

STEWARDS INQUIRY DECISION

Date of Decision: 10 December 2021
Stewards Panel: Michael Hoyle (Chairman), Bruce Free, Gavin Griffin
Name: Morris Strickland
Track/Race: North West Greyhound Racing Club – Race 9
Date: 6 July 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. Morris Strickland, the trainer of THEO DRAGONET, presented that greyhound to compete in Race 9 at the North West Greyhound Racing Club on 6 July 2021, after being placed 3rd in the LADBROKES CASH IN, Grade 5 – 452 metres. A pre-race urine sample was taken from THEO DRAGONET and upon analysis, was found to contain THEOBROMINE.

Prohibited Substance: Theobromine
3 months suspension (with 6 weeks suspended for 24 months on the condition that Mr Strickland does not re-offend under the prohibited substance rules throughout the 24 month timeframe).

Inquiry Decision:

FACTS:

A pre-race swab sample taken from THEO DRAGONET at the North West Greyhound Racing Club meeting on the 6th July 2021 was found upon analysis to contain Theobromine, which under the Greyhound Australasia Rules is a prohibited substance.

INQUIRY:

Office of Racing Integrity Stewards inquired into reports from the analysts, that Theobromine was detected in a pre-race urine sample taken from Theo Dragonet at the North West Greyhound Racing Club on 6th July 2021.

Stewards heard verbal evidence tendered by trainer Mr. Morris Strickland in relation to his feeding husbandry and Dr David Batty from Racing Analytical Services.

After giving due consideration to the evidence tendered, Mr. Strickland was charged pursuant to GAR83(2)(a) for presenting Theo Dragonet to race when not free of the prohibited substance.

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

- Mr. Strickland's guilty plea;
- His conduct and honesty throughout the inquiry;
- His time involved within the industry as a trainer (60+ years)
- That he has had no offences of any kind within this time;
- The nature of the prohibited substance 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 recently throughout Australia.

DECISION:

Mr Strickland was suspended for a period of 3 months with 6 weeks suspended for 24 months on the condition that Mr Strickland does not re-offend under the prohibited substance rules throughout the 24 month timeframe. This suspension commenced at the conclusion of the inquiry and will expire at midnight 21 January 2022. Mr Strickland was advised of his right of appeal.

Further to this, Stewards invoked rule GAR 83(4) which reads "A greyhound presented for an Event contrary to subrules (1), (1A) or (2) shall be disqualified from the event or any benefit derived from a trial or test". Stewards ordered that Theo Dragonet will be disqualified from Race 9 "Ladbroke's Cash In" at the NWGRC on the 6th July 2021.