

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 20 June 2025

Decision-makers: Steward Madi Watson, Senior Steward Kevin Adams and Steward Angus Chippindale

Name of relevant person: Mr Michael Harris

Date: 26 March 2025

Rule no: 145(1), 149(1) and 156(z)

Charge(s): **Charge 1 – 145(1)**
Mr Harris administered a treatment to a greyhound on the day of a meeting in circumstances not approved by a Controlling Body

Charge 2 – 149(1)
Mr Harris did a thing which in the opinion of the Controlling Body constitutes an offence, by possession of prohibited substances on a racecourse without the prior consent of the Stewards or Controlling Body

Charge 3 – 156(z)
Mr Harris did a thing which in the opinion of the Controlling Body constitutes an offence, by possessing a device or other thing, whilst present at a meeting, which was capable of affecting the behaviour or performance of a greyhound in an Event

Plea: Guilty to all charges

Disciplinary action taken: **Charge 1** – To issue a fine of \$500
Charge 2 – To issue a fine of \$250
Charge 3 – To issue a suspension of 6 weeks, with 3 weeks wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months suspect to Mr Harris not breaching this, or any like, rule in this period.
The period of suspension will commence Monday 23 June 2025 and expire Monday 14 July 2025

INVESTIGATION:

1. Mr Harris was, at all relevant times, a registered Owner and Attendant with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On 26 March 2025 Mr Harris attended the Taree Greyhound Club for the purpose of racing greyhounds.
3. Following the completion of Race 1, it was brought to the attention of Stewards that a tablet had been administered to the greyhound Lenny Large ("Greyhound") prior to the event.
4. During a subsequent inspection of the motor vehicle used to travel to the Taree racecourse Mr Harris was found to be in possession of prohibited substances which could be used to affect the performance of greyhounds. Mr Harris did not have the express permission of the Stewards or Controlling Body to possess these substances at the racecourse.

DECISION:

5. On Wednesday 18 June 2025 Mr Harris was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (Notice).
6. In the Notice issued on 18 June 2025 the decision makers charged Mr Harris with three breaches of the following Greyhound Racing Rules:

Rule 145(1)

- (1) An offence is committed if, without the permission of the Stewards, a person administers, causes to be administered, or attempts to administer any treatment to a greyhound at any time on the day of a meeting until that greyhound is no longer presented for an Event*

Rule 149(1)

- (1) An offence under these Rules is committed if, without the permission of the Controlling Body or Stewards, and except in the case of an officiating veterinarian carrying standard equipment, a person has a prohibited substance or a syringe, needle or other instrument which could be used to administer a prohibited substance to a greyhound in their possession, either on a racecourse or in any motor vehicle or trailer being used for the purpose of travelling to or from a racecourse.*

Rule 156(z)

An offence is committed if a person (including an official):

- (z) While present at a meeting uses, or has in the person's possession, any device or*

other thing, which, in the opinion of the Stewards, is capable of affecting the behaviour or performance of a greyhound in an Event.

7. The Notice invited Mr Harris to attend a hearing on Monday 14 July 2025 at which time he would have the opportunity to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the Charge and proposed penalties.
8. On Wednesday 18 June 2025 Mr Harris contacted decision makers and;
 - entered a plea of guilty; and
 - made written submissions
9. Following consideration of Mr Harris's plea and submissions, the decision makers found the charges proven and determined to impose the following disciplinary action upon him:

Charge 1 (Rule 145(1)) – \$500 fine

Charge 2 (Rule 149(1)) – \$250 fine

Charge 3 (Rule 156(z)) – To issue a suspension of 6 weeks, with 3 weeks wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months subject to Mr Harris not breaching this, or any like, rule in this period.

The period of suspension will commence Monday 23 June 2025 and expire Monday 14 July 2025

10. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all relevant material and evidence, including:
 - Mr Harris' Guilty plea; and
 - Mr Harris' disciplinary record, with no prior like offences.
 - A urine sample obtained from the Greyhound did not detect any prohibited substances
 - Principles of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct; and
 - GWIC Penalty Guidelines

.....End.....