



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	30 March 2026
Decision-maker:	Steward Angus Chippindale, Steward Sam Woolaston, and Steward Madison Watson
Name of relevant person:	Luke Sweeney
Track	The Gardens
Date:	6 December 2025
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr Luke Sweeney presented the greyhound 'Cessnock Curtain' for the purpose of competing in race 6 at The Gardens meeting on 6 December 2025 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Meloxicam
Plea:	Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a \$500 fine To issue a four week suspension, with the suspension wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months conditional on Mr Sweeney not breaching this, or any like, rule in this period.

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 19 January 2026, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Cessnock Curtain" at The Gardens meeting on 6 December 2025.

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

DECISION:

1. Mr Sweeney is a registered Owner Trainer and the trainer of "Cessnock Curtain" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 6 of The Gardens meeting on 6 December 2025. Following the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.

2. The post event swab revealed the presence of Meloxicam.
3. Meloxicam, which exceeds the screening limit of a mass concentration of 5 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of plasma or 2 nanograms per millilitre in a sample of urine, is a prohibited substance under Rule 146 of the Rules.
4. On Wednesday 18 March 2026 Mr Sweeney was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
5. In the Notice issued on 18 March 2026 the decision makers charged Mr Sweeney 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 Mr Sweeney to attend a hearing on Monday 30 March 2026 at which time he would have the opportunity to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge and proposed penalty. The penalty proposed in the Notice was a 2-month suspension.
7. On Tuesday 24 March 2026, Mr Sweeney contacted decision makers and;
 - Entered a plea of guilty; and
 - Provided written submissions
8. On Monday 30 March 2026, Mr Sweeney attended a hearing held via Microsoft Teams and;
 - Made verbal submissions
9. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Sweeney’s plea and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charge proven and took the following disciplinary action against Mr Sweeney:

Charge 141(1)(a): To issue a \$500 fine

To issue a four week suspension, with the suspension wholly and conditionally suspended for 12 months conditional on Mr Sweeney not breaching this, or any like, rule in this period.

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

- Mr Sweeney’s guilty plea (25% reduction)
- Mr Sweeney’s 5-year registration history, with no prior prohibited substances;
- Mr Sweeney’s cooperation and forthright evidence and commitment to addressing husbandry practices to avoid recurrence;
- The participant submitted evidence that decision makers considered offered a plausible explanation for the presence of the prohibited substance in the Greyhound; and
- GWIC penalty guidelines

11. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 6 at The Gardens meeting on 6 December 2026 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....