

**GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION**  
**DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

<b>Date of decision:</b>	26 June 2025
<b>Decision-maker:</b>	Senior Steward Zane Turner
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Craig Last
<b>Track</b>	The Gardens
<b>Date:</b>	19 June 2024
<b>Rule no.:</b>	141(1)(a)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	Mr Craig Last presented the greyhound 'Marcus Fire' for the purpose of competing in race 4 at The Gardens meeting on 19 June 2024 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
<b>Prohibited Substance(s):</b>	Amphetamine, 4-Hydroxyamphetamine, Methamphetamine and 4-Hydroxymethamphetamine
<b>Plea:</b>	Not Guilty
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	To issue a disqualification of 30 months, to commence 26 June 2025 and to expire at midnight 25 December 2027.

**INVESTIGATION**

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited, dated 29 July 2024, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Marcus Fire" at The Gardens meeting on 19 June 2024.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory confirming the presence of Amphetamine, 4-Hydroxyamphetamine, Methamphetamine and 4-Hydroxymethamphetamine.

**DECISION:**

1. Mr Last is a registered Public Trainer and the trainer of "Marcus Fire" (**"the Greyhound"**). The Greyhound competed in race 4 of The Gardens meeting on 19 June 2024. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.

2. The post-event swab revealed the presence of Amphetamine, 4-Hydroxyamphetamine, Methamphetamine and 4-Hydroxymethamphetamine.
3. Amphetamine, 4-Hydroxyamphetamine, Methamphetamine and 4-Hydroxymethamphetamine is a permanently banned prohibited substance under Rule 139(1)(g) of the Rules.
4. On 24 October Mr Last was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**"). In the Notice, the decision-maker charged Mr Last 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. Last to attend a hearing 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 three-year disqualification.
6. On 26 November 2024, the decision-maker heard the matter via Microsoft Teams. During the course of the hearing Mr Last entered a plea of not guilty to the charge. The hearing was adjourned to allow further submissions and evidence to be provided.
7. Further hearings were conducted on 10 December 2024, 30 April 2025, 2 May 2025 and 5 June 2025.
8. Throughout the hearings scientific and veterinary evidence was taken from Dr Adam Cawley, Scientific Manager for Racing Analytical Services Limited, Dr Steven Karamatic, Chief Veterinarian for Greyhound Racing Victoria and Dr Derek Major from Derek Major Consulting. The decision-maker preferred the evidence provided by Dr Adam Cawley and Dr Steven Karamatic as the scientific evidence was consistent throughout, as opposed to the evidence provided by Dr Major, in which multiple reports were submitted providing contrasting information.
9. The decision-maker also considered the submissions made on behalf of Mr Last but consider these submissions to be no more than mere speculation and not supported by the evidence. As a result, the decision-maker could find no substantiated evidence which would remove the conclusive nature of the evidence under Rule 154.

10. Following consideration of Mr. Last's not guilty plea and submissions, the decision-maker found the charge proven and determined to take the following disciplinary action against Mr. Last:

**Charge 141(1)(a):** To issue a disqualification of 30 months, to commence 26 June 2025 and to expire at midnight 25 December 2027.

11. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision-maker considered all the material, submissions and evidence before them, including:

- Mr Last's not guilty plea;
- Mr Last's disciplinary history over a registration period of 39 years, with a prior permanently banned prohibited substance offence in 2019. The decision-maker considered this to be Mr Last's second offence as opposed to the submission made on behalf of Mr Last that this be treated as his first offence. Therefore, the decision-maker was of the opinion that Mr Last's disciplinary history was such that it did not warrant any leniency or further reduction in penalty;
- Mr Last's personal and professional circumstances which will not be repeated here for privacy reasons. These circumstances were considered and form part of the hearing;
- The principles of general and specific deterrence;
- The submissions made on behalf of Mr Last regarding the McDonough Principles. The decision-maker determined that this matter fell within Category Two;
- The Commission notes the length of time it has taken for this matter to be finalised, however the decision-maker is satisfied that Mr Last had contributed significantly in this regard whereby the decision-maker allowed multiple adjournments to enable further evidence to be provided.
- The objective seriousness of the offence.

12. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 4 at The Gardens meeting on 19 June 2024 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....