14 August 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**BARRIE MORSE**

**Date of Hearing:** 7 August 2025

**Date of Decision:** 7 August 2025

**Panel:** Judge Marilyn Harbison (Deputy Chairperson) and Judge Paul Lacava (Deputy Chairperson).

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

Mr Peter Briggs represented Mr Barrie Morse.

**Rule:** Greyhounds Australasian Rule (“GAR”) 169(5)(c) states:

(5) Pending the decision or outcome of an inquiry or other disciplinary process, a Controlling Body or the Stewards may direct that:

(c) a registration, licence, or other type of authority or permission be suspended.

**Particulars:** On 12 March 2025, the Stewards of Greyhound Racing Victoria (”GRV”) imposed a temporary immediate suspension on Mr Barrie Morse, pursuant to Local Racing Rule ("LR") 66.1.

On 14 March 2025, the decision was made by GRV Stewards to keep the suspension in effect pursuant to Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 169(5)(c) until the alleged charge has been heard and determined by the Victorian Racing Tribunal (“VRT”).

**DECISION**

1. Mr Barrie Morse is registered as a trainer with Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”). He is facing a charge arising out of his conduct on 11 March 2025 at Healesville.
2. It is alleged that on that day, a short time prior to the race, he engaged in unseemly conduct towards a race official, Ms Caitlin Caneva. At the time, she was standing near a door leading to the stir up and empty out area. Mr Morse approached that door with his greyhound. It is alleged that Ms Caneva asked him if he wanted the door opened and turned around to open the door.
3. It is alleged that when she did that Mr Morse touched her on the left shoulder and then as he walked through the door, patted her on the bottom at least three or four times.
4. On his way back through the door after emptying his greyhounds he again patted her right upper arm with his left hand.
5. This action was reported to the Stewards. Ms Caneva was extremely distressed by the incident.
6. Mr Morse has now been charged with assaulting threatening or harassing Ms Caneva.
7. On 12 March 2025, a decision was made by the Stewards to immediately suspend his GRV registration. The letter advising Mr Morse of that suspension indicated that it was done in order to protect the integrity of the sport of greyhound racing. The letter also indicates that the suspension was only temporary and would remain in place until he was advised otherwise. Mr Morse was invited to provide any information explaining the circumstances and showing cause why his registration should not remain suspended by 14 March 2025.
8. Mr Morse attended an inquiry at the GRV head office in West Melbourne on 14 March 2025. He was described as being deeply apologetic and said that he had no bad intent whatsoever. He said that he was hearing impaired and patted her on the shoulder as a thank you and that his hand may have dropped lower.
9. Mr Morse has heard nothing from the Stewards since 14 March 2025. He has telephoned a few times and has been told the matter is being prepared. Finally, in late July 2025, being alarmed at the amount of time that was being taken, he has made inquiries with the Registry of this Tribunal. Those inquiries have resulted in him making application to the Tribunal for leave to appeal the suspension.
10. At the time that appeal was lodged, GRV had not provided any materials to the Tribunal in respect of the charges or suspension. By the time of this hearing today a full brief of evidence has been filed and the Stewards say the matter is ready for final hearing.
11. Section 50N of the *Racing Act* 1958 sets out the principles that must be applied in giving leave to appeal where the person applying is out of time. Any appeal must be made within three days of being notified. In this case, Mr Morse was notified of the decision on 12 March 2025, some five months ago.
12. The section provides that the Tribunal may grant leave to a person to make an appeal out of time if the Tribunal is satisfied that the person has provided a satisfactory explanation for the failure to make the appeal, and if the Tribunal is also satisfied that it would be unjust to refuse leave to make an appeal out of time.
13. It is unsatisfactory that so much time has elapsed since Mr Morse was suspended by the Stewards before the filing and service of the charge and the brief of evidence. There does not appear to be any good explanation for this delay.
14. Notwithstanding this, the charge alleged against Mr Morse is serious. Offences such as this, if proven, have in the past attracted significant periods of disqualification. The charge is contested, and it appears that it will be possible for the Tribunal to hear this charge in early September.
15. We are not satisfied that Mr Morse has provided a satisfactory reason for his failure to appeal against his suspension within three days of the decision. We understand that his failure to do so was affected by the fact that he had received no information from the Stewards as to the progress of this matter. However, five months is far too long to have waited to challenge the suspension.
16. Further, if we allowed the appeal to proceed, the appeal has the potential to prejudice the hearing of the charge. In all the circumstances, we are also unable to be satisfied that it would be unjust to refuse leave to make an appeal out of time. We are of the view that the most sensible course is for the parties to put their energy into preparing for the forthcoming contested hearing.
17. The application for leave to appeal out of time is refused.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal