

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



**Date of decision:** Wednesday 18 October 2023

**Decision-maker:** Chief Steward Troy Vassallo and Senior Steward Dean Degan

**Name of relevant person:** Chloe Bilal

**Track(s):** Nowra & Goulburn

**Date:** 23 January 2023 & 24 February 2023

**Rule no.:** 141(1)(a)

**Charge(s):** **Charge 1:**  
Mrs Chloe Bilal presented the greyhound 'Joshua Keeping' for the purposes of competing in race 5 at the Nowra meeting on 23 January 2023 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

**Charge 2:**  
Mrs Chloe Bilal presented the greyhound 'Rampage Soldier' for the purposes of competing in race 1 at the Goulburn meeting on 24 February 2023 in circumstances where the Greyhound was not free of any prohibited substance.

**Plea:** Guilty

**Prohibited Substance(s):** Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre.

**Disciplinary action taken:** Charge 1: 11-month suspension;  
Charge 2: 11-month suspension,  
with the penalties to be served concurrently; and  
with the suspension period to commence 12:01am 21 October 2023 and to expire 11:59pm 20 September 2024.

**INVESTIGATION**

1. Following receipt of a certificate of analysis from Racing Analytical Services Limited ("**Laboratory**") dated 2 March 2023 ("**First Sample**") and receipt of another certificate of analysis from the Laboratory dated 24 March 2023 ("**Second Sample**"), the Commission conducted an investigation into the results of a post-race urine samples taken from the greyhound, 'Joshua Keeping' ("**First Greyhound**") at the Nowra meeting on 23 January 2023 and 'Rampage Soldier' ("**Second Greyhound**") at the Goulburn meeting on 24 February 2023.

2. Further analysis of both the First and Second samples was conducted by the Racing Chemistry Laboratory confirming in both samples the presence of Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre.

**DECISION:**

3. Mrs Bilal is a registered Owner Trainer and the trainer of both greyhounds.
4. The First Greyhound competed in race 5 at the Nowra meeting on 23 January 2023. Following the event a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound. The post event swab revealed the presence of Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre.
5. The Second Greyhound competed in race 1 at the Goulburn meeting on 24 February 2023. Following the event a urine sample was taken from the Greyhound. The post event swab revealed the presence of Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre.
6. Rule 140(f) outlines the acceptable threshold for the substance cobalt in a sample. Cobalt at or in excess of the threshold of 100 nanograms per millilitre is a prohibited substance under Rule 137 of the GWIC Greyhound Racing Rules.
7. On 18 May 2023 Ms Bilal was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action ("**Notice**").
8. In the Notice the decision makers charged Ms Bilal with two offences 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.

9. In the Notice, the decision makers provided the following proposed penalties:

**Charge 1** – 12-month suspension

**Charge 2** – 12-month suspension

With 9 months suspension proposed for Charge 1 to run concurrently with Charge 2, amounting to a total 15-month suspension for both charges.

10. The Notice invited Ms Bilal to attend a hearing to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge.

11. On Wednesday 11 October 2023, Ms Bilal's legal representative tendered written submissions on her behalf and entered a plea of guilty for each charge.

12. In considering the matter, the decision makers considered Ms Bilal's plea's and submissions, as well as all available evidence. The decision makers found the charges proven and took the following disciplinary action against Ms Bilal:

**Charge 1** – 11-month suspension; and

**Charge 2** – 11-month suspension,

With the penalties to be served concurrently.

With the periods of suspension to commence at 12:01am 21 October 2023 and to expire at 11:59pm 20 September 2024.

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

- Mrs Bilal's pleas of guilty to both charges;
- Mrs Bilal's relative short registration history, having only been registered since June 2021, a period of less than 2 years at the time of the offences;
- That need for specific deterrence, noting that Mrs Bilal has had two prior prohibited substances matters that occurred in January and April 2022;
- GWICs Penalty Guidelines;
- Submissions made by Mrs Bilal in respect of her personal and professional circumstances;
- A sample of the kibble was batch tested at the Laboratory and the level of cobalt detected would not have given rise to threshold being exceeded;
- That Mrs Bilal did not have the opportunity to alter her husbandry practices between the dates of when the samples were obtained given that she was not informed of the A Sample result of the First Sample prior to the Second Sample being taken; and
- The decision-makers were unable to determine the cause for Cobalt being detected in the samples.

14. In addition, the Greyhounds were disqualified from their respective events, namely race 5 at the Nowra meeting on 23 January 2023 and race 1 at the Goulburn meeting on 24 February 2023 pursuant to Rule 141(4) of the Rules.

.....End.....