14 August 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**GARY JOSKE**

**Date of Hearing:** 13 August 2025

**Date of Decision:** 13 August 2025

**Panel:** Judge Kathryn Kings (Deputy Chairperson) and Ms Danielle Hikri.

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

Mr Gary Joske 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 *“Kisauni”.*

 3. *“Kisauni”* was nominated to compete in Race 6, GRV VIC Bred Series Final (VICGREYS), Grade 5 Final, conducted by the Sale Greyhound Racing Club at Sale on 8 September 2024 (**the Event**).

 4. On 8 September 2024, you presented *“Kisauni”* at the Event not free of any prohibited substance, given that:

1. A post-race sample of urine was taken from *“Kisauni”* at the Event (**the Sample**);
2. Arsenic was detected at a mass concentration of greater than 800 nanograms per millilitre in the Sample.

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

Mr Gary Joske is a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and is bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (“GAR”).  He has been licensed for 25 years. Mr Joske is the trainer of “Kisauni”.

Kisauni was nominated to compete in Race 6 conducted by the Sale Greyhound Racing Club on 8 September 2024. Kisauni was presented at the event not free of any prohibited substance given that a post-race sample of urine was taken at the event and detected Arsenic at a mass concentration level greater than 800 nanograms per millimetre.

The Stewards of GRV charged Mr Joske with breaching GAR 141(1) for presenting a greyhound for an event while not free of a prohibited substance. Mr Joske has pleaded guilty to the charge.

Dr Steven Karamatic, the GRV Chief Veterinarian, provided a report dated 13 November 2024. He reported that arsenic is a prohibited substance as defined by the GAR. Arsenic is placed in the category of Stimulants, depressants and other prohibited substances of the GRV Penalty Guidelines. He further reported that there were no products found during the kennel inspection as seen in photographs and on the listed Swab Irregularity Report that would be expected to contain arsenic in sufficient amounts to cause a breach of the threshold.

The statement of Ms Catherine Scarlett, Senior Steward of GRV, said she visited the kennels and interviewed Mr Joske and his son, Mr Ben Joske. Ms Scarlett noted that this greyhound chewed timber posts in the emptying yards. The behaviour had been managed by placing an American muzzle while out in the yard. An order has been placed to replace the timber yards with steel yards.

Dr Karamatic said licking and chewing Copper Chrome Arsenate (“CCA”) treated pine is the most likely explanation, however, other causes and explanations cannot be excluded.

Notices to the Industry have been published in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2020. In June 2016, Greyhound Monthly Victoria included an article on the topic. In March 2017, a further warning to trainers was published by GRV. In May 2018, GRV published information for participants and again in September 2020.

In setting a penalty, we take into account general and specific deterrence and the importance of keeping a level playing field by maintaining a drug free industry. We also take into account his guilty plea. Mr Joske has been in the industry for 25 years. He has co-operated with the Stewards and has pleaded guilty. The greyhound now wears a muzzle and has been placed in the steel yards. An order has been placed to replace the timber yards with steel yards. We take into account his long history in the industry and the fact that he has only one prior conviction for a prohibited substance.

In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of a suspension of six months, with four months suspended for 24 months.

In addition, Kisauni is disqualified from Race 6 at Sale on 8 September 2024 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal