

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	18 July 2025
Decision-maker:	Senior Steward Dean Degan and Cadet Steward Zac Vella
Name of relevant person:	Augustus Weekes
Track:	Dubbo
Date:	7 April 2025
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr Augustus Weeks presented the greyhound 'Winlock All Over' for the purpose of competing in race 8 at the Dubbo meeting of 7 April 2025 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.
Plea:	Guilty
Prohibited Substance(s):	Cobalt and Heptaminol
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a 3-month suspension, to commence Monday 21 July 2025 and to expire on Tuesday 21 October 2025.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 6 May 2025, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Winlock All Over" at the Dubbo meeting on 7 April 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 and Heptaminol.

DECISION:

1. Mr. Weekes is a registered Public Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of "Winlock All Over" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 8 at the Dubbo meeting on 7 April 2025. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-race swab revealed the presence of Cobalt, in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre, and Heptaminol.

3. Cobalt in excess of 100 nanograms per millilitre is a prohibited substance under Rule 140(f) of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules and Heptaminol is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the Rules.
4. On Wednesday 18 June 2025 Mr. Weekes was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 18 June 2025 the decision makers charged Mr. Weekes 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. Weekes 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 4-month suspension.
7. On Tuesday 15 July 2025, Mr. Weekes contacted decision makers and;
 - Entered a plea of guilty
8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr. Weekes' plea, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr. Weekes:

Charge 141 (1) (a): To issue a three-month suspension, to commence Monday 21 July 2025 and to expire on Tuesday 21 October 2025.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:
 - Mr. Weekes' guilty plea (25% reduction)
 - Mr. Weekes' 36-year registration history, with no prior prohibited substance offences;
 - In determining final penalty decision makers took into account that two prohibited substances were detected in the sample;
 - Mr. Weekes' personal and professional circumstances; and

- GWIC penalty guidelines

10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 8 at the Dubbo meeting on 7 April 2025 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.