25 October 2022

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**RAYMOND SELLARS**

**Date of hearing:** 18 October 2022

**Panel:** Magistrate John Doherty (Deputy Chairperson) and Dr Andrew Gould.

**Appearances:** Mr Anthony Pearce appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Raymond Sellars 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 “Over Slips”.

 3. Over Slips was nominated to compete in Race 11, WHISKEY RIOT @ STUD, Grade 6, conducted by the Shepparton Greyhound Racing Club at Shepparton on 10 March 2022 (the Event).

 4. On 10 March 2022, you presented Over Slips at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

 (a) A pre-race sample of urine was taken from Over Slips at the Event (the Sample);

 (b) Sotalol was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Raymond Sellars has pleaded guilty to a breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 83(2).

A greyhound trained by him, namely “Over Slips”, competed in Race 11 at Shepparton on 10 March 2022. A pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound subsequently proved positive to sotalol.

It is clear that the source of the prohibited substance in this case was most likely Mr Sellars’ medication, “Cardol”. Unwittingly, and without protective gloves, Mr Sellars administered a thyroid medication to the greyhound and, as a result of cross contamination with his personal medication, Over Slips has produced a positive result for sotalol.

Mr Sellars is a hobby trainer and has been involved in the greyhound racing industry for over 40 years. He was first registered in 1999. He has one prior matter in 2017 for a prohibited substance, namely, anabolic steroids.

In determining a penalty, consideration of general and specific deterrence is very important, as is consistency in penalties, which can be mitigated by reason of personal factors.

At present, Mr Sellars and his family are victims of the terrible flooding that has engulfed Victoria and are without power supply to their home. They are on their way to Moorooka to assist their son, also a victim of the floods.

In our view, a period of suspension is warranted. That period is three months. However, six weeks of that penalty is suspended for a period of 12 months pending no further breach of the relevant Rule. The result is that there is an immediate penalty of six weeks suspension, effective immediately.

In addition, we order that Over Slips be disqualified from Race 11 at Shepparton on 10 March 2022 and any prizemoney is forfeited to Greyhound Racing Victoria.

Kathleen Scully
Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal