

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 13 October 2025

Decision-makers: Acting Chief Steward Paul Van Gestel and Steward Jason Hodder

Name of relevant person: Mr Bryan Freemantle

Date: 5 August 2024 and 14 September 2024

Rule no: 156(w), 156(f)(i)

Charge(s):
Charge 1 - Mr Freemantle did something, which in the opinion of the Controlling Body constitutes an offence, by failing to comply with clause 9.4 of the NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice
Charge 2 - Mr Freemantle did something, which in the opinion of the Controlling Body constitutes an offence, by engaging in conduct which is dishonest

Plea: No plea entered

Disciplinary action taken: To issue a 6-year Disqualification, to commence 13 October 2025 and expire 13 October 2031

INVESTIGATION:

1. Mr Freemantle was, at all relevant times, a registered Owner with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On Monday 5 August 2024 Mr Freemantle completed an online Retirement/Rehoming Notification for an unnamed greyhound ("**Greyhound**") in his custody. The Notification falsely advised that the Greyhound had been retired to unlicensed person.
3. On Saturday 14 September 2024 the Greyhound was euthanised. The euthanasia of the Greyhound did not comply with Clause 9.4 of the NSW Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice.

DECISION:

4. On Monday 15 September 2025 Mr Freemantle was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”). The Notice issued two charges against Mr Freemantle for breaches of the following racing rules:

Rule 156(f)(i), Rules

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

(f) has, in relation to a greyhound or greyhound racing, done something, or omitted to do something, which, in the opinion of a Controlling Body or the Stewards:

(i) is corrupt, fraudulent, or dishonest;

Rule 156(w), Rules

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

(w) fails to comply with a policy or code of practice adopted by a Controlling Body;

5. The Notice invited Mr Freemantle to attend a hearing on Monday 13 October 2025 at which time he would have the opportunity to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the Charges.
6. On Monday 13 October 2025 Mr Freemantle failed to appear at the scheduled hearing. Decision makers made attempts to contact Mr Freemantle but were unsuccessful. Accordingly, the hearing was conducted in his absence.
7. In lieu of having the opportunity to consider a plea or any submissions from Mr Freemantle on the charges and proposed penalties, the decision makers found the charges proven. Accordingly, and considering the relationship between the two offences, decision makers imposed upon Mr Freemantle the following aggregate penalty;

Charge 1 and 2- To issue a 6-year Disqualification, to commence 13 October 2025 and expire 13 October 2031

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all relevant material and evidence, including:
 - Mr Freemantle’s failure to attend the hearing on Monday 13 October 2025 and the lack of a plea or any submissions in respect of the charges and proposed penalties;
 - The objective seriousness of the offences;
 - Principles of specific and general deterrence, with regard to what message is sent to the industry in respect of conduct such as what occurred in this matter; and

- The purpose of issuing penalties as a protective measure, in order to promote and protect the welfare of greyhounds.

.....End.....