22 May 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**GERRY ORR**

**Date of hearing:** 14 May 2025

**Date of decision:** 14 May 2025

**Panel:** Judge Marilyn Harbison (Chairperson) and Dr Andrew Gould.

**Appearances:** Ms Amara Hughes, instructed by Ms Yana Podolskaya, appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Gerry Orr represented himself.

**Charge:** Local Racing Rule (“LR”) 66.1 states:

 66.1 Where in the opinion of the Stewards:

66.1.1 there is prima facie evidence that a registered person has:

66.1.1.1 breached the Local Rules; or

66.1.1.2 has committed an offence pursuant to Part 9 of the GARs; and

66.1.2 it is necessary to make a decision immediately in respect of the matters referred to in LR 66.1.1 in order to protect the integrity of the sport of greyhound racing;

the Stewards may immediately suspend that person.

**RULING**

1. Mr Gerry Orr has this morning made an oral application for either the stay of this proceeding or the striking out of the proceeding. As he is representing himself, without the benefit of legal assistance, we also treat his application as an application that the decision made by the Stewards at the commencement of their investigation to suspend him pending the determination of this proceeding be set aside.
2. This matter is listed today for the taking of evidence from two witnesses, having been part heard on three days in February of this year. A further three days have been allocated for the matter between 11 and 13 June 2025.
3. On 13 February 2025, Mr Orr made an application for the proceeding to be struck out or alternatively for the evidence of Investigate Steward, Mr Mark Solanakis be excluded from the hearing. On that day we dismissed both applications.
4. On 20 November 2024, Mr Orr made a previous application to this Tribunal which was dealt with for the proceeding to be stayed or that the suspension be lifted. Mr Orr was unsuccessful on that occasion. He renewed that application 5 December 2024 and was again unsuccessful.
5. He has renewed both applications again today.
6. It is our view that each of the applications should be dismissed. The Stewards have not finished presenting their evidence. It is therefore inappropriate for a stay of the proceedings or a striking out of the proceedings be ordered. The many matters on which Mr Orr relied in requesting such an outcome are matters that go to the merits of the proceeding. They are not matters justifying either a stay of the proceedings or a suspension or the lifting of the suspension previously imposed by the Stewards. They should be dealt with at the conclusion of the taking of evidence.
7. Mr Orr has set out matters to do with his financial situation and the mental stress of these proceedings as justifying a lifting of the suspension. It is clear that proceedings such as this are stressful and may cause significant financial loss. However, the charges are very serious and it is our view that there is nothing in the matters presented to us which could justify either the proceedings being stayed or the lifting of the suspension at this stage.
8. We take into account that the matter is part heard and that the penalties involved in the charges which Mr Orr faces may be significantly greater than the period of suspension he has so far served.
9. We note Mr Orr’s submissions in relation to the evidence of Mr Solanakis. We have addressed those issues in our decision of 13 February 2025 as to the stay application and the application to exclude the evidence of Mr Solanakis. There has been nothing that Mr Orr has presented this morning which changes our view.
10. Lastly, Mr Orr wishes us to view body cam footage of his interaction with GRV staff from about a month ago. Mr Orr is entitled to seek to present any evidence he wishes to when this matter resumes in June. However, it is our view that any such footage can have no bearing on the decision which we are required to make today.
11. Each application is dismissed and the suspension remains in place.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal