6 February 2020

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**MR NEVILLE WAKEFIELD**

**Date of hearing:** 3 February 2020

**Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chairperson), Judge Graeme Hicks (Deputy Chairperson) and Hon. Marilyn Harbison.

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

Mr Gerrard O’Keeffe represented Mr Wakefield.

**Charge:** 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:**

**Charge 1**

1. You are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Greyhound Australasia Rules.
2. You were, at all relevant times, the trainer of the greyhound *“Fully Loaded”.*
3. *“Fully Loaded”* was nominated to compete in, Event 10, PARNASSUS STEAKHOUSE, Free For All, conducted by the Warragul Greyhound Racing Club at Warragul on 20 August 2019 (**the Event**).
4. On 20 August 2019, you presented “Fully Loaded” at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

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

(b) Salbutamol was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

1. Mr Neville Wakefield is a registered trainer and the trainer of “Fully Loaded”. “Fully Loaded” competed in race 10 at Warragul on 20 August 2019.
2. Stewards of Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) have charged Mr Wakefield under Greyhounds Australasia Rule (GAR) 83(2) with presenting a greyhound for an event whilst not being free of a prohibited substance. Mr Wakefield has pleaded guilty to the charge.
3. A pre-race sample of urine taken from the greyhound showed the presence of salbutamol. Salbutamol is a constituent of the common asthma inhaler, ventolin. It can effect the condition or performance of a greyhound and any effect is likely to be positive.
4. Mr Wakefield used ventolin through a nebuliser when in a vehicle travelling to the event with “Fully Loaded” and after suffering an asthma attack. We except that is how the offence occurred. Mr Wakefield does not usually use his nebuliser in a vehicle, but on this occasion he was running late for the races. He knows not to do so again. He is 80 years old and has been training for over 60 years and otherwise has an excellent record.
5. In fixing a penalty, we take into account general deterrence and the importance of keeping a drug free industry. We also take into account recent penalties in like matters and Mr Wakefield’s good character. We impose a suspension of 2 months which we fully suspend pending no further breach of GAR83 in the next 12 months. In addition, “Fully Loaded” is disqualified from race 10 at Warragul on 20 August 2019 and the finishing order amended accordingly.

Mark Howard
Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal