7 July 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**KELVIN ILES**

**Date of hearing:** 1 July 2025

**Date of decision:** 1 July 2025

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

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

Mr Graham Brown represented Mr Kelvin Iles.

**Charge:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 123 states:

Where, in the opinion of the Stewards, a greyhound is found to have marred during an Event, the Stewards must impose a period of suspension in respect of the greyhound pursuant to rule 127, which is to be recorded by them as part of the identification record.

**Particulars of charge:** Soft Beauty (marred Foxy Barbella turning into the home straight) underwent a post-race veterinary examination and was found to have a minor abrasion to a right hind toe, no stand down period was imposed. Stewards spoke to trainer Mr Kelvin Iles regarding the greyhound’s racing manners. Acting under the provisions of GAR 123, Soft Beauty was charged with marring. Mr Iles pleaded not guilty to the charge. Soft Beauty was found guilty and suspended for 28 days (1st offence) at Sandown and must perform a satisfactory trial in accordance with GAR 127, and pursuant to GAR 132, before any future nomination will be accepted.

**Plea:** Not Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Kelvin Iles, you are appealing a decision of the Stewards in relation to the behaviour of “Soft Beauty”, trained by you, in Race 2, over 595 metres, at Sandown Park on 23 June 2025.

The Stewards allege that, in essence, turning into the home straight and approaching the conclusion of the race, Soft Beauty turned its head and made muzzle contact with “Foxy Barbella”, which was to its inside. Soft Beauty ultimately ran second in the event and Foxy Barbella was third.

Following the race, the Stewards laid a charge of a breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 123 – that is, a marring offence. A key ingredient of that offence is muzzle contact with another dog during the conduct of a race.

I have had the benefit of very helpful submissions from Mr Paul Searle, on behalf of the Stewards, and from Mr Graham Brown, on your behalf, as well as from you.

I have also been able to view the running of the relevant stage of the race. I have been shown video material at normal speed, at very slow speed and still photographs extracted from the video.

The submissions on your behalf included that the problem and contact were cause by Foxy Barbella and not by Soft Beauty, which, in essence, was knocked off balance by Foxy Barbella. Argument centred on the nature of the contact made and whether, Foxy Barbella, rather than Soft Beauty did the marring and caused the incident.

As stated, I have viewed the video material and photographs many times and have borne in mind the submissions made.

I am comfortably satisfied that the charge has been made out. I appreciate the helpful submissions made by you and by Mr Brown. However, in my opinion the bottom line is that, whilst Foxy Barbella was drifting out to Soft Beauty and may have been on a bumping collision course with that dog, Soft Beauty turned its head and on one, if not two occasions, made muzzle contact with Foxy Barbella. Soft Beauty, at least, in part, turned its head in so doing.

In short, the ingredients of marring by Soft Beauty have been proven to my comfortable satisfaction. There was a breach of GAR 123.

Accordingly, the appeal is dismissed. Again, I thank all involved for their submissions and assistance.

Kathleen Scully

Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal