7 July 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**ANTHONY KARABITSAKOS**

**Date of hearing:** 1 July 2025

**Date of decision:** 1 July 2025

**Panel:** His Honour John Bowman (Chairperson).

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

Mr Anthony Karabitsakos represented himself.

**Charge:**

Greyhounds Australasia Rule 125 reads as follows:

**Rule 125 Failing to pursue by reason of injury – first time only**

(1) A greyhound which in the opinion of the Stewards fails to pursue the lure for the first time only must be examined by an officiating veterinarian and:

(a) if the greyhound is found to be injured, a stand-down period will apply as recommended by the officiating veterinarian and the greyhound will not be permitted to compete in an Event until the completion of a satisfactory trial (with the specifics of the injury and trial to be recorded as part of its identification record).

(b) if the greyhound is found not to be injured, then the provisions of rules 124 and 127.

**Particulars:**

She Fine (failed to pursue the lure with due commitment) underwent a post-race veterinary examination, was re-examined following race 7 and was found to have left back muscle and left triangle muscle injuries. A 14 day stand down period was imposed. Stewards spoke to trainer Mr Anthony Karabitsakos regarding the greyhound’s racing manners from approaching the turn out of the front straight until the turn into the back straight. Acting under the provisions of GAR 125, She Fine was charged with failing to pursue the lure with due commitment (by reason of injury). Trainer Mr Anthony Karabitsakos pleaded not guilty to the charge. She Fine was found guilty and must perform a satisfactory trial in accordance with GAR 125, and pursuant to GAR 132, before any future nomination will be accepted.

 **Plea:** Not Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Anthony Karabitsakos, you are appealing a decision of the Stewards in relation to a matter arising out of Race 1 at Sandown Park on 23 June 2025. She Fine, trained by you, competed in that race in which it ultimately ran second. It was a comparatively close second, with a large gap to the third dog. It was She Fine’s first start.

Following the running of the event, the Stewards found that there had been a breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule 125 – a failure to pursue with due commitment due to injury. She Fine is required to perform a satisfactory trial prior to racing again. As stated, you appeared as trainer of the dog. Mr Paul Searle represented the Stewards.

I have viewed the relevant video material several times and had my attention drawn to various aspects of the race in question and to other events.

As stated, this was the first start for She Fine, which started from Box 7, which was the outside box in this event. The race was over 515 metres so that the start was at the beginning of the home straight. The dogs then passed the winning post before the turn out of the home straight and ultimately raced into the back straight.

She Fine could be described as beginning brilliantly from the outside box. The dog raced to the rails and was a couple of lengths or more clear at the winning post the first time. She then appeared to lose her speed and position when racing out of the home straight and around the bend into the back straight. Shortly after entering the back straight, she dropped back to third. However, she appeared to pick up speed again and moved into second towards the later stages of the back straight. The leader and She Fine then drew away from the field by many lengths. As stated, She Fine ultimately ran second, close behind the leading dog with a very big gap indeed back to third dog. A subsequent veterinary examination discovered an injury to She Fine.

As stated, I have viewed the video material many times, with and without input from you, Mr Karabitsakos and from Mr Searle. I have also had the benefit of the submissions.

I am comfortably satisfied that the Charge has been made out. She Fine did fail to pursue from the turn out of the front straight until the back straight and lost her position accordingly. What caused her to slow for that distance is not readily apparent but the injury subsequently discovered may well have played some role.

All that can be said is that the dog was leading clearly and then, for no obvious reason, appeared to ease and dropped back to third. However, it regained speed, got back to a comparatively close second, and ultimately finished in that position, with a very long gap to the third dog.

I am comfortably satisfied that the failure to pursue with due commitment has been established and that it was due the injury subsequently discovered. I am not of the view that other factors may have caused the dog to lose speed coming into and around the turn out of the home straight and into the beginning of the back straight.

As stated, I am comfortably satisfied that the Charge has been proven. Accordingly, the appeal is dismissed.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal