



GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

Date of decision:	Friday 14 July
Decision-maker:	Steward Paul van Gestal and Chief Steward Troy Vassallo
Name of relevant person:	Anthony Messina
Track:	Richmond
Date:	1 April 2023
Rule no.:	141(1)(a)
Charge(s):	Mr Anthony Messina presented the greyhound 'Wet Socks' for the purposes of competing in race 5 at the Richmond meeting on 1 April 2023 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance
Prohibited Substance(s):	Metformin
Plea:	Guilty
Disciplinary action taken:	To issue a fine of \$1000

INVESTIGATION

Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited dated 10 May 2023, the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a pre-event urine sample taken from the greyhound, "Wet Socks" at the Richmond meeting on 1 April 2023.

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

DECISION:

1. Mr Messina is a registered Public Trainer and Breeder and the trainer of "Wet Socks" ("the Greyhound"). The Greyhound competed in race 5 of the Richmond meeting on 1 April 2023. Prior to the Event, a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound.
2. The pre-event swab revealed the presence of Metformin.
3. Metformin is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
4. On Thursday 6 July 2023 Mr Messina was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").

5. In the Notice issued on 6 July 2023 the decision makers charged Mr Messina 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 proposed a penalty of a \$2000 fine and invited Mr Messina to attend a hearing on Friday 14 July 2023 to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.

7. At the hearing conducted Friday 14 July 2023 Mr Messina;

- Entered a plea of guilty; and
- Made verbal submissions

8. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Mr Messina'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 Messina:

Charge 141 (1) (a): To issue a fine of \$1000.

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

- Mr Messina's guilty plea (25% reduction)
- Mr. Messina's forthright evidence and commitment to adjusting husbandry practices to avoid recurrence
- A likely cause for the detection of the substance was determined
- Mr Messina's 45 year registration history and first offence
- GWIC penalty guidelines

10. In addition, the Greyhound was disqualified from race 5 at the Richmond meeting on 1 April 2023 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....