

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

- Date of decision:** 16 April 2026
- Decision-makers:** Steward Michael Hall, Senior Steward Dean Degan and Steward Zachary Vella
- Name of relevant person:** Mr Tony Harding
- Rule no(s):** Clause 15 of Greyhound Racing Regulation 2019 (NSW), 28, 156(a), 164(b)
- Charge(s):**
- Charge 1 – Rule 156(a)
- Mr Harding did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by contravening the Greyhound Racing Rules
- Charge 2 – Rule 28
- Mr Harding did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by failing to ensure a greyhound in his custody did not stray onto any public place
- Charge 3 – Clause 15(3)
- Mr Harding failed to comply with Clause 15(3) of the Greyhound Racing Regulation 2019 (NSW)
- Charge 4 – Rule 164(b)
- Mr Harding did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by failing to comply with a lawful order of a person authorised by the Controlling Body with official duties in relation to greyhound racing.
- Plea:** No plea entered
- Disciplinary action taken:** Charge 1 – 3 Year Disqualification
Charge 2 – 3 Month Suspension
Charge 3 – 2 Month Suspension
Charge 4 – 6 Month Suspension

With the penalties imposed for Charges 2, 3 and 4 to be served cumulatively; and

With the net effect being a 3 year disqualification from the industry, commencing April 16, 2026, and expiring midnight April 16, 2029, and a 11 month suspension commencing April 17, 2029, and expiring midnight March 17, 2030.

INVESTIGATION:

1. Mr Harding was, at all relevant times, a registered Owner and Racing Attendant with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On 11 October 2025 a greyhound ("**Greyhound**") in Mr Harding's ownership strayed onto a public place. The greyhound was collected by a local veterinary clinic. On 31 October 2025 Mr Harding was issued with a direction to resume custody of the Greyhound within 14 days. Mr Harding failed to comply with this direction and the Greyhound was deemed to be abandoned as per Local Rule 22A of the Greyhound Racing Rules and retired and transferred to a rehoming organisation by the Controlling Body.
3. Between 14 October 2025 and 27 January 2026 Officers of the Controlling Body attempted to make contact with Mr Harding. Mr Harding was found to be not residing at the provided address registered with the Controlling Body and had not advised the Controlling Body of any change of address within 14 days.
4. On 27 January 2026 Mr Harding was issued with a direction, in relation to an inquiry, by a person authorised by the Controlling Body with official duties in relation to greyhound racing. Mr Harding failed to comply with this direction.

DECISION:

5. On Thursday 26 March 2026 Mr Harding was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
6. In the Notice issued on 26 March 2026 the decision makers charged Mr Harding with three charges under the following NSW Greyhound Racing Rules and one charge under Greyhound Racing Regulation 2019 (NSW), which read:

Clause 15, Greyhound Racing Regulation

(1) A registered greyhound racing industry participant must, in accordance with this clause, provide the following information to the Commission—

(a) if there is a change to the participant's name, address or contact details—
details of the change,

....

(2) If the Commission approves a manner or form for providing information required by this clause, the information must be provided in the approved manner or form.

(3) A greyhound racing industry participant who is required to provide information to the Commission under this clause must do so—

(a) in relation to a change referred to in subclause (1)(a)—within 14 days after the change,

Rule 28

A registered person must ensure that any greyhound under the person's care, custody or control does not stray onto any private property without the permission of the owner or occupier of that property, or stray onto any public place

Rule 156(a)

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

(a) contravenes any of the Rules

Rule 164(b)

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

(b) refuses or fails to attend or to give evidence at an inquiry (or at any other disciplinary process, hearing or appeal proceeding) or produce a document or other thing in relation to an investigation, examination, test or inquiry (or other disciplinary process, hearing or appeal proceeding) pursuant to the Rules when directed by a Controlling Body, the Stewards, or another authorised person.

7. The Notice invited Mr Harding to attend a hearing on Thursday 16 April 2026, at which time he would have the opportunity to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charges and proposed penalties.
8. On Thursday 16 April 2026 Mr Harding failed to appear at the scheduled hearing. Decision makers made attempts to contact Mr Harding but were unsuccessful. Accordingly, the hearing was conducted in his absence.
9. In lieu of having the opportunity to consider a plea or any submissions from Mr Harding on the charges and proposed penalties, the decision makers found the charges proven and determined to not reduce the proposed penalties. Accordingly, decision makers imposed upon Mr Harding the following penalties
 - Charge 1 – 3 Year Disqualification
 - Charge 2 – 3 Month Suspension
 - Charge 3 – 2 Month Suspension
 - Charge 4 – 6 Month Suspension
10. Decision makers elected to invoke Rule 176 and that the penalties issued for charges 2, 3 and 4 to be therefore served cumulatively, with the net period of disqualification to be

served from April 16, 2026, and expiring midnight April 16, 2029. At such point Mr Harding will serve a 11 month suspension commencing April 17, 2029, and expiring midnight March 17, 2030.

11. In taking this disciplinary action, the Commission considered all relevant material and evidence, including:

- Mr Harding’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 penalties. This was an important factor in determining not to reduce the penalties below what was initially proposed;
- Principles of 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, in order to promote and protect the welfare of greyhounds.

.....End.....