

Stewards' Report – William Boon

Hearing Date: Tuesday, 21 October 2025

Panel: Mr Russell Doss (Chairperson)
Mr Shane Larkins
Mr Daniel Aurisch

Person: Mr William Boon

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 William Boon, as the trainer of the greyhound Velocity Kirrily, did fail to present that greyhound free of a prohibited substance when it competed in, and won, race 5 at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club on 17th August 2025 with a prohibited substance in its system, namely Dextrophan, which has the effect or action on the respiratory system by depressing the cough centre in the brain or the cough receptors in the throat, trachea, or lungs, effectively alleviating the threshold for coughing, as detected by the Racing Science Centre and confirmed by Racing Analytical Services Limited in the post-race urine sample.

Substance: Dextrophan

Plea: Guilty

Penalty: \$1,500.00 fine

Background and Submissions:

Mr Boon accepted that as a licensed trainer with the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, he was at all relevant times leading into and subsequent to the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club's meeting held on 17 August, the trainer and person in charge of the greyhound Velocity Kirrily.

Mr Boon had treated the greyhound Legal Result with “Linctol Cough Syrup” during the period of 9 August 2025 to 15 August 2025, which was appropriately prescribed by a qualified veterinarian.

The treatment of Legal Result was accurately recorded in Mr Boon’s treatment records.

Mr Boon submitted that the only explanation he could offer for the detection of Dextrophan in the post-race urine sample collected from the greyhound Velocity Kirrily after competing in and winning race 5 at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club meeting on 17 August 2025, was that the treatment of Legal Result had resulted in some form of cross contamination.

Mr Boon submitted that he had no awareness or knowledge that he was presenting Velocity Kirrily to race when not free of a prohibited substance.

Penalty Submissions:

Mr Boon submitted that the income derived from the greyhound racing industry supplements his personal retirement fund.

Mr Boon submitted that he did not intentionally administer any substance to Velocity Kirrily.

Mr Boon requested that stewards considered his long-time involvement in the greyhound racing industry of more than 43 years.

Mr Boon also submitted that he had cooperated fully with stewards and pleaded guilty to the charge at the first available opportunity.

Stewards’ findings on Penalty:

The Stewards acknowledge Mr Boon’s cooperation and forthright evidence throughout the inquiry, the very well documented treatment records and his time in the greyhound racing industry of approximately 43 years. The Stewards also considered Mr Boon’s personal circumstances, and the impact different penalty types may have against him.

Stewards considered the seriousness of prohibited substance rule breaches, and that any penalty imposed must serve as an appropriate deterrent specifically to Mr Boon, but also to the wider greyhound racing industry. The Stewards also considered the need to maintain the integrity of greyhound racing and ensure a level playing field for all participants. Further, the need to safeguard the welfare of greyhounds that are involved in racing.

The Stewards considered penalty precedents for similar prohibited substance matters involving the similar substance Dexamethosone, namely a penalty issued against trainer Ricky Hassall by the

QRIC stewards in February 2024 resulting in a \$1500 fine and Shane Ellis, who was fined by QRIC stewards \$1500 with \$750 wholly suspended conditional.

Stewards considered that Mr Boon has had two prior breaches of the prohibited substance rules, with the last offence being more than four years ago.

The Stewards also considered the QRIC Greyhound Racing Penalty Guidelines (2023) that informs a starting penalty point for a Category 3 prohibited substance under Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(1) as being a \$2000 fine.

Human Rights:

Consideration was properly given to Mr Boon's human rights in accordance with the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld). Stewards acknowledge that any penalty imposed upon Mr Boon 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:

Stewards determined that the appropriate penalty to be imposed against Mr Boon was a fine of \$1500.

Greyhound Disqualification:

Acting under the provisions of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(5)(a)(b), Stewards directed that Velocity Kirrily be disqualified from Race 5 the Parkhurst Quality Meats 5th Grade Heat at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club on 17 August 2025 and race 8 at the Parkhurst Quality Meats 5th Grade Final at the Rockhampton Greyhound Racing Club on 24 August 2025.

Stewards ordered that the placings be amended accordingly, and Mr Boon was advised that all prizemoney associated with these events must be returned to Racing Queensland.

Appeal Rights:

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