

# STEWARDS DECISION

## OFFICE OF RACING INTEGRITY

and

### Greyhound Trainer – Glenn Howlett (Blackpool Darren)

<b>Date of hearing:</b>	6 November 2024
<b>Date of Determination of Inquiry:</b>	18 December 2024
<b>Stewards Panel:</b>	Dominic Tyson (Chair), Neil Finnigan & Ebony Morice-Smith
<b>Present:</b>	Mr Glenn Howlett (Respondent)
<b>Rule:</b>	Greyhound Australasia Rule 141(1)(a) – <i>The owner, trainer, or other person in charge of a greyhound nominated to compete in an Event must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.</i>
<b>Charge:</b>	That Mr Howlett, being the trainer of <b>Blackpool Darren</b> , did present the greyhound to race at a meeting of the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club on Tuesday 14 May 2024 when not free of a prohibited substance.
<b>Prohibited Substance:</b>	Cocaine and its metabolites Benzoyllecgonine Ecgonine Methyl Ester
<b>Plea:</b>	Not Guilty
<b>Finding:</b>	Guilty
<b>Penalty Imposed:</b>	12 month suspension of his licence to train with 7 months wholly suspended for two (2) years unless Mr Howlett re-offends. Penalty deferred to commence midnight 19 December 2024.

#### 1. Summary of Facts

1.1. The Respondent, Mr Howlett is a licensed greyhound trainer based at Brighton, Tasmania.

1.2. On Tuesday 14th May 2024, **Blackpool Darren** competed in Race 3 at a meeting of the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club.

1.3. **Blackpool Darren** after winning Race 3 and was subject to a post-race urine sample.

1.4. The sample obtained from **Blackpool Darren** was given the unique sample number R005077.

1.5. On 14 June 2024, Racing Analytical Services Ltd issued a Certificate of Analysis reporting that Cocaine and its metabolites Benzoyllecgonine Ecgonine Methyl Ester had been detected in sample R005077.

1.6. On 25 July 2024, the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory confirmed the presence of Cocaine and its metabolites Benzoyllecgonine Ecgonine Methyl Ester in sample V005077.

## **2. Penalty Discussion**

2.1. Turning to the matter of penalty the Stewards are cognisant of the following Sentencing Principles that penalties are designed to punish the offender for their wrongdoing. They are not meant to be retributive in the sense that the punishment is disproportionate to the offence, but the offender must be met with a punishment.

2.2. That in a racing context it is very important that a penalty has the effect of deterring others from committing similar offences through the consideration of both general and specific deterrence.

2.3. That penalties imposed upon those offending the prohibited substance rules should reflect the industry's disapproval of drugs being detected in racing greyhounds.

## **3. Respondents Penalty Submissions**

3.1 Exemplary record whilst holding a Tasmanian greyhound trainer's license.

3.2 No prior convictions for this type of offence.

3.3 I could not plead guilty due to my argument of no case to answer due to differing dates on documentation.

3.4 That a monetary penalty be imposed instead of suspension or disqualification.

3.5 If the Stewards consider that a monetary penalty is not sufficient, that a short suspension be imposed.

## **4. Steward's Penalty Considerations**

4.1. When addressing the Panel on penalty Mr Howlett indicated that he had been involved in the greyhound industry for over 50 years and held an exemplary record over that time.

## **5. Penalty**

5.1. In determining the penalty in this matter, the stewards are mindful of penalties imposed for similar breaches both in Tasmania and Interstate.

5.2. The Stewards find that this matter is best dealt with by way of suspension. This is to reflect the seriousness of the offence and substance being a drug of human abuse. The impacts on the greyhound's welfare and the responsibility Mr Howlett as a trainer has to protect his greyhounds from exposure to such substances. The need to discourage others from similarly offending.

5.3. However, the Stewards are mindful of Mr Howlett's clean record under this rule which affords him some relief in the matter of penalty.

5.4. In reaching this determination the Stewards factored the following relevant considerations.

5.4.1. Mr Howlett's cooperation throughout the investigation. His belief that the positive sample result may have been due to contamination of **Blackpool Darren** from another party, although he was unable to explain who or specifically how it had occurred.

5.4.2 The need for both specific and general deterrence to ensure the industry's image and social licence is protected.

5.4.3 The Steward's assertion that all the documentation, certificates and in particular the date on the Sample Identity Document were correct and not flawed in any manner.

## 6. Disqualification Of Greyhound

6.1. Pursuant to GAR 141(4) **Blackpool Darren** is disqualified from Race 3, the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club on Tuesday 14th May 2024.

*Mr Howlett was advised of his right to appeal.*