30 September 2025

**DECISION**

**GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA**

**and**

**TERRI-MAREE MORRIS**

**Date of hearing:** 23 September 2025

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**Panel:** Judge Paul Lacava (Deputy Chairperson), Ms Amanda Dickens and Ms Judy Bourke.

**Appearances:** Mr Jordan Vassis, instructed by Ms Evangeline Murray, appeared on behalf of the Stewards.

Ms Terri-Maree Morris represented herself.

 Mr Max Hayden-Evans appeared as a witness.

**Charges and particulars: Charge No. 1 of 5**

Local Racing Rule 68.1.3 reads as follows:

**Local Rule 68 Prohibition on suspended person entering greyhound racing premises**

68.1 Unless the Controlling Body or Stewards direct otherwise, in addition to the consequences set out in GAR 178(2), a person who is suspended must not, during the period of suspension:

68.1.3 enter or go or remain on, at any time, any place where greyhounds are trained, kept or raced including Greyhound Trial Tracks but excluding the Greyhound Property where the suspended person ordinarily resides.

**Particulars of Charge**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a suspended person, and were subject to the prohibitions and restrictions of a suspended person.
2. On 12 February 2025, you have entered the training property of registered person Ms Lyn Smith in Nambrok, Victoria, a place where greyhounds were being trained and kept.

**Charge No. 2 of 5**

Local Racing Rule 68.1.2 reads as follows:

**Local Rule 68 Prohibition on suspended person entering greyhound racing premises**

68.1 Unless the Controlling Body or Stewards direct otherwise, in addition to the consequences set out in GAR 178(2), a person who is suspended must not, during the period of suspension:

68.1.2 enter the premises of a Club on a day when a meeting, qualifying trial, satisfactory trial, other trial, Event or greyhound training of any type is occurring or would reasonably be expected to occur regardless of whether the meeting, qualifying trial, satisfactory trial, other trial, Event or training is actually occurring at that time;

**Particulars of Charge**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a suspended person, and were subject to the prohibitions and restrictions of a suspended person.
2. On 12 February 2025, you have entered the premises of the Meadows Greyhound Racing Association at 80 North Corp Boulevard, Broadmeadows on the day when a meeting was occurring.

**Charge No. 3 of 5**

Local Racing Rule 68 reads as follows:

**Local Rule 68 Prohibition on suspended person entering greyhound racing premises**

68.1 Unless the Controlling Body or Stewards direct otherwise, in addition to the consequences set out in GAR 178(2), a person who is suspended must not, during the period of suspension:

68.1.2 enter the premises of a Club on a day when a meeting, qualifying trial, satisfactory trial, other trial, Event or greyhound training of any type is occurring or would reasonably be expected to occur regardless of whether the meeting, qualifying trial, satisfactory trial, other trial, Event or training is actually occurring at that time;

**Particulars of Charge**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a suspended person, and were subject to the prohibitions and restrictions of a suspended person.
2. On 12 February 2025, you have entered the premises of the Meadows Greyhound Racing Association at 80 North Corp Boulevard, Broadmeadows **(premises)** on the day when a meeting was occurring.
3. After being advised by GRV Stewards that you could not be present, you have left the premises at approximately 7.30pm.
4. Shortly thereafter, you have re-entered the premises at a time when a greyhound meeting was still occurring.

**Charge No. 4 of 5**

Greyhounds Australasia Rule 171(c) reads as follows:

**Rule 171 Conduct of person at an inquiry, hearing or appeal**

An offence is committed if a person:

1. misbehaves in any manner before a Controlling Body or a Steward at an inquiry or during

another disciplinary process.

**Particulars of Charge**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a suspended person, and were subject to the prohibitions and restrictions of a suspended person.
2. On 12 February 2025, GRV Stewards Max Hayden-Evans and Cameron Day conducted an inquiry with you in the Stewards’ room at The Meadows Greyhound Racing Association regarding your presence at the race meeting whilst you were a suspended person.
3. You have misbehaved during this inquiry in a manner that included;
4. you continually and repeatedly interrupted Steward Max Hayden-Evans during the inquiry.
5. you used contemptuous and hostile tone, demeanour and language towards Steward Max Hayden-Evans and Steward Cam Day during the inquiry.
6. You left the inquiry before it was concluded on the premise that you were leaving the course, however you did not leave the course at that time.

**Charge No. 5 of 5**

Greyhounds Australasia Rule 165(c)(iv) reads as follows:

**Rule 165 Conduct detrimental to the interests of greyhound racing**

1. engages in contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting, or offensive conduct or behaviour in any manner or form towards, or in relation to:

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

**Particulars of Charge**

1. You were, at all relevant times, a suspended person, and were subject to the prohibitions and restrictions of a suspended person.
2. On 12 February 2025, at the Meadows Greyhound Racing Association at approximately 7.26pm, you engaged in contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting, or offensive conduct or behaviour towards or in relation to Steward Max Hayden-Evans in the aisle undercover area between the Stewards Room and the Stir-up yard in that;
3. You referred to Steward Max Hayden-Evans as “sweetheart” in a contemptuous manner.
4. You used contemptuous and hostile tone, demeanour and language towards Steward Max Hayden-Evans during the interaction.
5. You dropped your license on the ground when Steward Max Hayden-Evans advised you that he would not accept it as a cancellation from you.
6. You refused to leave the course after being directed again to leave peacefully, and advised Steward Mr Max Hayden-Evans would have to call the Police to affect your removal.
7. This behaviour was observable by other participants in the area and also possibly by members of the public.

 **Plea:** Not Guilty to all charges.

**DECISION**

1. Ms Terri Maree Morris currently holds a licence issued by Greyhound Racing Victoria (“GRV”) to own, train and breed greyhounds. She has held this licence for more than 40 years.
2. Ms Morris appears before the Tribunal this day to face five charges brought against her by the GRV stewards. She is representing herself. Mr Vassis, of Counsel, appears on behalf of GRV to prosecute the charges, instructed by Ms Evangeline Murray.
3. Charges 1 to 3 inclusive allege breaches of GAR 68. In summary form, that Rule prohibits a suspended licence holder from entering upon any property where greyhounds are trained, or any greyhound racetrack, whilst suspended.
4. Charge 4 alleges a breach of GAR 171(c). Relevantly, it is alleged that contrary to Rule 171(c), during the course of a Steward’s inquiry into the conduct of Ms Morris, she misbehaved by repeatedly interrupting the Steward conducting the inquiry, Mr Max Hayden-Evans. It is also alleged as part of this charge that Ms Morris used contemptuous and hostile tone, demeanour and language, towards the Stewards conducting the inquiry.
5. Charge 5 alleges a breach of GAR 165. This Rule prohibits contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting or offensive conduct or behaviour towards Mr Hayden-Evans during the course of an inquiry.
6. Charges 4 and 5 allege serious offences. Pursuant to Section 50(O) of the *Racing Act 1958*, charges alleging a “serious offence” must be heard by this Tribunal. Charges 1 to 3 inclusive do not allege serious offences. At the outset, Ms Morris agreed that all the charges should be heard together by this Tribunal and the hearing proceeded on that basis. Ms Morris pleaded not guilty to each charge.
7. The Tribunal has before it a comprehensive brief of evidence gathered by the Stewards consisting of some 253 pages. Mr Vassis called Mr Hayden-Evans, the principal Steward who inquired into the matters the subject of the charges and he was briefly cross examined by Ms Morris. During the course of the inquiry by Stewards, and in the hearing before this Tribunal, it quickly became apparent that although she pleaded not guilty to the charges, Ms Morris admitted all of the facts alleged against her but not the conclusions to be drawn from those facts. This approach by Ms Morris enabled the Tribunal to be comfortably satisfied by the evidence on the balance of probabilities, that each of the charges alleged have been proved.
8. In summary form, the following undisputed facts enabled the Tribunal to find the charges proved:
* During December of 2024, as the holder of a licence to own, train and breed greyhounds, Ms Morris was required to complete a National Police Check (“NPC”) online. Ms Morris does not communicate with GRV via email, although she has an email address for registration purposes. Her electronic communications were confined to communicating via SMS on her mobile phone.
* On 5 December 2024, GRV advised Ms Morris via SMS that it had not received her NPC and of possible suspension of her licence on 6 January 2025. On 13 December 2024, a further warning was sent to Ms Morris. A Notice of Registration Suspension forwarded by email the same day formally advised of suspension from 6 January 2025. It did not refer, in any way, to any prohibitions consequent upon suspension.
* On 8 January 2025, again via SMS, GRV advised Ms Morris that because she had not completed her NPC her licence had been suspended. It added “You must not perform any duties at the racetrack and any dogs in your ownership or care are ineligible to race”.
* The communication from GRV to Ms Morris on 8 January 2025 was somewhat misleading because of what it did not say. It did not tell her that because her licence was suspended from 6 January 2025 that she could not attend, in any capacity, at any track where a greyhound race meeting was being held (Rule 68.1.2) or that, as a suspended licence holder, she could not attend any place where greyhounds are trained or kept (Rule 68.1.3).
* On 12 February 2025, Ms Morris knew that her licence had been suspended but she did not know the full consequences of being a suspended licence holder. She set off from her home near Maffra to travel to a greyhound race meeting at The Meadows. She did not have any dogs entered in the meeting and she was not attending as a handler or catcher. She was attending as a spectator. On her way to the meeting, she went to the home of her friend, Ms Lyn Smith, who is also a licence holder. Ms Smith trains greyhounds at her home and she had a dog entered in the meeting at The Meadows. Ms Morris drove Ms Smith and her dog more than 200 kilometres to The Meadows meeting. She was assisting a friend. Once at the track, she had dinner. She was oblivious to the fact that by visiting Ms Smith’s home to pick her up she had breached Rule 68.1.3.
* Ms Smith was also oblivious to the fact that by attending The Meadows, even as a spectator assisting a friend, she had also breached Rule 68.1.2.
* The Stewards became aware of Ms Morris being at The Meadows following Race 1. They commenced an inquiry into her presence there, she being a suspended licence holder. A transcript of an interview with her is found in the materials tendered at page 23. Soon after the interview commences, Ms Morris asks Steward, Mr Hayden Evans “Am I here as a participant or as a person out on the track as a customer tonight?” He responds “Well, you have to be in here as a suspended person. That’s the whole issue we’ve got tonight, so ..”.
* The initial interview at The Meadows did not go well because Ms Morris did not know that, as a suspended person, she could not attend the track. It would appear from the transcript of what took place that she failed to understand properly why the Stewards had commenced an inquiry. She says at one point “You’re not making these rules up as you go are you?” She alleges harassment. She did continually interrupt the Stewards.
* Ms Morris told the Tribunal she was objecting to the process. In the Tribunal’s opinion, this attitude, although not helpful, is not without some justification. The transcript shows that little was done by the Stewards to defuse the situation that had arisen, primarily because when GRV advised Ms Morris by SMS that her licence was suspended, they did not fully advise her that she was not permitted onto a racetrack or a place where greyhounds were kept or trained whilst suspended. What followed could easily have been avoided by GRV fully informing Ms Morris of all the consequences of a suspension. The Tribunal’s opinion is that should be done in each instance, if only to avoid or minimise incidents like this occurring.
* Ms Morris did leave the interview before it had been concluded by the Stewards. She and the Stewards moved outside of the room. Ms Morris attempted to give her licence to the Stewards who would not accept it. During this exchange, Ms Morris referred to Steward Mr Hayden-Evans as “sweetheart”. She was contemptuous in so doing. She initially left the track and moved off in her car but returned so that she could take her friend, Ms Smith, and her dog home.
1. There was a further interview conducted by Stewards with Ms Morris on 12 March 2025. There is a transcript of that interview commencing at page 49 of the brief of evidence. It is a lengthy document. Again, the interview did not go well. Ms Morris was accompanied to this interview by a friend, Ms Proctor, who attended as a support person. It is not necessary for the Tribunal to refer to this interview as the above undisputed facts prove the charges.
2. Having found each of the charges to have been proved, the Tribunal turns to the issue of penalty. GRV does not allege any prior breaches of its Rules or the relevant Rules of racing by Ms Morris. Mr Vassis submitted the Rules breached are important and any penalty ought appropriately reflect general deterrence in order that other suspended licence holders are, by the penalties imposed here, deterred from engaging in the kind of conduct engaged in by Ms Morris.
3. The Tribunal accepts that the Rules breached are important to enable the sport of greyhound racing to operate in a cohesive and professional manner, and so that the integrity of the sport is, at all times, maintained. In that regard, Mr Vassis submitted Stewards play an important role and must be respected in carrying out their work of upholding the Rules. The Tribunal accepts that submission.
4. This case is very much an isolated case. Ms Morris has been engaged in the sport of greyhound racing in one way or another for more than 40 years. She has enjoyed a measure of success. In all that time, she has conducted herself without blemish. There is no need for any penalty to reflect specific deterrence. In the opinion of the Tribunal, Ms Morris is unlikely to repeat the kind of conduct that led to these charges which, as set out above, could so easily have been avoided.
5. On 12 February 2025, Ms Morris went to The Meadows to help a friend. For her trouble, being both surprised and confused and after more than 40 years dealing with greyhounds, Ms Morris suddenly found herself at the centre of a Steward’s inquiry. She subsequently behaved in the way that she did, during the course of the inquiry, whilst not to be in any way condoned, is nevertheless somewhat understandable when seen in the context of all the circumstances. For these reasons, in arriving at an appropriate penalty, the Tribunal is of the opinion that a measure of leniency is called for in all the peculiar circumstances of this case.
6. On each of Charges 1 to 3 inclusive, Ms Morris is found guilty of each charge. Her licence to own/train/breed greyhounds is suspended for one month, with each suspension to be served concurrently with the other two charges. The suspension on each of Charges 1 to 3 will be wholly suspended with an operation period of 12 months from 23 September 2025. The suspension will only be activated in the event that there are further relevant offences committed during that time.
7. On each of Charges 4 and 5, Ms Morris is found guilty of each charge and fined the sum of $500 on each charge. The payment of the fine on each of Charges 4 and 5 will be wholly suspended, pending no further relevant offences during that time, with an operation period of 12 months from 23 September 2025.
8. The Tribunal has explained the effect of its ruling to Ms Morris in the hearing room.

Mark Howard

Registrar, Victorian Racing Tribunal