

STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

Date of Decision: 23/03/2022
Stewards Panel: Michael Hoyle (Chairman), Bruce Free, Jeremy Gleeson
Name: Darryl Howlin
Track/Race: Hobart Greyhound Racing Club – Race 6
Date: 23rd September 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. Darryl Howlin, the trainer of HE'S UNDER WRAPS, presented that greyhound to compete in Race 6 at the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club on 23rd September 2021, the Diane & 'Bottley" Green Memorial Maiden - 461 metres. A pre-race urine sample was taken from HE'S UNDER WRAPS and upon analysis, was found to contain ATENOLOL.

Prohibited Substance: ATENOLOL

Inquiry Decision: Suspension of Licence for 2 months commencing 23/03/2022 and to expire midnight 31/05/2022.

FACTS:

A pre-race swab sample taken from HE'S UNDER WRAPS at the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club meeting on the 23rd September 2021 was found upon analysis to contain ATENOLOL, which under the Greyhound Australasian Rules is a prohibited substance.

INQUIRY:

Office of Racing Integrity Stewards inquired into reports from the analysts, that ATENOLOL had been detected in a pre-race urine sample taken from HE'S UNDER WRAPS at the Hobart Greyhound Racing Club on 23rd September 2021.

Stewards heard evidence tendered by trainer Mr. Darryl Howlin and Racing Analytical Services Limited Director, Dr David Batty.

After giving due consideration to the evidence tendered, Mr. Howlin was charged pursuant to GAR83(2)(a) for presenting HE'S UNDER WRAPS to compete in an event when not free of the prohibited substance.

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

- Mr. Howlin's guilty plea;
- His conduct and honesty throughout the inquiry;
- His good character and prior record (1 offence previously which was 40+years ago);
- His time involved within the industry;
- Mr Howlin's culpability in this incident, which Stewards classified as careless;
- The nature of the substance which makes it an offence under the Greyhound Australasian Rules;
- Although not unequivocal, contamination from Mr Howlin's person medication seems to be the most likely cause of the positive swab sample;

- The need for any penalty to act as a deterrent, both specific and general;
- The importance of a level playing field by maintaining a drug free environment;
- Precedents of breaches of the prohibited substances rules and penalties that have been issued throughout Australia for Atenolol, in particular the following 3 decisions:
 1. Victorian Racing Tribunal – GRV and David Bottrell.
 2. Victorian Racing Tribunal – GRC and John Carr.
 3. Victorian Greyhound Racing Appeals & Disciplinary Board – GRV and Peter Fulton.

DECISION:

Mr Howlin's licence was suspended for a period of 2 months commencing 23/03/2022 and to expire midnight 31/05/2022.

Mr Howlin was advised of his right of appeal.