30 July 2020

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**MR DENNIS PULIS**

 **Date of hearing:** 23 July 2020

**Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chairperson).

**Appearances:** Mr Paul Searle appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Dennis Pulis represented himself.

**Charge:** Greyhounds Australia Rule (GAR) 69 (A)(1)states where, in the opinion of the Stewards, unless Rule 69B otherwise applies, a greyhound fails to pursue the lure with due commitment during an Event, the Stewards shall impose a period of suspension in respect of the greyhound pursuant to sub-rule (2), and the specifics shall be recorded in the relevant Controlling Body Register, or where applicable, the Certificate of Registration or Weight Card of the greyhound.

**Particulars of charge:** Stewards spoke to Mrs Kerry Minne, the representative of Texas Metal regarding the greyhounds racing manners approaching the winning post. Acting under the provisions of GAR 69(A)(1) Texas Metal was charged with failing to pursue the lure with due commitment. Mrs Minne pleaded not guilty to the charge; Texas Metal was found guilty and suspended for 28 days at Warragul and must perform a Satisfactory Trial (all tracks), pursuant to GAR 69(A)(2)(a) before any future nomination will be accepted.

**Plea:** Not Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Dennis Pulis, you are pleading ‘not guilty’ to a breach of GAR 69(A)(1). It is alleged by the Stewards that Texas Metal, trained by you, failed to pursue the lure with due commitment in Race 7 at Warragul on 16 July 2020. The penalty imposed was suspension of the dog for 28 days at Warragul. The dog must perform a satisfactory trial pursuant to GAR 69(A)(2)(a) before any future nomination will be accepted.

I have viewed the video of the race. There seems to me to be no doubt but that, in the home straight, Texas Metal, moved up on the outside of Shuffle The Deck and in fact headed it with about 15 metres to go. However, it noticeably eased and Shuffle The Deck, despite having been headed, in fact beat it. There was no interference or turning of the head.

You were not at the track. It is asserted by you that, when the dog was brought home to you later, it was sore and you believe that it had cramped, this causing it not to finish off the race as it should have. However, it was vetted twice after the race and no abnormality was detected.

In my opinion, the charge has been made out. I do not accept that the dog cramped. It was running second, at least a couple of lengths behind Shuffle The Deck. In the home straight it finished strongly, overtook Shuffle The Deck, headed it and then, as stated, noticeably eased and was passed again.

In summary, I find that the charge has been made out and the appeal in relation to the facts of the race is dismissed. I understand that the penalty is an automatic penalty unless a warning is given. The Stewards did not opt for a warning. The appeal is dismissed.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal