4 July 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**JUDITH RISK**

**Date of hearing:** 16 June 2025

**Date of Decision:** 16 June 2025

**Panel:** Judge Kathryn Kings (Deputy Chairperson) and Ms Amanda Dickens

**Appearances:** Ms Yana Podolskaya appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

 Mr Ken Bailey represented Ms Risk.

**Charges and Particulars:**

Greyhounds Australasia Rule 141(1) reads as follows:

**Rule 141 Greyhound to be free of prohibited substances**

1. The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound:
2. nominated to compete in an Event;
3. presented for a satisfactory trial or such other trial as provided for by the Rules; or
4. presented for any test or examination for the purpose of a stand-down period being varied or revoked,

must present the greyhound free of any prohibited substance.

**Particulars of the Charge being**:

1. You were, at all relevant times, a trainer registered with Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.
2. You were, at all relevant times, the trainer of the greyhound “Myall Sandy”
3. “Myall Sandy” was nominated to compete in Race 10, HARD STYLE RICO AT STUD Mixed 4/5, conducted by the Warragul Greyhound Racing Club at Warragul on 26 July 2024 (The Event).
4. On 26 July 2024, you presented “Myall Sandy” at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:
	1. A pre-race sample of urine was taken from *“*Myall Sandy*”* at the Event (**the Sample**);
	2. Sotalol was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Ms Judith Risk is a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and bound by Greyhounds Australasia Rules (“GAR”). She has been in the industry for approximately 60 years.

Ms Risk has been charged with breaching GAR 141(1), a presentation charge. Ms Risk is the trainer of “Myall Sandy” who was nominated to compete in Race 10 conducted by Warragul Greyhound Racing Club on 26 July 2024. On 26 July 2024 Myall Sandy was presented at the event not free of a prohibited substance given that a pre-race sample of urine was taken and Sotalol was detected in the sample. Ms Risk was charged with a presentation offence under GAR 141(1) on account of presenting Myall Sandy for the event while not free of a prohibited substance.

Ms Risk pleaded guilty to the charge.

In a report dated 28 September 2024, Dr Steven Karamatic, GRV Chief Veterinarian confirmed that Sotalol is a prohibited substance as defined by the GAR and is placed in the Category “Stimulants depressants and other prohibited substances” of GRV’s Penalty Guidelines. He said there were currently no Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority registered products that contain Sotalol. There are 24 Therapeutic Goods Administration (Human) registered products that contain Sotalol. All are prescription only medications.

During the Kennel Inspection, Ms Risk produced personal medication prescribed by her doctor for a medical condition to be taken half tablet twice per day. Ms Risk takes the medication inside her residence every morning and evening. Dr Karamatic said personal medication is a possible source of this positive swab. Treating Records did not detail the administration of Sotalol to any greyhounds.

Dr Karamatic said Sotalol is capable of affecting the condition and performance of a greyhound with any effect on performance more likely to be negative such as by reducing cardiac output.

Dr Karamatic noted there were warnings provided to the Industry by GRV’s Food and Supplements Guidelines published in 2016, which alerted participants to the potential risks of inadvertent swabs from the use of personal medications and gives guidance to participants to minimise the risks and that similar warnings were provided in the July 2020 edition of Greyhound Monthly Review.

Ms Catherine Scarlett, Senior Steward, attended Ms Risk’s property to advise Ms Risk of the presence of the prohibited substance Sotalol. Ms Risk informed Ms Scarlett that her partner, Mr Ray Gilmore, is responsible for making the feeds. She has now adjusted her feeding practices when she takes her medication.

In imposing a penalty, we take into account Ms Risks’ plea of guilty, her co-operation with the Stewards and the importance of reinforcing general and specific deterrence. We accept the submissions of the Stewards in relation to penalty. We also acknowledge the importance of maintaining a level playing field by having a drug free industry. We take into account penalties in recent like cases, as a guide.

In all circumstances we impose a penalty of three months suspension, fully suspended for 12 months.

Myall Sandy is disqualified from Race 10 at Warragul Greyhound Racing Club on 26 July 2024 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Paige Macdonald

A/Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal