

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	18 March 2025
Decision-maker:	Senior Steward Zane Turner and Senior Steward Paul Van Gestel
Name of relevant person:	Rodney Dennis
Track	Richmond
Date:	13 November 2024
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr Rodney Dennis presented the greyhound 'Intense Power' for the purpose of competing in race 8 at the Richmond meeting on 13 November 2024 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Meloxicam
Plea:	Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a suspension of 3 months, to commence 18 March 2025 and to expire 18 June 2025.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited, dated 3 January 2025, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Intense Power" at the Richmond meeting on 13 November 2024.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Chemistry Laboratory confirming the presence of Meloxicam.

DECISION:

1. Mr Dennis is a registered Owner Trainer and the trainer of "Intense Power" ("**the Greyhound**"). The Greyhound competed in race 8 of the Richmond meeting on 13 November 2024. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-event swab revealed the presence of Meloxicam.

3. Meloxicam, in excess of the screening limit of a mass concentration of 5 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of plasma or 2 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of urine, is a prohibited substances under Rule 146 of the Rules.
4. On 5 March 2025 Mr Dennis was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**"). In the Notice, the decision makers charged Mr Dennis 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.
5. The Notice invited Mr Dennis to attend a hearing on Tuesday 18 March 2025 at which time he would have the opportunity to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the Charge and proposed penalty. The penalty proposed in the notice was a 9-month suspension.
6. On Tuesday 11 March 2025 Mr Dennis contacted decision makers and entered a plea of guilty.
7. On Thursday 13 March 2025 Mr Dennis contacted decision makers and entered written submissions.
8. On Tuesday 18 March 2025 decision makers heard the matter via Microsoft Teams. Mr Dennis attended the hearing and made verbal submissions in respect of the proposed disciplinary action.
9. Following consideration of Mr Dennis's plea and submissions, the decision makers determined to take the following disciplinary action against Mr Dennis:

Charge 141(1)(a): To issue a suspension of 3 months, to commence 18 March 2025 and to expire on 18 June 2025.
10. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all the material and evidence before them, including:
 - Mr Dennis's guilty plea (25% reduction)
 - Mr Dennis's disciplinary history over a registration period of 38 years, with one prior permanently banned prohibited substance offence in 2023.

- The evidence provided as to how the substance came into the Greyhound's system;
- Mr Dennis's written and verbal submissions;
- Mr Dennis's personal and professional circumstances;
- GWIC penalty guidelines.

11. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 8 at the Richmond meeting on 13 November 2024 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....