

STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

Date of Decision: 28/10/2021
Stewards Panel: Bruce Free (Chairman), Jeremy Gleeson, Michael Hoyle
Name: Steven O'Brien
Track/Race: Hobart Greyhound Racing Club – Race 3
Date: 10th June 2021
Rule no: GAR 83(2)(a) -

The Owner, Trainer, or person in charge of a greyhound - (a) nominated to compete in an Event, shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

Charge(s): Mr. Steven O'Brien, the trainer of EBONY VISTA, presented that greyhound to compete in Race 3 at the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club on 10th June 2021, the SUREPICK MI4/5MA - 340 metres. A pre-race urine sample was taken from EBONY VISTA and upon analysis, was found to contain COBALT above the permitted threshold of 100ng/mL.

Prohibited Substance: Cobalt

Inquiry Decision: Fine \$2500.00

FACTS:

A pre-race swab sample taken from EBONY VISTA at the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club meeting on the 10th June 2021 was found upon analysis to contain COBALT above the permitted threshold as stated in the Greyhound Australasian Rule - GAR 83 (10).

INQUIRY:

Office of Racing Integrity Stewards inquired into reports from the analysts, that Cobalt in excess of the permitted threshold had been detected in a pre-race urine sample taken from EBONY VISTA at the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club on 10th June 2021.

Stewards heard verbal evidence tendered by trainer Mr. Steven O'Brien in relation to how the substance came to be in the greyhound and written evidence from the Office of Racing Integrity Regulatory Veterinarian, Dr. Bruce Jackson, in relation to the effects of Cobalt on greyhounds.

After giving due consideration to the evidence tendered, Mr. O'Brien was charged pursuant to GAR83(2)(a) for presenting EBONY VISTA to race when not free of the prohibited substance.

After hearing submissions on penalty, Stewards took the following things into consideration:

- Mr. O'Brien's guilty plea;
- His conduct and honesty throughout the inquiry;
- His time involved within the industry (45+ years)
- That he has had no offences of any kind within this time;
- Mr O'Brien's culpability in this incident, which Stewards classified as negligent;
- The nature of the substance and levels above the permitted threshold which makes it an offence under the Greyhound Australasian Rules;
- The need for any penalty to act as a deterrent, both specific and general;

- Precedents of breaches of the prohibited substances rules and penalties that have been issued within Tasmania and throughout Australia.

DECISION:

Mr O'Brien was fined the sum of \$2500.00 and advised of his right of appeal.