15 September 2022

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**CLAYTON KING**

**Date of hearing:** 12 September 2022

**Panel:** Judge Graeme Hicks (Deputy Chairperson) and Judge Katherine Kings.

**Appearances:** Ms Yana Podolskaya appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Clayton King represented himself.

**Charge:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 83(2) states:

 (2) The owner, trainer or person in charge of a greyhound-

 (a) nominated to compete in an Event;

 (b) presented for a satisfactory, weight or whelping trial or such other trial as provided for pursuant to these Rules; or

 (c) presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a period of incapacitation or prohibition being varied or revoked

 shall present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

**Particulars of charge:** 1. You are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.

2. You were, at all relevant times, the trainer of the greyhound “Bongino”.

3*.* Bongino was nominated to compete in, Race 11, RAW ABILITY @ STUD, Grade 5, conducted by the Shepparton Greyhound Racing Club at Shepparton on 31 January 2022 (the Event).

4. On 31 January 2022, you presented Bongino at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

* 1. A pre-race sample of urine was taken from Bongino at the Event (the Sample);
	2. Procaine was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Clayton King, you have pleaded guilty to breaching Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 83(2).

On 31 January 2022, you presented your greyhound, “Bongino” in Race 11 at the Shepparton Greyhound Race Club meeting when it was not free of a prohibited substance, namely Procaine. Procaine is a therapeutic drug.

Dr Steven Karamatic, Chief Veterinarian at Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”), in his report of 10 April 2022 stated that the likely explanation for your greyhound racing with a prohibited substance in its system was the consumption of knackery meat.

You have been a registered owner/trainer since 1 June 2021. You have been in the industry for only a short period of time. At the Stewards enquiry conducted on 20 April 2022, you stated that there was a lot of regulations to learn in a short period of time. You told Stewards that at Shepparton there was a sign by someone selling racing meat. You purchased some of this meat. We accept that you have now taken steps to ensure that this offence will not occur again.

The principle of general deterrence has a part to play in arriving at an appropriate penalty. It is vital that greyhounds race on a level playing field without prohibited substances in their system.

We have taken into account your personal circumstances and your history within the greyhound racing industry, together with your plea of guilty and your cooperation with the Stewards.

There have been several warnings published as to the dangers of greyhounds consuming knackery meat, which can lead to a positive test of a prohibited substance.

In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of a $2,000 fine with $1,000 of that suspended for a period of 12 months. In addition, we order that Bongino be disqualified from Race 11 at the Shepparton Greyhound Racing Club meeting conducted on 31 January 2022 and that the finishing order be amended accordingly.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal