30 September 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**GAVIN GLEDHILL**

**Date of hearing:** 24 September 2025

**Date of decision:** 24 September 2025

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

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

Mr Gavin Gledhill 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 *“Crush Your Rush”.*

3. *“Crush Your Rush”* was nominated to compete in Race 3, GREYHOUND ADOPTION PROGRAM, Grade 5, conducted by the Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club at Ballarat on 4 September 2024 (**the Event**).

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

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

**Plea:** Guilty

**DECISION**

1. Mr Gavin Gledhill is a trainer licensed by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) and bound by the Greyhounds Australasia Rules (“GAR”). He is a registered trainer who has been in the industry for approximately 39 years. He is the trainer of the greyhound, “Crush Your Rush”, nominated to compete in Race 3 at Ballarat on 4 September 2024. A post-race sample of urine was taken from the greyhound and metformin was detected.

1. Dr Steven Karamatic, Chief Veterinarian at GRV, provided a report dated 12 November 2024. Dr Karamatic reported that metformin is a prohibited substance as defined in the Rules. There are currently no Australasian Pesticides and Veterinarian Medicine Authority (APVMA) registered products that contain metformin. There are 254 Therapeutic Goods Administration (human) registered products that contain metformin. These products come in tablet form and, in most cases, branded by the generic name of the substance, metformin. During the kennel inspection, Mr Gledhill produced personal medication, APO Metformin XR 1000, which contained metformin as the active ingredient. His doctor prescribed two tablets to be swallowed whole in the evening to manage his medical condition. Dr Karamatic said contamination from personal medication appears the most likely source of this positive swab, however, other sources cannot be excluded. Treatment records did not detail the administration of any products containing metformin.
2. Dr Karamatic said that the finding in this greyhound of metformin, as detected in the urine sample, confirms the presence of a prohibited substance in the greyhound. Dr Karamatic said that the metformin is capable of affecting the condition or performance of the greyhound, with any effect more likely to be negative, such as by reducing available energy. Glucose, although increasing the amount of glucose stored in muscle cells, could have a positive effect on performance.
3. Mr Gledhill could identify with the substance. He stated that he takes his medication morning and night. He washes his hands after taking his medication and prior to any sample collection but is unable to wear gloves due to dermatitis.
4. Mr Gledhill informed the Deputy Chief Steward at the time the sample was collected that he fed his greyhounds knackery meat and did not change to human consumption meat prior to racing the dogs. Since the positive swab, he has ceased feeding knackery meat to the racing dogs. He now feeds racing dogs kangaroo meat. Mr Gledhill said that after the positive swab he attempted to cease taking his medication and attempted natural products which was unsuccessful. He now takes his medication at 5.00am after he feeds the racing dogs and again at between 3.00pm and 4.00pm after he has fed the dogs.
5. In setting a penalty, we take into account general and specific deterrence and the importance of maintaining a level playing field by having a drug free industry. We also take into account his guilty plea, his record and his cooperation with the Stewards.  We take into account recent penalties in like cases as a guide.
6. In all the circumstances, we impose a penalty of a $1,000 fine, with $500 wholly suspended for 24 months pending no further relevant offences during that time.
7. We choose to exercise our discretion and not activate the 10 month suspension period from Mr Gledhill’s hearing that was conducted on 27 October 2022. In doing so, we take into account that the period of suspension was very close to being completed, under two months remaining. We also note that he had served a significant period of the suspension, being approximately 22 months of the 24 month suspended suspension period. We also take into account his personal circumstances.
8. In addition, Crush Your Rush is disqualified from Race 3 at Ballarat on 4 September 2024 and the finishing order is amended accordingly.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal