



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 18 September 2020

Decision-maker: Chief Executive Officer, Judith Lind

Name of relevant person: Mrs Valetta McDonald

Track: Richmond

Date: 9 May 2020

Rule no.: Rule 83(2)(a)

Charge(s): (1) A greyhound trained by Mrs McDonald, 'Fine Lee' ("**Greyhound**") was presented for the purposes of competing in race 2 at the Richmond meeting on 9 May 2020 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

Prohibited substance: Heptaminol

Disciplinary action taken: \$1,000 fine
10-week suspension (wholly and conditionally suspended)

REPORT:

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, 'Fine Lee' ("**Greyhound**") at the Richmond meeting on 9 May 2020.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory, confirming the presence of heptaminol.

After considering the evidence, the Commission charged Mrs McDonald with a breach of Rule 83(2)(a) of the Commission's Greyhound Racing Rules ("**Rules**") given that the pre-race urine sample taken from the Greyhound confirmed the presence of the prohibited substance heptaminol.

Mrs McDonald admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity.

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

DECISION:

1. Mrs McDonald is a registered greyhound trainer and the trainer of the Greyhound. The Greyhound competed in race 2 at the Richmond meeting on 9 May 2020 (“Event”). Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-Event swab revealed the presence of heptaminol. Heptaminol is a prohibited substance under Rule 1 of the Rules.
3. The Commission charged Mrs McDonald 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. Mrs McDonald 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 Mrs McDonald:
 - a. To issue her with a fine of \$1,000; and
 - b. To suspend her trainer registration for a period of 10 weeks, wholly suspended for a period of 12-months on the condition that Mrs McDonald does not breach Rule 83(2)(a) during that 12-month period.
6. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all evidence, including:
 - Mrs McDonald has held a greyhound licence for approximately 25 years;
 - Mrs McDonald has one prior positive swab matter in her disciplinary history – namely for atenolol in 2013 for which she received a fine of \$1,000;
 - Mrs McDonald’s admission of the charge at the earliest opportunity;
 - NSW greyhound racing penalty precedents;
 - Mrs McDonald’s submissions in mitigation of penalty, including in relation to her personal circumstances, her contribution to the industry, review and amendment of her husbandry practices (including providing a reasonable explanation for the source of the positive result) and her remorse.

7. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 2 at the Richmond meeting on 9 May 2020 pursuant to Rule 83(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....