

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

- Date of decision:** 3 May 2019
- Decision-maker:** Judith Lind, Chief Executive Officer
- Name of relevant person:** Mr Matthew Hannay
- Track:** Grafton
- Rule no:** Rule 86(f) and 86(g)
- Charge(s):**
- (1) – Rule 86(f) – on 18 February 2019 Mr Hannay used contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting or offensive language towards or in relation to a member of the controlling body; and
 - (2) – Rule 86(g) – on 18 February 2019 Mr Hannay committed an act or engaged conduct which is detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control or promotion of greyhound racing by withdrawing five (5) greyhounds presented to race in five (5) races at the Grafton meeting on 18 February 2019 after entering the kennel area without the permission of the stewards
- Disciplinary action taken:** 2 month suspension for each charge, to be served concurrently and backdated to 4 March 2019 and to expire on 4 May 2019 due to the period of interim suspension already served

DECISION:

The Commission has finalised their investigation into an incident which occurred at the Grafton Greyhound Racing Club on 18 February 2019:

1. Registered trainer Mr Matthew Hannay presented six (6) greyhounds for racing.
2. One of these greyhounds, 'Choice Marlow' was found by the GWIC On-Track Veterinarian to have an infected tail. On this basis, GWIC stewards scratched 'Choice Marlow' under Rule 37(2) of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules (**Rules**).
3. Mr Hannay's five (5) other greyhounds were kennelled in preparation for racing. After the close of kennelling and without the permission of GWIC stewards, Mr Hannay removed his remaining five (5) greyhounds from the kennels.

4. While present on the race course, Mr Hannay made unacceptable comments directed at the On-Track Veterinarian.
5. As a result of Mr Hannay's conduct, the Commission charged Mr Hannay under Rules 86(f) and 86(g), which read:

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

(f) engages in, publishes or causes to be published, broadcasts or causes to be broadcast, the use of any contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting, or offensive language, conduct or behaviour in any manner or form towards, or in relation to-

(iii) the Controlling Body, or a member of the Controlling Body;

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

(g) commits or omits to do any act or engages in conduct which is in any way detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control or promotion of greyhound racing-

6. Mr Hannay was notified of the charges in writing. Mr Hannay entered a plea of guilty and made submissions in mitigation of penalty.
7. The Commission considered all the available material and found the charges proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Hannay:

R86(f): to suspend his trainer registration held with GWIC for a period of two (2) months; and

R86(g): to suspend his trainer registration held with GWIC for a period of two (2) months,

with the penalties to be served concurrently and backdated to 4 March 2019 and to expire on 4 May 2019, on the basis of the time served by Mr Hannay under an interim suspension.

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr Hannay's disciplinary history – he did not have any similar matters on his disciplinary history, having held a registration in the greyhound racing industry for nearly 30 years;
 - Mr Hannay's admission at the earliest opportunity and submissions in relation to his personal circumstances; and
 - NSW greyhound racing penalty guidelines and precedents.

.....End.....