

GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION
DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

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| Date of decision: | 21 May 2024 |
| Decision-makers: | Chief Steward Troy Vassallo and Senior Steward Dean Degan |
| Name of relevant person: | Paul Bonner |
| Rule no(s): | R156(x), R156(f)(ii) |
| Charge(s): | <p>Charge 1 – R156(x)</p> <p>Mr. Bonner did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by associating with a disqualified person for the purpose of greyhound racing.</p> <p>Charge 2 – R156(f)(ii)</p> <p>Mr. Bonner did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes misconduct, by allowing a disqualified and unregistered person to be involved in the training of a greyhound.</p> <p>Charge 3 – R156(f)(ii)</p> <p>Mr. Bonner did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes misconduct, by allowing a disqualified and unregistered person to be involved in the training of a greyhound.</p> <p>Charge 4 – R156(f)(ii)</p> <p>Mr. Bonner did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes misconduct, by allowing a disqualified and unregistered person to be involved in the ownership of a greyhound.</p> |
| Plea: | No plea entered |
| Disciplinary action taken: | <p>Charge 1 - To issue a fine of \$4000 and an 18-month suspension, wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of 12 months subject to Mr Bonner not breaching this, or any like rule, in the 12-month period.</p> <p>Charge 2 - To issue a Disqualification of 4 months.</p> <p>Charge 3 – To issue a Disqualification of 10 months.</p> |

Charge 4 – To issue a Disqualification of 2 months.

With the Disqualification periods to be served concurrently, commencing 21 May 2024 and expiring 21 March 2025

DECISION:

1. Mr Bonner was, at all relevant times, a registered Owner Trainer and Breeder with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. Between 24 June 2022 until or around 13 February 2023 Mr Bonner associated with a disqualified person for the purposes of greyhound racing.
3. Between 13 September 2022 and 25 January 2023 and again between 8 August 2022 and 26 September 2022 Mr Bonner allowed a disqualified person to be involved in the ownership or trainership or care and control of two greyhounds registered as being trained by Mr Bonner. Additionally, between 24 June and 1 August 2022, Mr. Bonner trained a greyhound which was owned or co-owned by a disqualified person.
4. On Tuesday 2 April 2024 Mr Bonner was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”). The Notice issued four charges against him for breaches of the following Greyhound Racing Rules:

R156(x), Greyhound Racing Rules

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

...

- (x) being a registered person or person associated with greyhound racing, associates with a disqualified or warned off person for the purposes of greyhound racing;

Rule 156(f)(ii), Greyhound Racing 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 a Controlling Body or the Stewards:

- (ii) constitutes misconduct or is negligent or improper

5. The Notice invited Mr Bonner to attend a hearing on Friday 3 May 2024, and to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charges.
6. Mr. Bonner failed to appear at the hearing held via Microsoft Teams on Friday 3 May 2024 and the decision makers found him guilty of all charges in his absence.
7. On Wednesday 8 May 2024 the following proposed penalties were issued to Mr. Bonner in writing;

Charge 1 – To issue a fine of \$5000 and a 24-month suspension, wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of 12 months subject to Mr Bonner not breaching this, or any like rule, in the 12-month period.

Charge 2 – To issue a Disqualification of 6 months.

Charge 3 – To issue a Disqualification of 12 months.

Charge 4 – To issue a Disqualification of 3 months.

8. On Monday 13 May 2024 Mr Bonner provided written submissions in relation to the proposed penalties.

9. Following consideration of Mr Bonner’s submissions, the decision-makers found the charges proven and determined to impose the following disciplinary action upon him:

Charge 1 – To issue a fine of \$4000 and an 18-month suspension, wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of 12 months subject to Mr Bonner not breaching this, or any like rule, in the 12-month period.

Charge 2 – To issue a Disqualification of 4 months.

Charge 3 – To issue a Disqualification of 10 months.

Charge 4 – To issue a Disqualification of 2 months.

With the Disqualification periods to be served concurrently, commencing 21 May 2024 and expiring 21 March 2025

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

- Mr. Bonner’s failure to attend the hearing, however it was acknowledged he provided a subsequent explanation as to why he did not attend.
- Mr. Bonner’s registration history within the industry with no like prior offences;
- Principles of specific and general deterrence and what message is sent to the industry in respect to such conduct.
- Precedent penalties

.....End.....