30 September 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**DANIELLE SMITH**

**Date of hearing:** 27 February 2025

**Date of decision:** 27 February 2025

**Panel:** Judge John Bowman (Chairperson).

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

Ms Danielle Smtih represented herself.

**Charge:** Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 124 states:

Subject to rule 125, where, in the opinion of the Stewards, a greyhound fails to pursue the lure during an Event, the Stewards must impose a period of suspension in respect of the 60 greyhound pursuant to rule 127, which is to be recorded by them as part of the identification record.

**Particulars:** Sorry I'm Late (turned its head inwards approaching the winning post) underwent a post-race veterinary examination and was found to have a split webbing on the left fore. A 5 day stand down period was imposed. Stewards spoke to Ms. Danielle Smith regarding Sorry I'm Late’s racing manners approaching the winning post). Acting under the provisions of GAR 124, Sorry I'm Late was charged with failing to pursue the lure with due commitment. Ms. Smith pleaded guilty to the charge. Sorry I'm Late was suspended for three months (3rd offence) at all tracks and must perform a Satisfactory Trials in accordance with GAR 127, and pursuant to GAR 132, before any future nomination will be accepted.

**Plea:** Not Guilty

**DECISION**

This matter comes before me as an appeal in relation to a decision of the Stewards regarding the running of Race 7 at Sandown on 3 February 2025. The race was over a distance of 515 metres. Following the running of the race, the Stewards conducted a hearing in relation to the behaviour of the greyhound, “Sorry I’m Late”, which is trained by you, Ms Danielle Smith.

The charge of the Stewards is essentially that a breach of Greyhounds Australasia Rule (“GAR”) 124 had occurred approaching the winning post. Sorry I’m Late turned its head inwards. Accordingly, the greyhound failed to pursue the lure with due commitment. Sorry I’m Late finished second in the race and was narrowly beaten by the greyhound, “Kyanite Kaz”. Effectively, these two greyhounds were fighting out the finish and were racing comparatively close together.

I have viewed the video of the race several times and I had my attention drawn to aspects of it by Mr Paul Searle, on behalf of the Stewards, and by you, Ms Smith. I was also provided the still photographs extracted from the video. Further, Ms Smith drew my attention to what occurred just before and entering the home turn. Sorry I’m Late had made up a lot of ground, effectively passing the rest of the field, save for Kyanite Kaz, and drew along side it just before or entering the home turn. You assert that Kyanite Kaz turned its head out towards Sorry I’m Late, which caused it to lose focus, but no charge was laid against Kyanite Kaz.

I’m comfortably satisfied that Sorry I’m Late did turn its head quite noticeably towards Kyanite Kaz as the dogs approached the winning post. I’m comfortably satisfied that the greyhound did not exercise due commitment, and it failed to pursue the lure accordingly. It may be that, to use the vernacular, Kyanite Kaz started it, this is not clear from the video material, however, I’m comfortably satisfied that Sorry I’m Late turned its head and failed to pursue the lure with due commitment approaching the winning post.

Accordingly, insofar as this is an appeal on the question of the making out of the charge, I’m comfortably satisfied that charge under GAR 124 has been proven.

In all the circumstances, the appeal is dismissed and the penalty that was imposed by the Stewards remains in place.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal