

**GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION**  
**SUMMARY OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

*Warning: This report contains language which some readers may find offensive.*

**Date of decision:** 29 November 2019  
**Decision-maker:** Chief Executive Officer, Judith Lind  
**Name of relevant persons:** Mr Andrew Mathias  
**Track:** Richmond  
**Date:** 19 June 2019  
**Rule no:** Rules 86(p), 86(g)  
**Charge(s):** (1) On 19 June 2019, Mr Mathias disobeyed or failed to comply with the lawful order of a kennel supervisor.  
(2) On 19 June 2019, Mr Mathias wilfully abused or insulted a GWIC Steward.  
**Disciplinary action taken:** Suspension periods served concurrently  
Charge 1 (R86(p)): 1 month suspension  
Charge 2 (R86(g)): 12 months suspension with 6 months suspended (conditionally)

**DECISION:**

The Commission has finalised their investigation into allegations of misconduct at the Richmond Greyhound Racing Club on 19 June 2019:

1. On 19 June 2019, a race meeting was held at the Richmond Greyhound Racing Club and prior to race 6 trainer Mr Andrew Mathias was requested by the Kennel Supervisor to line up in accordance with the pre-race identification procedure. He was sitting down at the time and refused. The Kennel Supervisor informed him that the request was a direction from Stewards, but he continued to disobey the direction. He was then spoken to by a GWIC Steward (referred to as **"the Steward"**) about the requirement to line up.
2. Following the running of race 6, the Steward approached Mr Mathias to advise about the kennel procedure which required him to line up for identification in the kennelling area prior to racing. Mr Mathias responded to the Steward that he *"wasn't going to do fucking nothing"*, to which the Steward replied: *"Andrew these are the rules. If you don't like it don't race here."* Mr Mathias responded: *"You can't tell me that you fucking cunt"*. The Steward then left the area.

3. Mr Mathias had a discussion with another Steward. Ms Julie Carter, an attendant joined this conversation swearing and complaining about the Steward.
4. A number of other incidents occurred during the course of the race meeting, in which Mr Mathias was not involved.
5. After considering the evidence and providing Mr Mathias an opportunity to respond, on 21 June 2019 Mr Mathias was interim suspended pursuant to Rule 92(5)(c) of the Commission's Greyhound Racing Rules.
6. After considering the evidence following completion of the Commission's investigation, the Commission charged Mr Mathias under Rules 86(p) and 86(g) in writing. Rules 86(g) and 86(p) read:

R86: A person shall be guilty of an offence if the person-

...

(g) wilfully assaults, obstructs, impedes, abuses, interferes, threatens or insults the Controlling Body, any member of the Controlling Body, a club, any member of the committee of a club, any Steward or any other official of the Controlling Body or a club in or at any place including in or in the vicinity of the place where an inquiry is to take place, is taking place or has taken place;

...

(p) disobeys or fails to comply with the lawful order of a Steward or other person or body having official duties in relation to greyhound racing;

7. Mr Mathias was notified of the charges in writing but did not provide any response to the charges.
8. The Commission considered all the available material and found all charges proven.
9. The Commission took the following disciplinary action against Mr Mathias:

Charge 1 (Rule 86(p)): To suspend his trainer registration for a period of 1 month;

Charge 2 (Rule 86(g)): To suspend his trainer registration for a period of 12 months with 6 months wholly suspended for 12 months after serving 6 months, on the condition he does not breach Rule 86(g) or any similar rules in that 12 month period;

with:

1. The periods of suspension to be served concurrently; and
  2. The period of interim suspension served taken into account as time served, therefore back-dated to 21 June 2019 and expiring at on 21 December 2019.
10. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:

- a. The objective seriousness of the offences, involving the abuse of a GWIC Steward during the course of their duties;
- b. NSW greyhound racing penalties and precedents;
- c. Mr Mathias' registration and disciplinary history, having held a registration in the greyhound racing industry since 1987 with no like matters on his disciplinary history;
- d. The period of interim suspension served: 21 June 2019 to 29 November 2019.

.....End.....