



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: Thursday 21 September 2023

Decision-maker: Chief Steward Troy Vassallo and Steward Sam Woolaston

Name of relevant person: Tracey Kovacic

Track: Wentworth Park

Date: 4 March 2023

Rule no.: 141(1)(a)

Charge(s): Mrs Tracey Kovacic presented the greyhound 'Agent Nevada' for the purposes of competing in race 7 at the Wentworth Park meeting on 4 March 2023 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

Prohibited Substance(s): Ipamorelin

Plea: Not Guilty

Disciplinary action taken: To impose a period of suspension of 12-months, wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months, and a fine of \$3000

INVESTIGATION

1. Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 24 April 2023, the Commission investigated the results of a post-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Agent Nevada" at the Wentworth Park meeting on 4 March 2023.
2. Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory confirming the presence Ipamorelin.

DECISION:

3. Mrs Kovacic is a registered Owner Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of "Agent Nevada" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 7 at the Wentworth Park meeting on 4 March 2023. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
4. The post-race swab revealed the presence of Ipamorelin.
5. Ipamorelin is a permanently banned prohibited substance under Rule 139(1)(s).
6. On 27 June 2023 Mrs Kovacic was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").

7. In the Notice issued on 27 June 2023 the decision makers charged Mrs Kovacic with an offence under Rule 141(1)(a) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

Rule 141(1), Rules

(1) The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound:

(a) nominated to compete in an Event;

...

must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

...

(3) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound presented contrary to subrule (1) of this rule shall be guilty of an offence.

8. The Notice invited Mrs Kovacic to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.

9. On 25 July 2023 Mrs Kovacic provided written submissions and entered a not guilty plea in respect to the charge.

10. In determining the matter, the decision makers considered Mrs Kovacic's plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and invited written submission in respect to the proposed penalty by 25 August 2023.

11. On Thursday 21 September 2023 the decision makers determined to issue the following penalty:

Charge 141 (1) (a): To impose a period of suspension of 12-months, wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months, and a fine of \$3000.

12. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:

- Mrs Kovacic's not guilty plea;
- Mrs Kovacic's registration history of approximately 9 years within the industry;
- No previous offence;
- Stewards were able to determine the likely cause for the detection of Ipamorelin in the sample and establish a low degree of culpability having regard to the reason Ipamorelin had been detected in the sample; and
- GWIC penalty guidelines and precedents.

13. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 7 at the Wentworth Park meeting on 4 March 2023 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....