

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision: 23 April 2026

Decision-makers: Acting Chief Steward Paul Van Gestel and Acting Senior Steward Ben Boyce Mortlock

Name of relevant person: Mr Dale Leard

Date: Various

Rule no: 156(f)(ii)

Charge(s): Mr Leard did something, which in the opinion of the Controlling Body constitutes an offence, by engaging in improper conduct

Plea: None entered

Disciplinary action taken: To issue a 10 year disqualification

INVESTIGATION:

1. Mr Leard was, at all relevant times, a registered Public Trainer with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. Between October 2025 and November 2025 Mr Leard exchanged text messages with another registered greyhound racing participant.
3. In the opinion of Controlling Body the contents of the text messages constituted improper conduct.

DECISION:

4. On Thursday 2 April 2026 Mr Leard was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
5. In the Notice issued on 2 April 2026 the decision makers charged Mr Leard 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 the Controlling Body or the Stewards

(ii) constitutes misconduct or is negligent or improper

6. The Notice invited Mr Leard to attend a hearing on Tuesday 21 April 2026 at which time he would have the opportunity to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.
7. On Thursday 16 April 2026 Mr Leard failed to appear at the scheduled hearing. Decision makers made attempts to contact Mr Leard but were unsuccessful. Accordingly, the hearing was conducted in his absence.
8. In lieu of having the opportunity to consider a plea or any submissions from Mr Leard on the charge, the decision makers found the charge proven. Decision makers provided Mr Leard with a Notice of Proposed Penalty, which outlined the penalty that they were considering imposing in relation to the offence. Mr Leard was invited to make submissions in respect of the proposed penalty to the offence.
9. Following Mr Leard's failure to respond to the Notice of Proposed Penalty, decision makers determined to impose the following disciplinary action upon him:

Charge 1 – Rule 156(f)(ii) – To issue a 10 year disqualification

With the period served by Mr Leard under interim disqualification taken into consideration, the period of disqualification commences 22 April 2026 and expires 6 March 2036

10. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all relevant material and evidence, including:
 - Mr Leard's failure to attend the hearing on Thursday 16 April 2026 and the lack of a plea or any submissions in respect of the charges and proposed penalty. This was an important factor in determining not to reduce the penalties below what was initially proposed;
 - 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 for the image and interests of the greyhound racing industry.

.....End.....