

## **GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

<b>Date of decision:</b>	30 April 2025
<b>Decision-maker:</b>	Acting Chief Steward Dean Degan, Steward Michael Hall, and Cadet Steward Zac Vella
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Shane Felke
<b>Track:</b>	Wagga
<b>Date:</b>	21 February 2025
<b>Rule no.:</b>	141(1)(a)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	Mr Shane Felke presented the greyhound 'Bianca's Dream' for the purpose of competing in race 8 at the Wagga meeting of 21 February 2025 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.
<b>Plea:</b>	Guilty
<b>Prohibited Substance(s):</b>	Cobalt
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	To issue a 3-month suspension

### **INVESTIGATION**

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 18 March 2025, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Bianca's Dream" at the Wagga meeting on 21 February 2025.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Chemistry Laboratory confirming the presence of Cobalt in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre.

### **DECISION**

1. Mr. Felke is a registered Public Trainer and the trainer of "Bianca's Dream" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 8 at the Wagga meeting on 21 February 2025. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The post-race swab revealed the presence of Cobalt in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre.

3. Cobalt in excess of 100 nanograms per millilitre is a prohibited substance under Rule 140(f) of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
4. On Wednesday 9 April 2025 Mr. Felke was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 9 April 2025 the decision makers charged Mr. Felke 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.

6. The Notice invited Mr. Felke to attend a hearing on Wednesday 29 April 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 7-month suspension.
7. On Tuesday 15 April 2025, Mr. Felke contacted decision makers and entered a plea of guilty and made written submissions
8. On Monday 28 April 2025, Mr. Felke contacted decision makers and made further written submissions
9. On Wednesday 30 April 2025, Mr. Felke attended a hearing held via Microsoft Teams and made verbal submissions.
10. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr. Felke's plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr. Felke:

**Charge 141 (1) (a):** To issue a suspension of three months

11. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
  - Mr. Felke's guilty plea (25% reduction)
  - Mr. Felke's 29-year registration history, including a prior prohibited substance offence within the prior 12 months but no matters previous to this;

- GWIC penalty guidelines

12. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 8 at the Wagga meeting on 21 February 2025 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.
13. Mr Felke came before the Commission in December 2024, for a breach of Rule 141(1)(a). At that time, decision makers imposed a penalty that included a four-week suspension, which they wholly suspended on the condition that Mr Felke not reoffend under the same Rule for a period of 12 months.
14. Due to Mr Felke's reoffending under the same Rule in that 12-month period, decision makers in this matter determined to activate that four-week suspension.
15. Mr Felke will serve the 3-month suspension for this offending, and the four-week suspension for the December 2024 matter cumulatively.
16. From 12:00am on 3 May 2025 until 11:59pm on 30 May 2025, Mr Felke will serve the four-week suspension from the December 2024 decision.
17. The period of suspension for this offence will commence at 12:00am on 31 May 2024 and expire at 11:59pm on 30 August 2025.