned for the race will have a significant financial impact on him.

**Stewards Finding on Penalty:**

The Stewards acknowledged Mr Taylor'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 two prior breaches in 2015 and 2016.

Stewards considered Mr Taylor'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 Taylor, 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. Stewards were also cognizant that the greyhound won its respective event.

The Stewards considered relevant penalty precedents and the QRIC Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines (2023) that informs a starting penalty point for a Category 3 substance under Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(1) as being a \$2000. A 25% reduction of this starting point was accepted due to Mr Taylor's early guilty plea.

**Human Rights:**

Consideration was properly given to Mr Taylor's human rights in accordance with the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld). Stewards acknowledge that any penalty imposed upon Mr Taylor may limit his rights to property. The Stewards also considered purpose of the imposition of a monetary penalty upon a person for breaching a rule of racing is to:

- Maintain public confidence in the racing of animals in Queensland for which betting is lawful;
- Ensure the integrity of all persons involved with racing or betting under the Racing Integrity Act 2016 or the Racing Act 2002;
- Safeguard the welfare of all animals that are or have been involved in racing under the Racing Integrity Act 2016 or the Racing Act 2002.

Having regard to the other less restrictive penalties, it is considered that a caution or reprimand are not sufficient disciplinary options that enforce compliance and achieve the purposes outlined above. The sanction of a monetary penalty serves as a personal and general deterrent, encouraging all participants to comply with the rules of racing and promote drug free racing.

The Stewards therefore consider that any limitation imposed upon the licensee's right to property caused by the imposition of a monetary penalty outlined in the rules of racing, is reasonably necessary to achieve the purposes of the Racing Integrity Act 2016 and the fundamental purpose of the disciplinary system.

**Penalty Decision:**

After reviewing all the circumstances of this case, the Stewards determined that a monetary fine as being appropriate to achieve the purpose of a penalty imposed on a participant to deter them from any future similar breach.

The Stewards determined the appropriate penalty to be a \$2000 fine.

**Greyhound Disqualification:**

Acting under Greyhound Australasia Rule 141(4), On The Bottle was disqualified from race 8 on 30 April 2025 at Rockhampton GRC in race 8

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

**Appeal Rights:**

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