

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	18 May 2020
Decision-maker:	Director Legal Services, Matthew Tutt
Name of relevant person:	Mr Craig Last
Track:	The Gardens
Date:	21 December 2019
Rule no.:	Rule 83(2)(a)
Charge(s):	(1) Mr Last presented the greyhound 'Velocity Faith' (" Greyhound ") for the purposes of participating in a trial at The Gardens meeting on 21 December 2019 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.
Permanently banned prohibited substance(s):	Amphetamine, hydroxy amphetamine, methamphetamine and hydroxy methamphetamine
Disciplinary action taken:	13 months disqualification [with 2 months 2 weeks suspended due to period of interim suspension served]

REPORT:

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from the Racing Analytical Services Laboratory, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Velocity Faith' ("**Greyhound**") at a clearance trial at The Gardens meeting on 21 December 2019.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory, confirming the presence of amphetamine, hydroxy amphetamine, methamphetamine and hydroxy methamphetamine.

After considering the evidence, the Commission charged Mr Last with a breach of Rule 83(2)(a) of the Commission's Greyhound Racing Rules ("**Rules**") given that the urine sample taken from the Greyhound confirmed the presence of the permanently banned prohibited substances amphetamine, hydroxy amphetamine, methamphetamine and hydroxy methamphetamine.

Mr Last was legally represented and admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

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

DECISION:

1. Mr Last is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in a clearance trial at The Gardens meeting on 21 December 2019 ("**Event**") in order to clear a marring endorsement from the Nowra meeting on 4 November 2019. The Greyhound trialled satisfactorily and a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The swab revealed the presence of amphetamine, hydroxy amphetamine, methamphetamine and hydroxy methamphetamine. Amphetamine, hydroxy amphetamine, methamphetamine and hydroxy methamphetamine are permanently banned prohibited substances under Rule 79A(2)(v) and (vi) of the Rules.
3. The Commission charged Mr Last 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 Last 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 Last:

To disqualify his trainer registration for a period of 13 months, with:

 - (a) 2 months 2 weeks being the period served under an interim suspension taken into account as time served; and
 - (b) The remaining period of disqualification to be served, commencing on 18 May 2020 and expiring on 2 April 2021.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Last has been a registered trainer for approximately 31 years;
 - Mr Last has no history of any prohibited substance matters;
 - The high level of amphetamine and its metabolite hydroxy amphetamine detected;

- The period served under an interim suspension: being 3 March 2020 to 17 May 2020;
- NSW greyhound racing penalty guidelines and precedents;
- Mr Last's submissions in mitigation of any penalty, including in relation to his personal and financial circumstances, the review and amendment of his animal husbandry practices, his remorse and contributions to the industry;
- Mr Last's mitigating factors were significant resulting in a reduction of the penalty from that which would normally be imposed for these matters.

.....End.....