

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	17 July 2025
Decision-makers:	Senior Steward Zane Turner and Brief Handling Manager Michael Cooper
Name of relevant person:	Charlie Azzopardi
Rule no(s):	Rule 21(1)(d), Local Rule 34B, Rule 22(1)(b)
Code of Practice Standard:	Standard 5.3, Standard 5.12(b), Standard 5.12(c), Standard 5.20
Charge(s):	<p>Charge 1 – R21(1)(d)</p> <p>Mr. Azzopardi did something, which in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by failing to ensure a greyhound in his custody was provided with veterinary attention when necessary.</p> <p>Charge 2 – LR34B</p> <p>Not proven</p> <p>Charge 3 – R22(1)(b)</p> <p>Mr. Azzopardi did something, which in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by failing to notify the Controlling Body within 10 days of a greyhound being humanely euthanised by a veterinarian and to include the mandatory veterinary certificate of euthanasia.</p> <p>Charge 4 – Standard 5.3, Code of Practice</p> <p>Mr. Azzopardi failed to maintain greyhound enclosures, housing and sleeping areas in a way that is safe and provides for the well-being of greyhounds.</p> <p>Charge 5 – Standard 5.12(b), Code of Practice</p> <p>Mr. Azzopardi failed to ensure areas where greyhounds sleep were equipped with bedding that is warm, soft and dry, and made of materials that are safe for greyhounds and puppies.</p>

Charge 6 – Standard 5.12(c), Code of Practice

Mr. Azzopardi failed to ensure areas where greyhounds sleep afforded each greyhound privacy from other greyhounds while sleeping.

Charge 7 – Standard 5.20, Code of Practice

Mr. Azzopardi failed to ensure greyhound housing areas were maintained in a clean, hygienic and safe condition at all times.

Disciplinary action taken:

Charge 1 – To disqualify Mr. Azzopardi for 16 months;

Charge 3 – To disqualify Mr. Azzopardi for 4 months;

Charge 4 – To disqualify Mr. Azzopardi for 1 month;

Charge 5 – To disqualify Mr. Azzopardi for 1 month;

Charge 6 – To disqualify Mr. Azzopardi for 1 month;

Charge 7 – To disqualify Mr. Azzopardi for 1 month;

With the penalties to be served concurrently;

With the net effect being a 16-month period of disqualification from the industry;

With the time served by Mr. Azzopardi under interim disqualification to be taken into account, from 21 June 2024; and

With the period of disqualification to expire at midnight on 20 October 2025.

DECISION

1. Mr. Azzopardi was, at all relevant times, a registered Public Trainer, Breeder and Whelpers with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission ("**Commission**").
2. On Thursday 9 May 2024 and again on Thursday 6 June 2024 Inspectors with the Commission conducted a kennel inspection at Mr. Azzopardi's registered kennel address. During these inspections several breaches of the NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice ("Code of Practice") and the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules ("Rules of Racing") were observed.
3. On Friday 21 June 2024 Mr. Azzopardi was issued with an interim disqualification whilst the Commission finalised its inquiry into the observed breaches of the Code of Practice and Rules of Racing.

4. On Tuesday 1 July 2025, Mr. Azzopardi was issued with a Notice of Charge and Proposed Disciplinary Action (“**Notice**”). In the Notice, decision-makers issued Mr. Azzopardi with three charges under the Rules of Racing and four charges under the Code of Practice, which read:

Rule 21(1)(d)

(1): A person must ensure that any greyhound in the person's care or custody, is at all times provided with:

...

(d) veterinary attention when necessary;

Rule 22(1)(b)

(1) At any time after the result of service pursuant to rule 71, the owner or person responsible for the greyhound at the relevant time must notify the Controlling Body where the greyhound is domiciled in writing:

...

(b) within 10 days if that greyhound has been humanely euthanased by a veterinarian, and it is a mandatory requirement under the Rules to include a veterinary certificate of euthanasia when lodging the relevant documentation for any greyhound that has been euthanased by that veterinarian;

...

(6) A person who fails to comply with any of the subrules of this rule may:

...

- (a) be suspended until the person provides the relevant information, or until some other time; and/or
- (b) otherwise may be penalised.

Local Rule 34B

(3) An offence is committed if a person fails to adequately account for the whereabouts of a greyhound.

NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice – Standard 5.3

5.3 All greyhound enclosures, housing and sleeping areas must be designed, constructed and maintained in a way that is safe and provides for the well-being of greyhounds.

NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice – Standard 5.12

5.12 Areas where greyhounds sleep must:

- b) be equipped with bedding that is warm, soft and dry; and made of materials that are safe for greyhounds and puppies;
- c) afford each greyhound privacy from other greyhounds while sleeping.

NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice – Standard 5.20

5.20 Greyhound housing areas and bedding must be maintained in a clean, hygienic and safe condition at all times.

5. The Notice invited Mr. Azzopardi to attend a hearing on Thursday 17 July 2025, at which time he would have the opportunity to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the Charges.
6. On Thursday 17 July 2025, decision-makers heard the matter via Microsoft Teams. Mr. Azzopardi attended the hearing and entered not guilty pleas to Charges 1-7 and made verbal submissions in respect of the Charges.
7. Following consideration of Mr. Azzopardi's pleas and submissions, decision-makers found Charge 1 and Charges 3-7 proven and determined to withdraw Charge 2 against Mr. Azzopardi. At that time in the hearing, decision-makers provided Mr. Azzopardi with a Notice of Proposed Penalties, which outlined the penalties that they were considering imposing in relation to each offence. Mr. Azzopardi was invited to make submissions in respect of the proposed penalties.
8. Following consideration of Mr. Azzopardi's submissions in respect of the proposed penalties, the decision-makers determined to take the following disciplinary action against Mr. Azzopardi:

Charge 1 – To disqualify Mr. Azzopardi for 16 months;

Charge 3 – To disqualify Mr. Azzopardi for 4 months;

Charge 4 – To disqualify Mr. Azzopardi for 1 month;

Charge 5 – To disqualify Mr. Azzopardi for 1 month;

Charge 6 – To disqualify Mr. Azzopardi for 1 month;

Charge 7 – To disqualify Mr. Azzopardi for 1 month;

With the penalties to be served concurrently;

With the net effect being a 16-month period of disqualification from the industry;

With the time served by Mr. Azzopardi under interim disqualification to be taken into account, from 21 June 2024; and

With the period of disqualification to expire at midnight on 20 October 2025.

9. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision-makers had regard to all relevant evidence and material, including:
 - Mr. Azzopardi's not guilty plea to all charges;
 - Mr. Azzopardi's disciplinary history over a 41-year registration period, which showed no prior rule breaches of a similar nature. The decision-makers were

of the opinion that Mr. Azzopardi's disciplinary history was such that warranted a degree of leniency in any penalties imposed;

- Mr. Azzopardi's verbal submissions made in respect of the charges;
- Mr. Azzopardi's personal and professional circumstances which won't be repeated here due to privacy reasons. These circumstances were considered and form part of the hearing;
- Principles of general and specific deterrence;
- The objective seriousness of the offences.

.....End.....