



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	18 February 2026
Decision-maker:	Acting Senior Steward Ben Boyce-Mortlock and Acting Chief Steward Paul Van Gestel
Name of relevant person:	Frances Goodwin
Track	Nowra
Date:	21 July 2025
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Ms Frances Goodwin presented the greyhound 'Smooth Avenger' for the purpose of competing in race 10 at the Nowra meeting on 21 July 2025 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Metformin
Plea:	Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a four week suspension, commencing Wednesday 18 February 2026 and expiring Midnight Wednesday 18 March 2026; and To issue a \$3000 fine

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 27 August 2025, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Smooth Avenger" at the Nowra meeting on 21 July 2025.

Further analysis of the sample was conducted by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory confirming the presence of Metformin

DECISION:

1. Ms Goodwin is a registered Public Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of "Smooth Avenger" ("the **Greyhound**"). The Greyhound competed in race 10 of the Nowra meeting on 21 July 2025. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.

2. The post event swab revealed the presence of Metformin.
3. Metformin is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the Rules
4. On Friday 26 September 2025 Ms Goodwin was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
5. In the Notice issued on 26 September 2025 the decision makers charged Ms Goodwin 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 Ms Goodwin to attend a hearing on Tuesday 14 October 2025 at which time she would have the opportunity to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge and proposed penalty.
7. On Monday 13 October 2025 Ms Goodwin’s legal representative requested an adjournment to allow further submissions and evidence to be provided, which decision makers consented to.
8. On Monday 16 February 2026 Ms Goodwin’s legal representative contacted decision makers and entered a plea of guilty on Ms Goodwin’s behalf.
9. On Tuesday 17 February 2026 Ms Goodwin’s legal representative contacted decision makers and provided written submissions
10. In considering the matter, decision makers considered Ms Goodwin’s plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Ms Goodwin:

Charge 141(1)(a): To issue a four week suspension, commencing Wednesday 18 February 2026 and expiring Midnight Wednesday 18 March 2026; and

To issue a \$3000 fine

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

- Ms Goodwin's guilty plea (25% reduction);
- Ms Goodwin's registration record, with a prior prohibited substance offence within the past 12 months;
- Ms Goodwin's written submissions made in respect of the charge, which decision makers considered compelling and determined warranted a degree of leniency in the penalty imposed.
- GWIC penalty guidelines

12. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 10 at the Nowra meeting on 21 July 2025 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....