

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 10 November 2025

Decision-makers: Steward Geoff Page and Acting Chief Steward Paul Van Gestel

Name of relevant person: Mr Christopher Watson

Date: 5 June 2025

Rule no: 156(f)(ii)

Charge(s): Mr Watson did something which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by engaging in behaviour that constitutes misconduct

Plea: None entered

Disciplinary action taken: To issue a fine of \$300

INVESTIGATION:

1. Mr Watson was, at all relevant times, a registered Owner with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On or around Wednesday 5 June 2025 Mr Watson transferred custody of a greyhound in his ownership. Mr Watson subsequently failed to resume custody of the greyhound when it became clear the person to whom it had been transferred was not a registered participant.

DECISION:

3. On Monday 27 October 2025 Mr Watson was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
4. In the Notice issued on 27 October 2025 the decision makers charged Mr Watson with an offence under Rule 156(f)(ii) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

Rule 156(f)(ii), 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:

(ii) constitutes misconduct or is negligent or improper

5. The Notice invited Mr Watson to provide written submissions in relation to the Charge and proposed penalty by Monday 10 November 2025. The penalty proposed in the Notice was a \$300 fine.
6. Mr Watson failed to provide submissions by Monday 10 November 2025. Accordingly, the matter was finalised in his absence.
7. In lieu of having the opportunity to consider a plea or any submissions from Mr Watson on the charge and proposed penalty, the decision makers found the charge proven and determined to not reduce the proposed penalty. Accordingly, decision makers imposed upon Mr Watson the following penalty:

Charge 1 – Rule 156(f)(ii) – To issue a fine of \$300

8. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all relevant material and evidence, including:
 - Mr Watson’s failure to provide submissions in writing by Monday 10 November 2025 and the lack of a plea in respect of the charge and proposed penalty. This was an important factor in determining not to reduce the penalties below what was initially proposed;
 - Decision makers were satisfied that at the time of the transfer Mr Watson was not aware the licence of the transferee had expired; and
 - Mr Watson’s disciplinary record, with no prior like offences

.....End.....