11 September 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**JAYDEN CASSAR**

**Date of Hearing:** 3 September 2025

**Date of Decision:** 3 September 2025

**Panel:** Magistrate Peter Reardon (Chairperson), Ms Maree Payne and Ms Danielle Hikri.

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

Mr Jayden Cassar represented himself.

**Charges:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 171(c) states:

An offence is committed if a person:

(c) misbehaves in any manner before a Controlling Body or a Steward at an inquiry or during another disciplinary process.

GAR 156(g)(iv) states:

An offence is committed if a person (including an official):

(g) wilfully assaults, obstructs, impedes, abuses, interferes with, threatens or insults:

(iv) a Steward or any other official of a Controlling Body or a Club.

GAR 165(a) states:

An offence is committed if a person (including an official):

(a) commits or omits to do any act or engages in conduct which is in any way detrimental or prejudicial to the interest, welfare, image, control or promotion of greyhound racing.

**Particulars of charges: Charge 1: GAR 171(c)**

 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. On 7 January 2025, Stewards James Jeffery and Heather Harvey conducted an inquiry with you in the Stewards’ room at Geelong regarding the withdrawal of the greyhounds “Ruxton Shine” in Race 12 and “Financier” in Race 13.

3. During the inquiry with Stewards, you misbehaved.

4. The manner of your misbehaviour was:

a) You raised your voice throughout the inquiry; and/or

b) You continually swore despite being cautioned not to and made improper and inappropriate statements and comments towards or in relation to GRV staff;

c) The swearing and comments and/or statements made included:

i. “You cunts can get fucked. I shoulda just knocked you straight the fuck out”

ii. “The dogs have cooked in the kennel all fucking day”

iii. “That's what I'm saying, but all the fucking - - I can't afford to lose money when I'm pumping money in”

iv. “Why couldn't - - I'm not suspended for life, I am suspended for a fucking police check. That is a disgrace. Now, I'm suspended for that.”

v. “We're a battling through. We're making what we're fucking making, we're spending what we're spending and like it's fucking appalling. It's a disgrace.”

vi. “Now, I've - - that bitch is coming here for a run because she's meant to be sold. Now, I've got to go home now like a fucking idiot, put money out of my own pocket…”

vii. “No, no, I'm not complaining about you, what I'm complaining about is it's a disgrace. It's a fucking disgrace.”

viii. “The whole thing is a shit hole, dude.”

ix. “Well, what's the fuck is going to happen?”

5. Each of the particulars above, individually and in combination, amount to the misbehaviour before the Stewards at the inquiry.

**Charge 2: GAR 156(g)(iv)**

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. On 7 January 2025, Stewards James Jeffery and Heather Harvey a conducted an inquiry with you in the Stewards’ room at Geelong regarding the withdrawal of the greyhounds “Ruxton Shine” in Race 12 and “Financier” in Race 13.

3. During the inquiry with Stewards, you used abusive, threatening and insulting language in a hostile and aggressive manner towards Stewards James Jeffery in that you said:

*“You cunts can get fucked. I shoulda just knocked you straight the fuck out”.*

**Charge 3: GAR 165(a)**

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. At the Geelong Greyhound Racing Club on 7 January 2025, you engaged in conduct in the main kennel area which is detrimental and/or prejudicial to the interests and/or image of greyhound racing in that:

a) You swore (used the word “fuck” or “fucking”) on several occasions; and

b) You were loud and spoke with a raised voice towards or in relation to officials; and

c) This behaviour was observable by other handlers, officials and kennel staff in the main kennel area.

**Pleas:** Guilty

**DECISION**

1. Mr Jayden Cassar was, at all relevant times, a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and a person bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (“GAR”).
2. The GRV Stewards have charged him with three breaches of the Rules. These charges relate to his conduct towards Stewards at the Geelong Greyhound Racing Club on 7 January 2025. Mr Cassar has pleaded guilty to these charges.
3. Mr Cassar had entered two greyhounds to race on that day, namely “Ruxton Shine” in Race 12 and “Financier” in Race 13. Throughout the day, Mr Cassar had a number of conversations with the Stewards concerning his registration status and these conversations were conducted both inside and outside the Stewards room at the track.
4. These conversations with the Stewards related to Mr Cassar’s failure to complete the requirement of submitting a national police check. Mr Cassar’s licence to train was showing on FastTrack as suspended on an interim basis due to the failure of having completed the relevant police check.
5. The Stewards initially told Mr Cassar that his suspension would come into effect at the conclusion of the Geelong meeting that day. During these discussions, Mr Cassar and his mother told the Stewards that they had been attempting to submit the relevant documents throughout the day. Mr Cassar also informed the Stewards that he called the GRV scratching phone number at 7.30am that day and was informed that his two greyhounds engaged at Geelong were not scratched. After that discussion and further advice, the Chief Steward in charge that day, Mr James Jeffrey, informed Mr Cassar that the two greyhounds would be allowed to race however, due to the status of his registration on FastTrack, he was not permitted to handle his greyhounds and would need to have other licensed participants do so.
6. At 2.47pm, Mr Jeffrey received a phone call from Acting Chief Steward, Ms Rozlyn Fazulla, about Mr Cassar. She informed Mr Jeffrey that Mr Cassar was officially already a suspended person and the greyhounds he had engaged to race that day were required to be withdrawn.
7. At approximately 2.50pm and prior to Race 12, Mr Jeffrey requested another Steward, Ms Heather Harvey, to call Mr Cassar and request he attend the Stewards room immediately. Mr Cassar attend shortly after, and Mr Jeffrey apologised for his earlier, incorrect advice. He then advised Mr Cassar that as he was a suspended person and that the greyhounds he had entered to race would need to be withdrawn.
8. The Stewards observed that Mr Cassar appeared to be annoyed prior to this conversation taking place. When he was informed of the status of his licence and that the greyhounds would not be permitted to race that day, what occurred next could only be described as an eruption.
9. Mr Cassar became extremely aggressive, hostile and loud. He said “y*ou cunts can get fucked. I shoulda just knocked you straight the fuck out”.* He then stormed out of the Stewards room in a rage and could be heard, from the Stewards room, outside in the kennelling area yelling furiously before returning to the Stewards room in the same state. Mr Cassar continued to berate the Stewards in an angry and disrespectful manner.
10. The swearing and comments included the following:
11. The dogs have cooked in the kennel all fucking day;
12. That's what I'm saying, but all the fucking… I can't afford to lose money when I'm pumping money in;
13. Why couldn't… I'm not suspended for life, I am suspended for a fucking police check. That is a disgrace. Now, I'm suspended for that.
14. We're a battling through. We're making what we're fucking making, we're spending what we're spending and like it's fucking appalling. It's a disgrace;
15. Now, I've… that bitch is coming here for a run because she's meant to be sold. Now, I've got to go home now like a fucking idiot, put money out of my own pocket;
16. No, no, I'm not complaining about you, what I'm complaining about is it's a disgrace. It's a fucking disgrace;
17. The whole thing is a shit hole, dude; and
18. Well, what's the fuck is going to happen?
19. It may be understandable that Mr Cassar felt frustrated and disappointed. However, his actions were way out of proportion and were insulting, offensive and physically threatening. The Stewards felt threatened by his aggression and fury. The Stewards were endeavouring to carry out their official duties as best they could in such a stormy atmosphere.
20. At approximately 3.03pm, Mr Cassar returned to the Stewards after the running of Race 12 which, by then, his two greyhounds had been withdrawn. Mr Jeffrey told Mr Cassar he would speak with him after he had attended to his other duties. Mr Cassar stood in the doorway and aggressively stated words to the effect that he wanted to talk to Mr Jeffrey outside which Mr Jeffrey took to mean that Mr Cassar wanted to fight him. Mr Cassar was subsequently ushered away by an unknown person.
21. Mr Cassar and his mother later returned to the Stewards room. Both were visibly angry and despite being cautioned about his swearing at the Stewards, Mr Cassar proceeded to continue to speak in them in the same tone and manner.
22. Although Mr Cassar was not making any physical threats, he continued to swear routinely throughout and speak inappropriately. Both Mr Cassar and his mother appeared irate and angry. They expressed dissatisfaction with what had occurred, despite Mr Jeffrey attempting to explain to them the position of the Stewards in a rational manner. Mr Cassar’s behaviour in totality was offensive, abusive, inappropriate and entirely unsatisfactory.
23. At the time of the offences, Mr Cassar was aged 24 and had no relevant history or prior offences. He has pleaded guilty to each charge and is therefore, entitled to a discount in sentencing.
24. Whilst Mr Cassar does not have any relevant prior offences, his record is slightly problematic however, there is no history with the Tribunal.
25. The Tribunal accepts that Mr Cassar was frustrated thinking, albeit wrongly, that he had correctly entered his greyhounds to race and that he had gone to the trouble of training, preparing and conveying the greyhounds to the track. In addition, receiving initial incorrect advice regarding the eligibility of the greyhounds to race undoubtedly added to the frustration. However, whilst these are mitigation factors, Mr Cassar’s behaviour towards the Stewards was totally inappropriate and completely unacceptable. His temper got the better of him and he acted irrationally.
26. The Stewards are employed to ensure that greyhound racing is conducted in a fair and transparent manner. The obligation is on trainers to ensure that they are complying with the Rules of racing and lawfully registered. A national police check is compulsory and, the reality is that, at the time, Mr Cassar had not complied with that requirement. That is not the fault of the Stewards.
27. This behaviour deserves denunciation and both specific and general deterrence. Persons in their workplace are entitled to be treated with respect and courtesy. They are also entitled to a safe working environment. This type of behaviour does not foster such an environment. It is not to be tolerated, and significant punishments are to be applied for these types of offences.
28. The Tribunal has heard submissions on penalty. The Stewards contend that Mr Cassar’s behaviour is a serious example of this type of offending and warrants a period of disqualification. The Tribunal agrees that Mr Cassar acted appallingly on 7 January 2025.
29. Nevertheless, Mr Cassar is still young and lives with his parents. His mother is a licensed trainer, and the ramifications of a disqualification would be significant. If Mr Cassar were to be disqualified, it is a possibility that he and his children would need to leave home due to disqualified persons not being able to have any associations with other greyhound racing participants and a number of other consequences.
30. The Tribunal takes into account Mr Cassar’s age, guilty pleas, personal circumstances, as well as the confusion on that day. The Tribunal is of the view that denunciation and deterrence can be met through the imposition of a suspension, as opposed to a disqualification.
31. The Tribunal imposes the following penalties:

Charge 1: three month suspension.

Charge 2: three month suspension with two months to be served concurrently on Charge 1 and one month to be served cumulatively on Charge 1.

Charge 3: two month suspension to be served cumulatively on Charge 1.

1. Thus, the total effective penalty is a six month suspension to commence immediately.

Kathleen Scully

Assistant Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal