12 August 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**DARYL HOLMES**

**Date of Hearing:** 12 August 2025

**Date of Decision:** 12 August 2025

**Panel:** Judge Kathryn Kings (Deputy Chairperson), Judge Paul Lacava (Deputy Chairperson) and Ms Melissa Mahady.

**Appearances:** Mr Jordan Vassis appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Mr Daryl Holmes represented himself.

**Charge:** Greyhounds Australasian Rule (“GAR”) 141(1) states:

(1) The owner, trainer or other person in charge of a greyhound:

(a) nominated to compete in an Event;

(b) presented for a satisfactory trial or such other trial as provided for by the Rules; or

(c) 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 charge:** 1. You are, and were at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.

 2. You were, at all relevant times, the trainer of the greyhound *“Birmingham”.*

 3. *“Birmingham”* was nominated to compete in Race 2, SPORTSBET NOBODY DOES IT EASIER, Mixed 6/7, conducted by the Sandown Greyhound Racing Club at Sandown Park on 23 September 2024 (**the Event**).

 4. On 23 September 2024, you presented *“Birmingham”* at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

1. A post-race sample of urine was taken from *“Birmingham”* at the Event (**the Sample**);
2. Dexamethasone was detected in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Daryl Holmes is a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (“GAR”). He has been licensed for more than 50 years.

Mr Holmes is the trainer of the greyhound, “Birmingham”.

Birmingham was nominated to compete in Race 2 conducted by the Sandown Racing Club on 23 September 2024. On 23 September 2024, Birmingham was presented at the event not free of any prohibited substance, given that a post-race sample of urine taken from Birmingham at the event detected dexamethasone in the sample.

Mr Holmes was charged with a presentation offence pursuant to GAR 141(1) on account of Birmingham for an event while not free of a prohibited substance.

Mr Holmes pleaded guilty to the charge.

The GRV Chief Veterinarian, Dr Steven Karamatic, provided a report dated 23 December 2024. Dr Karamatic confirmed that dexamethasone is a prohibited substance under the GAR. It is corticosteroid or anti-inflammatory drug which provides pain relief and can affect the condition or performance of a greyhound by inducing an artificially pain free state. Dexamethasone is placed in the category “Therapeutic Substances” of the GRV Penalty Guidelines. He said that there were no products found during the kennel inspection that were labelled to contain dexamethasone. Treating records did not detail the administration of dexamethasone to this greyhound, which would be required if used.

The Stewards submit the decision of the Tribunal should reflect general and specific deterrence. In this case, the offence to which Mr Holmes pleaded guilty occurred during the period of a previously imposed suspension. For that reason, the Stewards submit there should be a suspension and a fine imposed.

The Tribunal finds that the drug dexamethasone was likely administered in food given to the greyhound. Apart from fines imposed in 2023, Mr Holmes has an impeccable record and has been in the industry more than 50 years. The Tribunal is of the opinion that a punishment of a fine without suspension is adequate to address the principle of general and specific deterrence in this case.

In all the circumstances, Mr Holmes is ordered to pay a fine of $2,500. In relation to the $500 suspended fine on 5 May 2023, it is activated and payable forthwith. Thus, the total effective penalty is a fine of $3,000.

In addition, Birmingham is disqualified from Race 2 at the Sandown Racing Club on 23 September 2024 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal