



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 27 April 2020

Decision-maker: Director Legal Services, Matthew Tutt

Name of relevant person: Mr Michael Hodges

Track: Richmond

Date: 12 January 2020

Rule no.: Rule 83(2)(a)

Charge(s): (1) Mr Hodges presented the greyhound 'Blue Corvette' ("Greyhound") for the purposes of competing in race 5 at Richmond on 12 January 2020 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

Prohibited substance(s): Dexamethasone

Disciplinary action taken: 6 week suspension

REPORT:

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from the Racing Analytical Services Laboratory, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Blue Corvette' ("Greyhound") at the Richmond meeting on 12 January 2020.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory, confirming the presence of dexamethasone.

After considering the evidence, the Commission charged Mr Hodges with a breach of Rule 83(2)(a) of the Commission's Greyhound Racing Rules ("**Rules**") given that the post-race urine sample taken from the Greyhound confirmed the presence of the prohibited substance dexamethasone.

Mr Hodges admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

The disciplinary action was conducted in writing in accordance with the participant's election.

DECISION:

1. Mr Hodges is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 5 at the Richmond meeting on 12 January 2020 (“Event”). Following the Event, as the Greyhound placed first, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-Event swab revealed the presence of dexamethasone. Dexamethasone is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the Rules.
3. The Commission charged Mr Hodges under Rule 83(2)(a), which reads:
 - (2) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound-
 - (a) nominated to compete in an Event;
 - (b) presented for a satisfactory, weight or whelping trial or such other trial as provided for pursuant to these Rules; or
 - (c) presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a period of incapacitation or prohibition being varied or revokedshall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.
4. Mr Hodges admitted the charge, provided written submissions and elected to have the disciplinary proceeding conducted in writing.
5. The Commission found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Hodges:

To suspend his trainer registration for a period of 6 weeks.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Hodges has been a registered trainer for approximately 19 years;
 - Mr Hodges has no history of any prohibited substance matters;
 - Mr Hodges’ admission of the charge at the earliest opportunity;
 - NSW greyhound racing penalty guidelines and precedents;
 - Mr Hodges’s submissions in mitigation of any penalty, including in relation to his history and record in the industry and a reasonable explanation regarding the possible source of the positive result.
7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 5 at the Richmond meeting on 12 January 2020 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....