

DECISION ON AN INTERNAL REVIEW APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 91 OF THE *GREYHOUND RACING ACT 2017*

Matter for determination	Decision dated 8 May 2025 of Senior Stewards Zane Turner and Kevin Adams
Internal review decision date	18 June 2025
Internal review decision by	Acting Chief Steward Dean Degan
Internal review decision summary	Confirm the decision of 8 May 2025 to disqualify Raymond Lee for a period of 30 months.

REASONS FOR DECISION

- 1) These are the reasons for decision arising out of consideration of an application by Mr Raymond Lee for internal review under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* (“**Act**”) of a decision of Senior Stewards Zane Turner and Kevin Adams of the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (“**Commission**”). That decision was to find the Applicant guilty of a breach of Rule 141(1)(a) of the *Greyhound Racing Rules* (“**Rules**”) and imposing a penalty of a 30-month disqualification.
- 2) This is a reviewable decision within the meaning of section 91(1) of the Act. As a person who was not substantially involved in making the reviewable decision, I have dealt with this application.
- 3) Under section 91(7) of the Act, an internal reviewer is empowered to:
 - Confirm the reviewable decision the subject of the application; or
 - Vary the reviewable decision; or
 - Revoke the reviewable decision.

Background

- 4) On 8 February 2025, Mr Lee presented the female greyhound “Kinloch Babe” (“**Greyhound**”) to complete in race 7 at The Gardens (“**Event**”). Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
- 5) The pre-event swab revealed the presence of 5 β Androstane-3 α , 17 β -Diol, which at a concentration above 10 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of urine taken from a female greyhound, is a permanently banned prohibited substance, under Rule 139(1)(t) of the Rules.

- 6) On 24 April 2025, Mr Lee was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”). In the Notice, the decision makers charged Mr Lee with an offence under Rule 141(1)(a) of the 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.

- 7) On Monday 5 May 2025, the Senior Stewards heard the matter at the Maitland Greyhound Club, in which Mr Lee was in attendance via Microsoft Teams. He entered a plea of guilty and made verbal submissions in respect of the charge. The Senior Stewards provided him with a Notice of Proposed Penalty and invited him to make submissions on penalty.
- 8) Following consideration of Mr Lee’s submissions in respect of the proposed penalty, the Senior Stewards determined to take the following disciplinary action (“**Penalty**”) against Mr Lee:

Charge 141(1)(a): To issue a disqualification of 30 months, to commence 8 May 2025.

This internal review application

- 9) On 21 May 2025, Mr Lee lodged an application for Internal Review (“**Application**”) of the original decision, noting that he is not seeking an internal review against liability, only penalty.
- 10) Mr Lee provided a one-page submission, in addition to the Application, which was written on his behalf by Ms Fiona Geary of GBOTA, in which he is requesting that an exemption be granted to his disqualification, allowing him to attend greyhound racing tracks as a spectator. Mr Lee submitted that much of his social basis is centred around the greyhound racing industry and its participants, with the current disqualification being prohibitive to him maintaining these social connections. Further, he submitted that he is worried what affect this lack of social interaction may have on his ongoing mental health.

Consideration

- 11) The internal review has been conducted on the papers. Whilst undertaking this review, I have considered:
- (a) The material before Senior Stewards Zane Turner and Kevin Adams;

(b) The Internal Review Application; and

(c) The submissions put forward by Fiona Geary on behalf of Mr Lee.

- 12) The Commission's Penalty Guidelines ("**Guidelines**") provide for a penalty starting point of a 2 year disqualification for a first offence involving a Category One substance (5 β Androstane-3 α , 17 β -Diol is classified as a Category 1 substance).
- 13) In considering the internal review, I have had regard to Mr Lee's disciplinary history, which includes three prior prohibited substance offences since February 2023, consisting of one Category Two substance offence and two Category Three substance offences. As such, the Guidelines are of little benefit when considering an appropriate starting point, as they do not consider a scenario such as the current matter.
- 14) However, I consider Mr Lee's prior disciplinary history for like offences to be an aggravating factor that does not warrant any leniency regarding the penalty for the current offence.
- 15) One of the objectives of the Commission is to safeguard the integrity of, and maintain public confidence in, greyhound racing in New South Wales.¹ Any person, registered or otherwise, who attends a greyhound racing track does so as a privilege and not as a right. To allow a participant who is disqualified from the industry for what is subjectively a serious offence, would erode public confidence in the Commission fulfilling its regulatory functions.
- 16) Whilst I am sympathetic of Mr Lee's subjective circumstances regarding his connection to the greyhound racing industry and that the disqualification precludes him from attending greyhound racing tracks where much of his social base attends, I am not satisfied that allowing Mr Lee to attend greyhound racing tracks is in the best interest of the greyhound racing industry.
- 17) Having regard for all these matters, I am comfortably satisfied that it is not in the interests of the greyhound racing industry to provide the exemption to Mr Lee's disqualification.

Decision

- 18) Having regard for all these matters, in accordance with section 91(7)(a) of the Act, I have decided the appropriate course is to confirm the original decision.

Dean Degan
Acting Chief Steward

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<sup>1</sup> *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* (NSW), s11(b) & (c).