

**DECISION ON AN INTERNAL REVIEW APPLICATION UNDER
SECTION 91 OF THE GREYHOUND RACING ACT 2017**

Matter for determination	Decision dated 3/7/23 of Martin Wright
Internal review decision date	10/7/2023
Internal review decision by	Chief Steward Troy Vassallo
Internal review decision summary	Revoke decision of 3/7/23 to impose an unsatisfactory performance upon "Hardaway Ranger" at Nowra on 3 July 2023.

REASONS FOR DECISION

1. These are the reasons for decision following an application by Ronald Marsden for internal review under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* ("Act") of a decision of Martin Wright of the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission ("Commission" or "GWIC"). That decision was to impose an unsatisfactory performance upon "Hardaway Ranger" at Nowra on 3 July 2023.
2. This is a reviewable decision within the meaning of section 91(1) of the Act. As I was not substantially involved in making the reviewable decision, I have dealt with this application.
3. Under section 91(7) of the Act, an internal reviewer is empowered to:
 - Confirm the reviewable decision the subject of the application; or
 - Vary the reviewable decision; or
 - Revoke the reviewable decision.

Background

4. Following the event, the greyhound was subject to a veterinary examination when the Stewards had concerns with its actions at various stages of the event.
5. The veterinary examination did not reveal any apparent injury.
6. Mr Marsden was subsequently interviewed by the Stewards and advised the greyhound hadn't trialled previously at the Nowra track, causing the greyhound to become lost leaving the back straight.

Findings

7. After viewing the patrol films and interviewing Mr Marsden, the Stewards were satisfied that the greyhound shortened stride noticeably leaving the back straight and appeared to again rounding the home turn in the run towards the 520m starting boxes.
8. Having regard to this, the Stewards issued an endorsement for Unsatisfactory Performance under R129(a). The greyhound is now subject to a satisfactory steward's trial under R132 before being eligible to race.

The internal review application

9. On 6 July 2023, Ronald Marsden lodged an application for internal review. The internal review was conducted on the papers.

Decision

10. In considering this internal review, I have had regard to the following:

- The greyhound was having its first race start at Nowra without having previously trialled at the track.
- The greyhound has not offended in its 72-start career.
- Having viewed the films, it's possible the greyhound could have contacted the running rail, which can not be omitted as the reason for the greyhound losing ground at those relevant stages of the event.

11. When considering whether the decision to impose an unsatisfactory performance was appropriate, I have had reference to:

12. The Stewards Report

13. The patrol films

14. The greyhounds profile

15. In accordance with section 91(7)(a) of the Act, having reviewed all of the material, I revoke the original decision made by Martin Wright on 3 July 2023

16. The endorsement will be removed from the greyhound, which will not require it to trial prior to racing again.

Troy Vassallo

Chief Steward

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