

THURSDAY 20 JUNE 2019

GWIC's concern about participant misconduct

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission has expressed concern about a number of recent incidents at race meetings, involving assault and abusive conduct towards Commission staff and in some cases, club officials.

Chief Executive Officer, Judy Lind, said that the Commission takes a strong stance on misconduct and will take action to charge, suspend and sanction participants who fail to display respectful behaviour towards Commission staff, club officials and other participants.

"Since the Commission commenced operations, I have either suspended or disqualified several participants following incidents involving unacceptable behaviour towards Commission staff at the track," Ms Lind said.

"Everyone has the right to feel safe and respected in their workplace and I will continue to ensure that the Commission's stewards and veterinarians are safe and feel safe when engaging with participants at race meetings."

Under the Racing Rules, misconduct includes contemptuous, offensive or threatening behaviour directed towards a member of the racing body, club or other official at the track, (Greyhound Australasia Rule 86(f) and (g).)

"Integrity is one of the Commission's key priorities and it is the expectation of the Commission that participants act with integrity at all times, or risk disciplinary action."

"Online abusive behaviour is equally subject to disciplinary action."

Ms Lind said that everyone benefits from the industry being professional and this includes upholding behavioural standards. It's a simple matter of respectful behaviour.

"I appreciate that the majority of participants do behave appropriately at race meetings, but the few who continue to be disrespectful towards Commission staff or other race attendees will be sanctioned."

The Commission understands that participants do not always agree with the decisions or directions issued by stewards, which is why the Commission's [internal review](#) process was established. Participants aggrieved with a stewarding decision can lodge a complaint using this mechanism.

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