

**GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION**  
**DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION**

**Date of decision:** 19 March 2026

**Decision-makers:** Acting Chief Steward Paul Van Gestel and Steward Angus Chippindale

**Name of relevant person:** Mr Joseph Baldacchino

**Date:** Various

**Rule no:** 156(h), 165(a)

**Charge(s):**

**Charge 1 – Rule 165(a)**

Mr Baldacchino did something which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by engaging in conduct detrimental to the interest of greyhound racing.

**Charge 2 – Rule 165(a)**

Mr Baldacchino did something which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by engaging in conduct detrimental to the interest of greyhound racing.

**Charge 3 – Rule 165(a)**

Mr Baldacchino did something which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by engaging in conduct detrimental to the interest of greyhound racing.

**Charge 4 – Rule 165(a)**

Mr Baldacchino did something which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by engaging in conduct detrimental to the interest of greyhound racing.

**Charge 5 – Rule 156(h)**

Mr Baldacchino did something which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body constitutes an offence, by failing to comply with a lawful order of the Stewards.

**Plea:** Not Guilty to Charges 1-4, Guilty to Charge 5

### **Disciplinary action taken: Charges 1 - 4**

- To issue a total penalty of \$4000, with \$2000 wholly suspended conditional on Mr Baldacchino not breaching this, or any like, rule in this period.
- To issue a two month suspension, wholly suspended conditional on Mr Baldacchino not breaching this, or any like rule in this period.

### **Charge 5**

- To issue a three month disqualification

With the disqualification to commence 19 March 2026 and expire midnight 18 June 2026

### **INVESTIGATION:**

1. Mr Baldacchino was, at all relevant times, a registered Owner Trainer with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On Wednesday 1 October 2025, in messages posted in response to a Facebook post by Ms Georgie Purcell, Mr Baldacchino engaged in conduct prejudicial to the interest of greyhound racing
3. On Monday 12 January 2026 Mr Baldacchino was issued with a lawful order by an Officer of the Controlling Body directing him to cease any further derogatory or inappropriate commentary on social media.
4. On 13 February 2026, and again on 10 March 2026, Mr Baldacchino posted further comments in response to Facebook posts by Ms Georgie Purcell.

### **DECISION:**

5. On Thursday 12 March 2026 Mr Baldacchino was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
6. In the Notice issued on 12 March 2026 the decision makers charged Mr Baldacchino with five offences under the Greyhound Racing Rules, which read:

#### **Rule 156(h), Rules**

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

(h) disobeys or fails to comply with a lawful order of a Controlling Body, the Stewards, or another person authorised by a Controlling Body with official duties in relation to greyhound racing

#### **Rule 165(a), Rules**

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

(a) commits or omits to do any act or engages in conduct which is in any way detrimental to or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control or promotion of greyhound racing

7. The Notice invited Mr Baldacchino to attend a hearing at which time he would have the opportunity to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the Charges.
8. On Thursday 19 March 2026 Mr Baldacchino attended a hearing held via Microsoft Teams and;
  - Entered a plea of not guilty to Charges 1-4;
  - Entered a plea of guilty to Charge 5; and
  - Provided verbal and written submissions
9. Following consideration of Mr Baldacchino's pleas and submissions, decision makers found the charges proven. At that time in the hearing, decision makers provided Mr Baldacchino with a Notice of Proposed Penalty, which outlined the penalties that they were considering imposing in relation to the offences. Mr Baldacchino was invited to make submissions in respect of the proposed penalties.
10. Following consideration of Mr Baldacchino's submissions in respect of the proposed penalties, decision makers determined to impose the following disciplinary action upon him:

**Charges 1 - 4 (Rule 165(a))**

- To issue a total penalty of \$4000, with \$2000 wholly suspended conditional on Mr Baldacchino not breaching this, or any like, rule in this period.
- To issue a two month suspension, wholly suspended conditional on Mr Baldacchino not breaching this, or any like rule in this period.

**Charge 5 (Rule 156(h))**

- To issue a three month disqualification  
With the disqualification to commence 19 March 2026  
and expire midnight 18 June 2026

11. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all relevant material and evidence, including:
  - Mr Baldacchino's not guilty pleas to the Charges 1-4 and guilty plea to Charge 5 (25% reduction);

- Mr Baldacchino's verbal and written submissions
- Mr Baldacchino's disciplinary history;
- Principles of general and specific deterrence; and
- The objective seriousness of the offences.

.....End.....