8 July 2021

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**GARRY BARNSLEY**

**Date of hearing:** 22 June 2021

**Panel:** Judge Graeme Hicks (Deputy Chairperson) and Judge Marilyn Harbison.

**Appearances:** Mr Marwan El-Asmar appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Garry Barnsley represented himself.

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

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

1. nominated to compete in an Event;
2. presented for a satisfactory, weight or whelping trial or such other trial as provided for pursuant to these Rules; or
3. 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 “Block Star”.

3. “Block Star” was nominated to compete in, Race 11, Adopt A Greyhound With GAP, Grade 5, conducted by the Warragul Greyhound Racing Club at Warragul on 27 December 2020 (**the Event**).

4. On 27 December 2020, you presented “Block Star” at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

(a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from “Block Star” at the Event (**the Sample**);

(b) Ketoprofen was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Garry Barnsley, you have pleaded guilty to a breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 83(2).

You presented your greyhound “Block Star” in Race 11 at the Warragul Greyhound Racing Association meeting held on 27 December 2020 when it was not free of a prohibited substance, namely Ketoprofen.

Ketoprofen is a substance which can be used for pain relief and is capable of affecting the performance of a greyhound. On 2 February 2020 you told a Stewards inquiry that you had fed your greyhound knackery meat.

Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) has previously alerted those in the industry of the risks involved in feeding knackery meat to greyhounds. The likely cause of you presenting your greyhound in Race 11 at the Warragul Greyhound Racing Association meeting held on 27 December 2020 when it was not free of a prohibited substance, is that it was due to you feeding your greyhound knackery meat.

You have been in the industry for over 50 years. Apart from an offence some 20 years ago, your record in the industry has been excellent. You are currently in poor health, have little financial support and this matter has been a great shock and burden to you.

We have taken into account your plea of guilty, your cooperation with the Stewards, your personal circumstances and your training history.

General deterrence, and to a far lesser extent specific deterrence, each have their part to play in arriving at an appropriate penalty in this case. It is very important that greyhound racing is conducted on a level playing field without prohibited substances.

In all the circumstances, we find the charge proven and impose a fine of $1,500, with $1,000 of that fine suspended for a period of 12 months.

We order that “Block Star” be disqualified from Race 11 at the Warragul Greyhound Racing Association meeting held on 27 December 2020 and that the placings be amended accordingly.

Kathleen Scully  
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal