

## **GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

<b>Date of decision:</b>	6 August 2025
<b>Decision-maker:</b>	Acting Chief Steward Paul Van Gestel and Acting Senior Steward Ben Boyce Mortlock
<b>Name of relevant person:</b>	Chris Priestley
<b>Track</b>	Goulburn
<b>Date:</b>	16 May 2025
<b>Rule no.:</b>	141(1)(a)
<b>Charge(s):</b>	Mr Chris Priestley presented the greyhound 'Daytime Vera' for the purpose of competing in race 12 at the Goulburn meeting on 16 May 2025 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
<b>Prohibited Substance(s):</b>	Theobromine
<b>Plea:</b>	Guilty
<b>Disciplinary action taken:</b>	<p>To issue a \$3000 fine, of which \$2000 is wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of 12 months conditional on Mr Priestley not breaching this, or any like, rule in this period; and</p> <p>To issue a 2-month suspension, wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of 12 months conditional on Mr Priestley not breaching this, or any like, rule in the period.</p>

### **INVESTIGATION**

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 24 June 2025, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Daytime Vera" at the Goulburn meeting on 16 April 2025.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Racing Chemistry Laboratory confirming the presence of Theobromine.

## DECISION:

1. Mr Priestley is a registered Public Trainer and the trainer of “Daytime Vera” (“the **Greyhound**”). The Greyhound competed in race 12 of the Goulburn meeting on 16 May 2025. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre event swab revealed the presence of Theobromine.
3. Theobromine is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the Rules
4. On Monday 24 July 2025 Mr Priestley was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
5. In the Notice issued on 24 July 2025 the decision makers charged Mr Priestley 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 Priestley to attend a hearing on Wednesday 6 August 2025 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 31 July 2025 Mr Priestley contacted decision makers and;
  - Entered a plea of guilty; and
  - Provided written submissions
8. At the hearing held on Wednesday 6 August 2025 via Microsoft Teams Mr Priestley;
  - Made verbal submissions

9. In considering the matter, decision makers considered Mr Priestley's plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Priestley:

**Charge 141(1)(a):** To issue a \$3000 fine, of which \$2000 is wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of 12 months conditional on Mr Priestley not breaching this, or any like, rule in this period; and

To issue a 2-month suspension, wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of 12 months conditional on Mr Priestley not breaching this, or any like, rule in the period.

10. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all evidence, including:

- Mr Priestley's guilty plea (25% reduction);
- Mr Priestley's 18-year registration record, with no prior prohibited substance offences;
- Mr Priestley's plausible explanation, and supportive evidence, of how the substance entered the greyhound's system;
- Mr Priestley's personal circumstances and commitment to the correction of husbandry practices; and
- GWIC penalty guidelines

11. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 12 at the Goulburn meeting on 16 May 2025 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules

.....End.....